

**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**

**DATE: May 3, 2022**

**MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH!**

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

Date and Time	Meeting	Virtual/Audio Access
May 9, 5:00 p.m.	<a href="#">House Select Committee on an Education System for North Carolina's Future</a>	544 LOB, <a href="#">livestream</a>
May 4-5	<a href="#">NC State Board of Education</a>	<a href="#">livestream</a>

**Potential Legislation for Short Session:**

The 2022 Short Session is set to begin on May 18, 2022. Bills that were introduced during the 2021 Long Session and met crossover or did not have to meet the crossover deadline (Ex: if they included funding), are still alive to be considered during the Short Session. There will be focus on changes to the budget that was passed last year for State Fiscal Year 2022-2023. We have gotten some indication of potential legislation for this session that would impact children's mental health services.

Deputy Secretary of Medicaid, Dave Richard, presented the following to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and Health Choice as legislation DHHS is seeking in the 2022 Short Session:

**BH/IDD Tailored Plan:**

- Language which enables and supports plan launch in Dec. 2022 including disenrollment and essential provider contracting
- Address transfer of fund balance in event of a Tailored Plan awardee dissolution
- Address technical changes i.e. solvency ranges

**Children and Family Specialty Plan:**

- Define features of plan including key terms, services covered, populations to be served –
- Identify type and number of entities which can operate plan
- Address provider network

**Miscellaneous:**

- Clarify caretaker relatives qualify to retain eligibility if meet conditions established in law
- Update language re: appeals of eligibility
- Change provider recredentialing from 5 to 3 years to align with national standards
- Address overpayment recoupments in managed care

**Other Potential legislation:**

The April edition of this update included a review of the recommendations from the Child Welfare and Family Well-Being Transformation Team, several of which required new funding to achieve the goal fully. They include:

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Resources Needed:</b>
Expand high-fidelity wraparound services statewide	\$5.1 million recurring State funds
Expand MORES mobile crisis intervention teams statewide	\$28 million recurring State funds
Implement the "988" Statewide Crisis Hotline	\$2.7 million in recurring State funds
Establish Placement First pilots	\$8 million in recurring State funds
Establish crisis, inpatient, and residential bed tracking and crisis referral system	\$10 million in recurring State funds
Establish emergency respite pilots for caregivers	\$3.6 million in recurring State funds
Build professional foster parenting programs	\$2 million annual recurring for a pilot and additional recurring funds would be needed to expand statewide
Strengthen the NC DHHS Rapid Response Team	\$500,000 in recurring State funds
Use administrative flexibilities and enforcement to create new placement and service options for children	\$200,000 in recurring State funds

**Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and Health Choice:**

The Committee met on April 12<sup>th</sup> to hear updates on Medicaid Transformation. To access all the presentations at that meeting, see link [here](#).

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

In the late April meeting of the committee members heard presentations on alternatives to Medicaid expansion that includes a voucher system for individuals at a certain level above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and about a State-based exchange similar to the federal healthcare marketplace. The Committee has not published a legislative recommendation on access to healthcare and Medicaid expansion. Presentations for these concepts are linked below:

[Voucher system for those 100% above FPL](#)  
[State-based exchange](#)

The Committee also heard a presentation on how Medicaid expansion will assist in achieving the goals identified in the Health North Carolina 2030 plan that is supported by the NC Medical Society. See link [here](#).

**Child Welfare Amendment to the 1115 Medicaid Waiver:**

NC DHHS is offering webinars on the [child welfare amendment](#) to the 1115 Medicaid waiver that will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for approval. Some points made:

- Focus on the Child and Family Specialty Plan
- Extends the eligibility to children and youth in foster care (authority came from 2021 Appropriations Act)
- Also includes parents/guardians/custodians and minor siblings of the child who are eligible for Medicaid
- NC DHHS is accepting comments and feedback during the webinars and at [Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov). Comments must be received by May 23<sup>rd</sup> to be considered prior to submission of the amendment.

The second webinar will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m., to register use the link [here](#).

#### Resources:

- As of May 1, the Healthy Opportunities Pilot in all pilot regions include housing and transportation services. Food services began on March 15 and interpersonal safety services will begin on June 15. For more information, see link [here](#);
- President Bidens [proclamation](#) for National Mental Health Awareness Month.
- [Press release](#) from Governor Cooper that out of \$34 million **\$5 million to the NC Department of Health and Human Services to expand Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training.** Youth MHFA training teaches adults who work with youth, including teachers and school staff, how to identify and support youth ages 12-18 who are experiencing mental health and substance use challenges and how to help in crisis situations. The funds will be used to certify new Youth MHFA instructors across the state and provide in-person or virtual Youth MHFA training to public and non-public school staff and other community members involved in the lives of youth.
- [Governor Extends Healthcare Emergency Order](#). The order allows for, "...the NCDHHS Secretary flexibility to take actions to increase the health care workforce and to ensure continuity of existing operations in the state's hospitals, adult care homes, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities. Professional licensing boards will continue to have authority to modify or waive requirements that would otherwise prevent qualified individuals, such as retired medical professionals and trained students, from providing care to COVID-19 patients."

#### 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 during 2021 Long Session:**

[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-119 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