



**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**  
**DATE: January 8, 2021**

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**Upcoming Legislative Meetings:**

Committee	Date and Time	Location, Video and Audio
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and Health Choice	January 12, 2021, noon	643 LOB, <a href="#">video</a> , <a href="#">audio</a>
2021-22 Long Session Begins	January 13, 2021, noon	

**NC Legislature to Reconvene:**

The NC General Assembly will reconvene for the Long Session on January 13<sup>th</sup>. A new budget for the biennium of State Fiscal Years 20-21 and 21-22 will be developed. Legislators will have the opportunity to introduce all new bills. Committee membership will be reworked to include new legislators. Sponsors of bills will begin working to shepherd all non-appropriation bills through required progression to keep them alive for the Short Session. The elections did not cause changes to majority for either the House or Senate and the super-majority is not met so the Governor’s vetoes can be expected to hold some power.

**Medicaid Transformation Update:**

- The health plan and provider directories will now be available online at [ncmedicaidplans.gov](http://ncmedicaidplans.gov) on January 25, 2021 (previously set to go-live on January 1) for those Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible for the Standard Plans on July 1, 2021.
- Two documents have been added to the BH/IDD Tailored Plan RFA: [DHHS Response to Questions](#) [posed by LME/MCOs] [Revisions to RFA](#)

**Medicaid Updates:**

- The NC Council on Health Care Coverage met for a third time on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The combined slide deck can be found [at this link](#). They heard presentations that

take a deep dive into the options available to close the insurance gap. Strategies that were noted include providing a small business tax credit, expansion of Medicaid eligibility in general and for special populations such as parents of children in foster care. It is estimated that \$56 million of current State funding for MH/IDD/SUD services could be saved by expanding Medicaid eligibility.

- The [Annual Medicaid Report for 2020](#) from NC DHHS was published. This report covers the State Fiscal Year that began on July 1, 2019 and ended on June 30, 2020. The report this year includes highlights related to the impact of COVID-19 and the focus on racial and health inequities as well as the advancement in telehealth services.

### **Temporary Assistance Updates for Families:**

- Governor Cooper has extended the Executive Order that places a moratorium on evictions. [EO184](#) continues the moratorium through January 31, 2021. The order also ensures that expedited processes for unemployment claims remain in place through the end of January.
- The [Low-Income Energy Assistance Program \(LIEAP\)](#) is accepting applications from eligible individuals and families through March 31 or until funds are exhausted. Applications can be completed through local social service offices.
- Individuals eligible for [food and nutrition services](#) are receiving a 15% increase in benefits through June 30, 2021.

### **Resources:**

- A December [article](#) in Women AdvaNCE entitled, “Addressing Children’s Mental Health Proactively”, highlighted NC Families United and the NCCCYF.
- [“Back to Better Behavioral Health”](#) is a set of recommendations issued to the incoming Biden Administration by a group of national and state organizations. The recommendations include an emphasis on putting persons with lived experience in leadership positions. This article was published by the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
- The NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, in conjunction with the NC Division of MH/IDD/SAS Medical Director Carrie Brown, MD, is offering [webinars](#) on the COVID-19 vaccination and how this particularly pertains to individuals with I/DD. The last opportunity for this webinar will be on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. The webinar is free and registration is required. The webinar covers those individuals who are eligible for the vaccination. Of course, no COVID-19 vaccination is yet approved for most children. This is part of a larger effort by NC DHHS to provide education about the vaccine to North Carolinians. More vaccination information can be found at [this link](#).
- NC DHHS received approval to expand the [Reach Out and Read program](#) by using a federal Medicaid match. The expansion will now begin at birth and is expanded to all counties in the state. According to the NC DHHS website, “Reach Out and Read partners with pediatric primary care locations to deliver

training for medical providers, literacy tools for families, and to encourage health routines and relationships through shared stories.”