

NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: October 9, 2021

Senator Batch Establishes a Work Group on High Acuity Needs:

NC State Senator Sydney Batch assembled a group of professionals and advocates to discuss and identify challenges and barriers to meeting the high acuity needs of youth in North Carolina. Senator Batch said in her statement initiating the committee last spring, *"I have been concerned about the gap in specialty residential services in our state for certain populations such as medically fragile/MH and dually diagnosed I/DD youth. Children languish for weeks in emergency rooms because there aren't available placements and many of them must seek care out-of-state, far away from their families and support systems. I believe North Carolina must do better in providing care for these children.*

The goal of this workgroup is to identify the barriers that exist in NC around delivering care to this population of youth, identify how we address the barriers, and incentivize the delivery of these services."

The work group identified four areas to focus on including:

1. Appropriate risk tolerance for youth needing services;
2. Community-based and residential services needed to meet the need for NC's high acuity youth;
3. Appropriate administrative flexibility for MCOs, PHPs and providers to be responsive in a timely manner to MH/DD/SA and child welfare system needs;
4. Appropriate early intervention services to reduce the number of youth needing high acuity care.

Recommendations are centered around areas such as focus on family engagement and interventions, creating in lieu of service definitions that are alternatives to higher levels of care, allowing flexibility in authorizations for evidence-based practices, addressing barriers to certificate of need and licensure for services to support youth with complex I/DD and BH needs, overcoming workforce challenges and expediting referrals to appropriate services. Many of these recommendations require legislative action or policy changes.

NC DHHS Secretary Receives Education Award:

Secretary Cohen received the Vernon Malone Friend of Education for her leadership during the pandemic. NC DHHS has published the [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit for grades K-12](#). The Department continues to work on the NC [Early Childhood Action Plan](#) that sets forth a statewide vision and benchmarks to be reached by 2025 for North Carolinians who are 0-8 years old.

Resource:

Governor Cooper [announced](#) \$805 million in funding is now available in NC Child Care Stabilization grants. The funding is a part of the allocation that came to North Carolina through the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act. All private, licensed early care and learning programs are eligible to apply, including for-profit and not-for-profit, family childcare homes, and faith-based centers. Programs that apply and receive stabilization grants may use the funds for a range of activities including: personnel costs; mental health supports; payments for rent, mortgage,

utilities, facility maintenance, or insurance; personal protective equipment (PPE); equipment and supplies; and goods or services necessary to maintain or resume child care.

BH/IDD Tailored Plan Provider Trainings an Opportunity for Children, Youth and Families:

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	Register for the webinar series .
Oct. 15, 2021	Health Information Technology (IT) Requirements and Data Sharing
Oct. 22, 2021	Partnering with a Clinically Integrated Network and Other Partners
Oct. 29, 2021	Delivery of Tailored Care Management
Nov. 5, 2021	Transitional Care Management and Community Inclusion Activities
Nov. 19, 2021	Conflict-Free Care Management and Additional Care Coordination Functions for Members Enrolled in the Innovations or TBI Waiver
Dec. 3, 2021	Billing
Dec. 10, 2021	Oversight and Quality Measurement/Improvement

Bills on the Move:

[S. 105](#), 2021 Appropriations Act, passed by House and Senate, Senate did not concur with House proposal, conference committee appointed.

Bills:

- [H. 29](#), Verification of Immigration Status: SAVE
- [H. 32](#), Equity Opportunity Act – MET CROSSOVER
- [H. 42](#), 2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications
- [H. 91](#), Reduce Regulation to Help Children with Autism – MET CROSSOVER
- [H. 110](#), Landlord Submission of HOPE Application
- [H. 149](#), Improving Access to Care through Telehealth – MET CROSSOVER
- [H. 173](#), Separate Divisions, Juvenile Justice and Adult Corrections—AB (Agency Bill)
- [H. 183](#), Juvenile Court Counselors/Sensitivity Training—AB (Agency Bill) – MET CROSSOVER
- [H. 192](#), COVID Response, Supplemental Spending 2020-2021
- [H. 205](#), Abuse & Neglect Resources in Public Schools – MET CROSSOVER
- [H. 212](#), Social Services Reform
- [H. 215](#), Early Childhood Data Analytics/Pilot/Guilford
- [H. 232](#), LRC Study – Affordable Housing, MET CROSSOVER
- [H. 247](#), Standards of Student Conduct – MET CROSSOVER
- [H. 249](#), Children with Disabilities Funding Formula
- [H. 261](#), Raise Min. Age/Juvenile Jurisdiction
- [H. 262](#), Smart Start Funds
- [H. 274](#), 2021 Current Operations Appropriations Act

