

NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: November 11, 2022

November is Family Engagement Month!

Elections Give NC Senate the Supermajority:

The elections did bring some changes to the North Carolina legislative arena. Possibly the most significant is that Republicans now hold 30 of the 50 total seats in the North Carolina Senate. This gives the Republican senators a “supermajority” and means that they potentially have enough votes to override a veto by the Governor. However, the North Carolina House Republicans are one seat shy of holding a supermajority. In recent years, there have been many times that the Governor has used his veto power to send legislation back to the NC General Assembly. He still has the power to do so and the veto power will be particularly useful when positions on legislation fall cleanly along party lines.

The [NC General Assembly homepage](#) includes some links to lists of the unofficial general elections results for the House and Senate. Many of the senators that have been involved in issues important to children, youth and families remain in their positions, e.g. Senators Burgin, Batch and Woodard. Gale Adcock, a family nurse practitioner and former NC House member, won a Senate seat representing Wake County. There are House members who have championed MH/IDD/SUD that also remain in the legislature, including Reps. White, Morey, Lambeth, Stevens, Cunningham. Notably, Sarah Crawford, the Chief Executive Officer of the Tammy Lynn Center and a former NC Senator, won a House seat representing Wake County. Both House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger won re-election.

NC Senator Don Davis won a seat in the US House of Representatives. Davis has been involved in both health care and education issues in the NC General Assembly.

Current NC General Assembly Activity:

Although the NC General Assembly comes into session one or two days each month for very specific actions, they are essentially not in session right now. During the interim period between sessions, joint legislative oversight committees may meet. Joint legislative oversight committees include both House and Senate members and are bi-partisan. They often formulate recommendations that turn into legislation. Two joint legislative oversight committees have met in the past month:

The [Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety](#) met on November 10th and were provided an update on the transitions, including the new Department of Adult Corrections, and the challenges. A presentation by Secretary Buffaloe noted on Slide 5 that the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has a 53% vacancy rate in positions. He partially attributes this to “inability to meet market salaries”. This is despite several of the detention centers being at full capacity.

The [Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Education](#) met in October and heard [a presentation](#) from Sherry Thomas, Senior Director, Office of Exceptional Children, Department of Public Instruction about the special education funding for children with disabilities. DPI has brought in the consulting firm of RTI to facilitate a process to develop a funding model based on direction from a clarifying provision on the 2021 budget (See [SL2021-189](#)). One of the recommendations is to expand the use of Medicaid funding in schools. The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet again on November 29th at 9:30 a.m.

National Emergency in Children’s Mental Health:

Following up on their declaration of a national emergency in children’s mental health one year ago, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children’s Hospital Association gathered signatures from 144 national and state organizations in [a letter](#) urging the Biden Administration “to treat the youth mental health crisis as the national emergency it continues to be...”.

Resources:

NC Medicaid will provide information on Tailored Care Management (TCM), including the timeline for launch, eligibility, policies and procedures related to transition of care and other information pertinent to DSS as the State prepares for this transition.

Tailored Care Management for Children and Youth Served by the Child Welfare System

Date/Time: Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022, 11:00-12:00 p.m.

Join Link: [Click here to join](#)

Tailored Care Management for Children and Youth Served by the Child Welfare System

Date/Time: Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Join Link: [Click here to join](#)

Bills Signed into Law during 2021 Long Session and 2022 Short 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

[SL 2022-71](#): Education Law Changes