



**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**  
**DATE: December 18, 2020**

***This is the last edition of the weekly update for 2020. You will begin receiving them again in January 2021. Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!***

To join i2i’s mailing list and receive our News Briefs and other information directly to your inbox, contact [Jean@i2icenter.org](mailto:Jean@i2icenter.org), let her know you are with NCCCYF and ask to be added to our circulation.

**Upcoming Legislative Meetings:**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Location, Video and Audio</b>
<a href="#"><u>NC Council for Health Care Coverage</u></a>	Friday, January 8, 2021, 10:00 a.m.	<a href="#"><u>Livestream</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid and Health Choice Services</u></a>	January 12, 2021, 12:00 p.m.	643 LOB, <a href="#"><u>audio</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>video stream</u></a>
2021-22 Long Session Begins	January 13, 2021, noon	

**NC Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice Issues 2020 Final Report:**

The [Task Force](#) was established by Governor Roy Cooper in June 2020 to “focus on addressing existing policies and procedures that disproportionately affect communities of color and developing solutions to ensure racial equity in North Carolina’s criminal justice system.” They have now issued their 2020 [final report](#). The report includes recommendations related to the juvenile justice system and points out the connection between individuals who went through Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and are involved in the criminal justice system. The 2018 Juvenile Justice Report completed by DPS noted that 44 percent of juvenile offenses and complaints were school-based. In addition, 46 percent of juvenile offenders are youth of color but they make up 71 percent of complaints received and 80 percent of commitments to Youth Development Centers.

The Task Force will continue their work through 2022. Their final recommendation in the report (#125) is to create a permanent Racial Equity Commission in the state.

A few key parts of the report:

- Understanding the Role of Trauma, begins on page 10
- Revise the Role of School Resource Officers, begins on page 36
- Recommendation 19, Hire Behavioral Health Professionals in Schools, page 38
- Recommendation 24, Encourage School Justice Partnerships, page 39
- Stem the School-to-Prison Pipeline and Rethink Juvenile Justice, includes Recommendations 66-70 and begins on page 80
- Implement Racial Equity Training for Court System Actors, begins on page 85

## **Mental Health a Common Thread in NC Council for Health Care Coverage**

### **Discussion:**

As reported earlier, Governor Cooper has established this Council to bring together key legislators, private business leaders and other stakeholders to discuss the gap in insurance coverage and Medicaid expansion. [The Council](#) held its second meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Members heard from representatives of the majority of those working uninsured in North Carolina. Representatives spoke from retail, child care and the NC Chamber. Their discussion points included the importance of adequate health care coverage to have access to mental health services and they stressed the particular need for it during the pandemic. The speakers also emphasized the benefit of telehealth for hourly employees to be able to more easily access healthcare and take less time away from their work time. The Council meeting also included a behavioral health panel that began with a presentation from NC DHHS Deputy Secretary for BH/IDD Kody Kinsley.

### **Opportunities for Feedback:**

- [Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force](#) is seeking feedback in 5 core areas:
  1. Access to Healthcare
  2. Economic Opportunity and Business Development
  3. Educational Opportunity
  4. Patient Engagement
  5. Environmental Justice and Inclusion

This Task Force was established by Governor Cooper over the summer and they just completed two listening sessions that can be heard via the above link. There is a [feedback form](#) that can be used to submit your comments on one or more of the five areas. The Task Force subcommittees have already developed initial focal points for each of the core areas with the goal to improve disparities in communities of color disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

### **Resources:**

- The recent edition of the Children's Services "Practice Notes" provides a good [update](#) on child welfare transformation in North Carolina.

- Almost \$30 million has been made available by the Governor to fund 18 broadband infrastructure projects for rural communities to expand their internet access to citizens. The [Growing Rural Economies and Access to Technology \(GREAT\)](#) initiative is expected to connect 15,965 households and 703 businesses to high-speed internet in rural communities across the state.
- The i2i Center for Integrative Health has established the [Mary Hooper Consumer/Family Participation Fund](#). As you know, Mary Hooper is the retiring Executive Director of the i2i Center. Her commitment to consumer/family/advocate involvement in formulating policy and legislation will be a legacy that carries on through this scholarship fund. Donations are being accepted on the i2i Center website and all funds will be used to cover expenses for consumers/families/advocates so that they may participate in education opportunities and policy and legislative discussions. For more information, contact Ann Rodriguez, [ann@i2icenter.org](mailto:ann@i2icenter.org).