

## NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: February 4, 2022

### NC General Assembly Short Session begins on May 18, 2022

Date and Time	Meeting	Virtual/Audio Access
February 1, 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations: Subcommittee on Use and Distribution on Federal COVID funding</a>	Auditorium LB, <a href="#">livestream</a> , <a href="#">audio</a>
February 7, 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">House Select Committee on an Education System for NC's Future</a>	544 LOB, <a href="#">livestream</a> , <a href="#">audio</a>
February 9, 9:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations: Subcommittee on Use and Distribution on Federal COVID funding</a>	Auditorium LB, <a href="#">livestream</a> , <a href="#">audio</a>
February 15, 10:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Joint Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services</a>	643 LOB, <a href="#">audio</a>
February 15, 2:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid and Health Choice</a>	643 LOB, <a href="#">audio</a>
February 18, 10:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Joint Legislative Committee on Access to Healthcare and Medicaid Expansion</a>	643 LOB, <a href="#">livestream and audio</a>
March 1, 10:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Joint Legislative Committee on Access to Healthcare and Medicaid Expansion</a>	643 LOB, <a href="#">livestream and audio</a>
March 2-3	<a href="#">NC State Board of Education</a>	
March 15, 2:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Joint Legislative Committee on Access to Healthcare and Medicaid Expansion</a>	643 LOB, <a href="#">livestream and audio</a>

### NC Olmstead Plan:

North Carolina published the NC Olmstead Plan December 20, 2021. Many states are in the process of creating and Olmstead Plan based on the US Supreme Court decision in 1999. North Carolina had not formalized a plan on how to address the decision prior to this time. Secretary Kinsley calls this a "living, breathing document" because there is still work to be done on it and more opportunity for input. Below are points made directly related to children and families:

### General Points:

- Under Olmstead, people with disabilities who reside or work in publicly funded, congregate settings – or who are at serious risk of entering such settings – must be given the opportunity to live side-by-side with everyone else, to the fullest extent possible.

- The process included the establishment of the Olmstead Plan Stakeholder Advisory (OPSA) committee and there was a subcommittee on Children, Youth and Families.
- System of Care is included as a “strength of the system”, see page 14.
- Challenges noted in the system are around gaps and inadequate community-based services that lead to overuse of higher level, inpatient and residential settings.

**Priority Area 3** (begins on page 25): Divert and Transition Individuals from Unnecessary Institutional and Segregated Settings:

- Children and youth are negatively impacted by out-of-home placement.
- Expand mobile crisis services available for children and families (page 26)
- NC Division of MH/DD/SAS already has a Children’s Residential Redesign underway (page 27)

Proposed Strategies for Priority Area 3 related to children (page 27):

- The DHHS has embarked on Child Welfare redesign to identify children and families served by the Division of Social Services (DSS), the DHB, and the DMH/DD/SAS, and to establish shared outcomes to reduce out-of-home placements.
- The DHHS will build, going forward, on lessons learned from the Child Welfare Transformation Work Group to reduce involvement of youth with disabilities in the juvenile justice system.
- The DMH/DD/SAS will implement new mobile crisis services teams for children.

**Priority Area 6** (begins on page 41): Address Gaps in Services

- All LME/MCOs support high fidelity wraparound as an “In Lieu Of” service. The DHHS is piloting the use of youth peers, embedded in high fidelity wraparound teams with a case manager and a family partner.

Proposed Strategies for Priority Area 6 for children (begins page 43):

- The DHHS will seek approval from CMS to allow a parent to retain Medicaid eligibility when the child is being served temporarily by the foster care system, regardless of the type of out-of-home placement, and the parent is making reasonable efforts to comply with a - plan of reunification.
- The DHHS will expedite efforts to enhance the array of high-quality, community-based services and supports to address the needs of children and families, thereby reducing the number of children and youth admitted to in-state and out-of-state PRTFs:
  - Expand the availability of mobile crisis services to children using the MORES model, including training staff in the provision of crisis services to children and a family peer support component, to divert inpatient admissions and out-of-home placements for treatment.
  - Implement Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START), a specialized child welfare service delivery model that has been shown, when implemented with fidelity, to improve outcomes for children and families affected by parental substance use and child maltreatment.
  - Promote use of the North Carolina Psychiatry Access Line (NC PAL), telephone consultation to connect pediatricians and primary care physicians with child psychiatrists to improve diagnoses and to reduce polypharmacy for children.
  - Scale the reach of high-fidelity wraparound services from 33 counties to availability statewide.

