

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

**DATE: December 12, 2022**

***Happy Holidays to All the Wonderful NCCCYF Advocates!***

### **NC General Assembly 2022 Work Wrapping Up:**

After the NC General Assembly completes their meetings this week, they will presumably finish for the year. They are scheduled to begin the 2023 Long Session in January and that will include any new legislators that won elections in November. Often the beginning of a Long Session involves getting offices and committee assignments settled. As you may recall, the Senate Republicans will have a supermajority when they begin the Long Session. If Governor Cooper vetoes a bill, the Senate will have the votes to override the veto. The House does not have a supermajority for either party.

Watch for the Governor's budget proposal to be published in early winter. That traditionally begins the open budget process, although it isn't a required component of the NC General Assembly's budget deliberations. It is likely that the budget is already being discussed by legislators.

### **Events in North Carolina Expand Focus on Children in Foster Care:**

Recent actions have cast a very bright light on the North Carolina services for children and youth and particularly those in the foster care system and those that present in emergency rooms. They include:

- NC DHHS Webinar (11/29/22) on Tailored Care Management (TCM) with specific reference to children in foster care. NC DHHS developed the [Tailored Care Management Quick Reference Guide](#) that gives examples of when a child is under TCM or Care Management for At-Risk Children (CMARC) through the local health departments.
- Disability Rights of NC (DRNC) filed a class action lawsuit, announced on December 6<sup>th</sup>, against NC DHHS stating the child welfare system has a "... pervasive, system-wide practice of unnecessarily warehousing children with disabilities in foster care in dangerous, locked psychiatric institutions—a harmful, unlawful practice that also falls most heavily on children of color." This is not a new issue of focus for DRNC. See their [webpage](#) around foster care and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities for more information about DRNCs position and concerns.
- [NC DHHS announced](#) on December 8<sup>th</sup> that the RJ Blackley Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center will transition to be a 54-bed inpatient psychiatric hospital for children

and adolescents in Butner, NC. The Department is expecting to enter into an agreement with UNC Health to manage the facility. The transition is expected to occur by July 1, 2023. The press release specifically notes the number of children, youth and adolescents with psychiatric needs who are staying in emergency rooms for lack of appropriate community-based services.

- 130 public schools will receive training and consultation through the NC Psychiatry Access Line (NC-PAL) through a grant. The [press release](#) states, “There is an urgent need to support behavioral health in our schools. During the pandemic, the rate of children discharged from an emergency department with a behavioral health condition increased by as much as 70%.”

### **Feedback Opportunity:**

DHHS has published an updated Quality Strategy [concept paper](#). Feedback can be provided by emailing [Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov) with the subject line “**Quality Strategy Feedback**” by **Jan. 6, 2023**.

### **Paid Family Leave:**

Prevent Child Abuse NC (PCANC) has published [a study](#) around policy maker perspectives on key issues related to children, youth and families. One of the issues that was raised is around paid family and medical leave. Melea Rose-Waters, Policy Director at PCANC, also wrote [a blog](#) focused on advocacy steps that can be taken to promote paid family and medical leave.

### **New Division of MH/IDD/SUD Leadership Named:**

Kelly Crosbie has been named as the new Division of MH/IDD/SUD Director. Her name may be familiar to you because she is currently the Chief Quality Officer at NC Medicaid and an important part of the Medicaid Transformation team at NC DHHS. Kelly has also served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) and Chief Strategy Officer of Monarch.

Renee Rader will serve as Deputy Director of the Division of MH/IDD/SUD. Renee has most recently been the Assistant Director of Policy and Programs at the Division. She was also Quality Manager of Behavioral Health at NC Medicaid.

### **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-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