

NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: August 1, 2022

Summer Legislative Activity:

The NC General Assembly members have left town and returned to their communities. As reported in the last update, they have scheduled time to reconvene each month before the Long Session begins, but that is for limited deliberations. It's possible we will begin seeing joint legislative committee meeting notices but the upcoming elections may also take up much of the time of legislators. One interim legislative committee that is meeting (August 1) is the [House Select Committee on an Education System for North Carolina's Future](#). Wrapping up the Short Session, the Governor signed the budget bill into law but vetoed several bills including the two listed below. No action has been taken on the vetoes.

[H. 823](#), Child Advocacy Centers/Share Information. This bill sets criteria and responsibilities for Child Advocacy Centers in North Carolina. Governor Cooper provided an explanation for the [veto](#) citing that the bill was "well-intended" but also included "critical flaws" and recommended continued work on the substance.

[S. 593](#), Schools for the Deaf and Blind. This bill specifies the governance of schools for the deaf and blind. Although it is not a bill that NCCCYF was tracking, the [veto](#) language tells us more about the tension between the Governor and the NC General Assembly on education oversight. Governor Cooper states that this bill is "blatantly unconstitutional" and refers to the "erosion of statewide education oversight".

Language Impacts Health Equity:

According to a [blog](#) in Psychology Today, "Stigmatizing language is one of the many barriers to seeking treatment for a substance use or mental health disorder, as many individuals do not want to be "labeled"." The National Family Support Technical Assistance Center takes that one step further to say that even the word "stigma" has a negative connotation and should be replaced by the words "prejudice"—which refers to thinking—and "discrimination"—which refers to action. Reframing language is not a new concept, but the national focus on health equity has shone a new light on the importance of changing our vocabulary around behavioral health and disabilities. Here are some resources to assist in reframing our language:

[Reframing Language: Why Changing Our Thinking, Our Actions and Language Matters](#), National Family Support Technical Assistance Center, National Federation of Families

[Talking about Complex Care: A Guide for Clear and Effective Communications](#), The National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs and Center for Health Care Strategies, February 2022

[Advancing Health Equity: A Guide to Language, Narrative and Concepts](#), American Medical Association and AAMC Center for Health Justice

[Using Inclusive and Plain Language for Communicating](#), NC DHHS 2020

Resource:

- [July 29 press release](#) on Bipartisan Safer Community Act funding for youth mental health and specifically for school-based mental health services.
- July 22 NC Health [News article](#) on the youth mental health crisis
- Robert Wood Johnson You Tube video: [“Nurturing the Future: Investing in Early Childhood Development”](#)

Go-Live of 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:

- 988 Announcement: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20220715/us-transition-988-suicide-crisis-lifeline-begins-saturday>
- Media shareables: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/partner-toolkit/social-media-shareables>
- 50 free wallet cards here: <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/988-suicide-crisis-lifeline-wallet-card-image>

Bills:

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

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

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

[H. 91](#), Reduce Regulation to Help Children with Autism

[H. 144](#), Child and Family Specialty Plan (CFSP)

[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

[H. 232](#), LRC Study – Affordable Housing

[H. 247](#), Standards of Student Conduct

[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
[H. 621](#), Increase Drop Out Age/Completion Indicator
[H. 653](#), Mental Health and SUD Parity Report
[H. 657](#), School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams
[H. 658](#), Deploy Child Welfare & Aging Component/NCFast
[H. 664](#), County Service Districts/Early Childhood Education
[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. 755](#), Parents Bill of Rights
[H. 809](#), NC Healthy Family Act
[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
[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
[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-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
[SL 2022-71](#): Education Law Changes