[H. 277/S. 249](#), The SAVE Act
[H. 298](#), 2021 Current Operations Appropriations Act
[H. 300](#), 2021 Pandemic Recovery Appropriations Act
[H. 305](#), 2021 Omnibus Coronavirus Relief Act
[H. 313](#), 2021 Pandemic Recovery Appropriations Act
[H. 314](#), 2021 Omnibus Coronavirus Relief Act
[H. 325](#), 2021 Omnibus Coronavirus Relief Act
[H. 382](#), Hospital ED Care/Medicaid Behavioral Health Service
[H. 389/S. 350](#), NC Innovations Waiver Act of 2021
[H. 424](#), Juveniles/Eliminate LWOP/Parole Eligibility
[H. 430](#), Advisory Council on PANS & PANDAS
[H. 470](#), Medicaid Expansion
[H. 516](#), Raise Dropout Age to 18
[H. 568/S. 721](#), Youth Mentoring Services Act
[H. 579](#), School Self-Defense Act
[H. 615](#), Juvenile Court Mental Health Assessments – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 621](#), Increase Drop Out Age/Completion Indicator – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 653](#), Mental Health and SUD Parity Report
[H. 657](#), School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 658](#), Deploy Child Welfare & Aging Component/NCFAST
[H. 664](#), County Service Districts/Early Childhood Education – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 665/S. 610](#), Address Direct Support Staffing Crisis/Medicaid
[H. 732](#), Peer Support Specialist Certification Act
[H. 747](#), Merge NC Health Choice & Medicaid
[H. 749](#), Healthy Students – School Psychologists/COVID-19
[H. 809](#), NC Healthy Family Act
[H. 823](#), Child Advocacy Centers/Share Information – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 837](#), Increase Student Access to School Counselors
[H. 882](#), Behavioral Health Services for Students
[H. 908](#), Access to Affordable Health Care Coverage for All
[H. 914](#), Support our Direct Care Workforce
[H. 928](#), Opioid Overdose Prev. Pilot Program/Funds
[H. 934](#), Student Success Program
[H. 946](#), Sound Basic Education for Every Child
[H. 947](#), The GREAT Broadband Expansion Act
[H. 952](#), Mental Health Unit Triage Pilot Program
[H. 953](#), Funds for School Mental Health Support Persons
[S. 37](#), In-Person Learning Choice for Families, ratified, vetoed by Governor on 2/26
[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. 93](#), Assisting NC Families in Crisis

[S. 106](#), 2021 Appropriations Act
[S. 107](#), 2021 Appropriations Act
[S. 154](#), Fully Funded School Social Works and Psychologists
[S. 350/H. 389](#), NC Innovations Waiver Act of 2021
[S. 402](#), Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap
[S. 463](#), Deploy Child Welfare & Aging Component/NCFAST
[S. 501](#), Create Department of Adult Corrections
[S. 514](#), Youth Health Protection Act
[S. 515](#), Health Care Heroes Conscience Protection Act
[S. 518](#), Protecting and Supporting NC's Children
[S. 530](#), Medicaid for Twelve Months Postpartum
[S. 593](#), Special Education Due Process Hearings – MET CROSSOVER
[S. 595](#), Taskforce on Adverse Childhood Experiences
[S. 610/ H. 665](#), Address Direct Support Staffing Crisis/Medicaid
[S. 615](#), Direct Care Worker Wage Passthrough/Medicaid
[S. 622](#), 2021 Governor's Budget
[S. 721/H. 568](#), Youth Mentoring Services Act

Bills Signed into Law:

[SL 2021-1](#): COVID Relief Bill Modifications
[SL 2021-3](#): 2021 COVID-19 Response and Relief
[SL 2021-4](#): The Reopen the Schools Act of 2021
[SL 2021-7](#), Summer Learning Choice for NC Families
[SL 2021-8](#): Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021
[SL 2021-18](#): Modify Termination of Parental Rights Appeals
[SL 2021-22](#): Reduce Regulation to Help Children with Autism
[SL 2021-25](#): Additional COVID-19 Response and Relief
[SL 2021-61](#): Medicaid Modernized Hospital Assessments
[SL 2021-62](#): Medicaid Administrative Changes and Technical Corrections
[SL 2021-77](#): DHHS Revisions
[SL 2021-88](#): GSC Technical Corrections 2021
[SL 2021-100](#): Juvenile Code Rev's/CIP Recommendations—AB (Agency Bill)
[SL 2021-118](#): Expand Expunction Eligibility
[SL 2021-123](#): Various Raise the Age Changes/JJAC Recs.
[SL 2021-132](#): Expedite Child Safety and Permanency
[SL 2021-144](#): Foster Parents' Bill of Rights