- Implement facility-based and in-home respite service pilots for foster parents, birth parents, and adoptive families caring for children with behavioral health needs.
- Per Session Law 2021-132 (Senate Bill 693), “develop a plan to increase the supply of appropriate treatment and residential settings for minors in need of behavioral and mental health services.”
- Refine the Rapid Response Team process to improve timeliness of response and outcomes.
- Expedite licensure for time-sensitive services/programs to allow children prompt access to services in the community.
- The DHHS will enhance access to children’s mental health services by expanding mental health services in primary care, schools, and specialty care.
- The DHB will work with Standard Plans and LME/MCO Tailored Plans to continue to promote children’s access to personal care services via Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) and its coverage of Health Check.
- LME/MCOs, and eventually Tailored Plans, will increase the availability of high-fidelity wraparound services, care coordination, and therapeutic foster care families.
- The DHHS, in partnership with the LME/MCOS, will increase the supply of outpatient therapists trained to treat children with co-occurring mental health disorders and I/DD.

Targeted Measures for Priority Area 6 (page 46):

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**Joint Legislative Committee on Access to Healthcare and Medicaid Expansion Members Named:**

Included in the 2021 Appropriations Act was a special provision establishing the Joint Legislative Committee on Access to Healthcare and Medicaid Expansion. The purpose of the Committee is to consider various ways in which access to health care and health insurance can be improved for North Carolinians. The Committee already has several meetings scheduled (see above).

The Committee is chaired by Senator Joyce Krawiec and Representative Donny Lambeth.

Other members include:

Representatives

Kristin Baker  
 Brian Farkas  
 Charles Graham  
 Keith Kidwell  
 Larry W. Potts  
 William O. Richardson  
 Wayne Sasser  
 Donna McDowell White

Senators

Lisa Barnes  
 Dan Blue  
 Danny Earl Britt, Jr.  
 Kevin Corbin  
 Kirk deViere  
 Ralph Hise  
 Michael V. Lee  
 Mike Woodard

Advisory Member: Rep. Carla Cunningham

**Medicaid 1115 Waiver Amendment:**

NC DHHS has applied to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid for an amendment to the Medicaid 1115 Waiver for several reasons. One of those changes is to add children who are enrolled in Health Choice to the Healthy Opportunities pilot that is currently only available to Medicaid beneficiaries. Use this [link](#) to view the entire amendment request.

**Resources:**

- NC Political News, February 4, 2022 article on the new NC Division of Child and Family Well-Being. Read the article at this [link](#).
- Value-Based Payment (VBP) to Support Children’s Health and Wellness: Shifting the Focus from Short-term to Life Course Impact, paper, September 2021, Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts Foundation, Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute, Center for Health Care Strategies.

Seven key themes emerged from subject matter expert interviews and literature review and are described below: 1. There are limited opportunities for short-term, direct health care cost savings among pediatric populations compared to adult populations. 2. Investment in child well-being may support lifelong wellness and result in a long-term return on investment (ROI) for society. 3. To promote long-term health and health equity, the health system needs to focus more on upstream prevention. 4. VBP models that emphasize investment in children’s health and prospective payment offer the potential to better support child wellness. 5. Challenges in developing VBP models serving children may differ between pediatric-only providers and

providers serving both children and adults. 6. There is an opportunity to develop more meaningful and outcomes-based quality measures for children. 7. VBP alone is not enough to address funding and data-sharing barriers to upstream interventions.

**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. 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  
[SL 2021-190](#): Landlord Submission of HOPE Application

[Resolution 2021-10](#), adjournment resolution states that the NCGA will adjourn on December 10<sup>th</sup> and return on December 30<sup>th</sup> to address specific issues that may have occurred in the interim. It has passed the House and Senate and been ratified.