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## NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: March 5, 2021

Date and Time	Committee	Location
		Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: <a href="https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio">https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio</a>
March 9, 8:30 am	Joint Education Appropriations	1027/1128 LB, <a href="#">livestream</a>
March 9, 8:30 am	Joint HHS Appropriations	421 LOB, <a href="#">livestream</a>
March 9, 10:00 am	House Health	643 LOB, <a href="#">livestream</a>
March 9, 1:00 pm	House Education K-12	643 LOB, <a href="#">livestream</a>

### Additional COVID-19 Relief Funds Passed NC General Assembly:

Both the House and Senate passed [H. 192](#) this week and it has been sent to the Governor for his signature. The bill authorizes the spending of additional federal COVID funds, including a substantial amount for education, families and MH/SUD services.

The legislation includes:

- \$10 million to each public school unit
- \$10 million for instructional support including contracted mental health services,
- \$15 m for the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program (Program) to assist at-risk kids whose learning has been impacted by COVID
- \$336 million from the Child Care and Development Block Grant funds for the Division to pay for all copayment assistance for families eligible for subsidized child care (available through June 30, 2021)
- \$47 million from the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant funds for mental health services (available through June 30, 2021)
- \$11 million from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funds to address increased SUD needs due to COVID (available through June 30, 2021)

### Foster Care Specialty Plan Postponed—Opportunity for Participation in Planning!:

Based on feedback already received, NC DHHS has postponed the Foster Care Specialty Plan implementation from July 1, 2022 until July 1, 2023. **The Department will establish a Foster Care Plan Workgroup that will support the development of an interim and long-term plan for children in foster care. Interested**

**individuals/groups should notify the Department at [Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov).**

During this planning period NC DHHS will be seeking feedback on the plan and included the following excerpt from their announcement:

“To ensure these individuals are not required to make multiple transitions as North Carolina moves to managed care, the Department will seek input from key stakeholders including local Departments of Social Services, providers, advocacy organizations and LME-MCOs, on an interim plan that will:

- ensure children receive a full range of physical and behavioral health services
- leverage the existing NC Medicaid Direct primary care and LME-MCO behavioral health system while directly addressing challenges and mitigating problems children in foster care face today
- ensure children in foster care receive increased coordination of care; and
- include legislative changes necessary to support a 2023 launch of the FC Plan and a local management entity structure that enables children’s access to behavioral services outside of the Behavioral Health/IDD Tailored Plan.

Additionally, in the coming weeks, the Department will continue stakeholder engagement to:

- share additional details on the FC Plan outlined in the draft RFP beyond what was initially described in the policy paper
- consult with stakeholders on the written feedback they provided
- identify opportunities to align the FC Plan requirements with the Family First Prevention Services Act; and
- explore potential changes to the FC Plan to reach children earlier and offer services to children in foster care and their families.

**Standard Plan Resources Ramping Up for Implementation:**

The start of March kicked off the work to get Medicaid beneficiaries who will be in the Standard Plan ready for the transition that will occur on July 1, 2021. DHHS has begun sending out [enrollment packets](#) to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries and open enrollment will begin on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Not only are packets going out to identified beneficiaries for the Standard Plan, the Medicaid Enrollment Broker is again available through the call center and mobile app to assist individuals and families in decision making. The NC Medicaid Enrollment Call Center number is 833-870-5500/TTY: 833-870-5588. The free mobile app, called NC Medicaid Managed Care, is available for free on Google Play or the App Store. This is a critical time for Standard Plan beneficiaries to CHOOSE their own primary care practice and Prepaid Health Plan. The open enrollment period continues from March 15<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup>. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, NC DHHS will use an algorithm to place Standard Plan beneficiaries with Prepaid Health Plans. If a

beneficiary receives a packet indicating he/she will be in the Standard Plan and that individual believes he/she should remain with the LME/MCO (later to be the BH/IDD Tailored Plan), there are [forms available](#) to apply for further review.

Providers also have resources for assistance. DHHS has a [NC Medicaid Help Center](#) and a [webpage](#).

### Resources:

- [Intro to Medicaid and Health Choice](#) presentation provided by Fiscal Research to the Joint Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee
- NC Developmental Disabilities Council is [seeking feedback](#) on their five-year plan, 2022 – 2026. The deadline to respond is April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- American Academy of Pediatrics President, Dr. Lee Savio Beers, wrote an [open letter](#) regarding the toll the pandemic has taken on the mental health of our children and youth.
- The NC Association of County Commissioners has established their [legislative goals](#), including health and human service and education. NCACC supports the recommendations made by the Social Services Work Group to strengthen coordination of services for children, youth and families.
- NC Attorney General Josh Stein gets involved in the U.S. Supreme Court consideration of off-campus bullying and the responsibility of schools through a [friend-of-the-court brief](#).

### Bills on the Move:

[S. 37](#), In-Person Learning Choice for Families, ratified, vetoed by Governor on 2/26  
[S. 93](#), Assisting NC Families in Crisis, reported favorably by Senate Health Care, re-referred to Senate Judiciary

### Other Bills:

[H. 29](#), Verification of Immigration Status: SAVE

[H. 32](#), Equity Opportunity Act

[H. 42](#), 2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications

[H. 82](#), Summer Learning Choice for NC Families, passed House and sent to Senate

[H. 91](#), Reduce Regulation to Help Children with Autism, passed House Health and re-referred to House Finance

[H. 132](#), Juvenile Code Rev's/CIP Recommendations—AB (Agency Bill)

[H. 149](#), Improving Access to Care through Telehealth

[H. 173](#), Separate Divisions, Juvenile Justice and Adult Corrections—AB (Agency Bill)

[H. 183](#), Juvenile Court Counselors/Sensitivity Training—AB (Agency Bill)

[H. 192](#), COVID Response, Supplemental Spending 2020-2021

[H. 205](#), Abuse & Neglect Resources in Public Schools

[H. 212](#), Social Services Reform

[H. 215](#), Early Childhood Data Analytics/Pilot/Guilford

[S. 61](#), Dental Services/Medicaid Transformation

[S. 78](#), A Safe Return for In-Person Learning

[S. 86](#), Medicaid Recs/School-Based Health and InCK evaluation/ Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec

[S. 88](#), NC FAST Child Welfare Case Mgmt./PED Study

[S. 89](#), Regional Supervision/Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec

[S. 90](#), Social Services Reform/Inter-County Collaboration/Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec

[S. 103](#), Reduce Regulation to Help Children with Autism, passed Senate Healthcare and re-referred to Senate Finance

[S. 105](#), 2021 Appropriations Act

[S. 106](#), 2021 Appropriations Act

[S. 107](#), 2021 Appropriations Act

[S. 154](#), Fully Funded School Social Works and Psychologists

Bills Signed into Law:

[SL 2021-1](#): COVID Relief Bill Modifications