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

**DATE: August 6, 2023**

***To access the NC General Assembly calendar use this*** [***link***](https://www.ncleg.gov/)

**NC General Assembly Update**

Negotiations on the North Carolina budget continue to occur behind closed doors. Legislators will come back to get some work done on August 15th. Not only is the budget not completed, but there are also multiple bills that have been vetoed by the Governor. It’s not clear what they will be ready to attend to by August 15th. The Governor and many stakeholders are very ready for a budget to be passed by the legislature to get new programs started.

Medicaid expansion is the most prominent new programming that is on hold until the budget is passed. NC DHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley recently announced that his department had negotiated with the federal government an October 1, 2023 implementation of Medicaid expansion but that it will require that the legislature approve the budget components by September 1.

Here are some recent news articles about the budget and Medicaid expansion:

[“Budget, veto overrides still on hold at NC legislature”](https://www.wunc.org/politics/2023-08-03/budget-veto-overrides-still-on-hold-at-nc-legislature), WUNC 91.5, August 3, 2023

[“State health leaders announce plan to speed up Medicaid expansion](https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2023/07/27/state-health-leaders-announce-plan-to-speed-up-medicaid-expansion/)”, NC Health News, July 27, 2023

**Federal Bill Progresses 988 Implementation**

The 988 Implementation Act has been re-introduced by Rep. Cardenas. This legislation will provide federal resources for states to implement their crisis response infrastructure one year after the launch of 988, the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.  According to the [press release](https://cardenas.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/07/25/2023/cardenas-leads-introduction-of-bipartisan-988-implementation-act), the legislation includes provisions that:

* Solidify funding for 988 regional and local call centers to ensure a timely 24/7 response to callers anywhere in the country.
* Provide funding for community-based crisis response, including mobile crisis teams and crisis centers.
* Support crisis workforce development with increased funding for training and scholarship opportunities.
* Increase access to care by requiring that all health insurance plans cover crisis services.
* Implement a national suicide prevention awareness campaign in partnership with a wide array of stakeholders.

There is broad support from stakeholders for this legislative action. The National Council for Mental Wellbeing has developed a webpage for stakeholders to act on their support for the legislation. You can follow this link to add your support: [To Support](https://thenationalcouncil.quorum.us/campaign/49711/).

**Gearing Up for Policy Implementation Work**

While the NC General Assembly is taking some time to take action on the budget and vetoed legislation, advocates can certainly continue to contact legislators and can also begin preparing for the policy and implementation work that will follow the passage of bills that include new programming and changes to current programs. Below is a review of venues and mechanisms where we can expect to see policy and implementation work.

Let’s start with definitions of policy implementation:

* Represents the stage where government executes an adopted policy as specified by the legislation or policy action.
* At this stage, various government agencies and departments, responsible for the respective area of policy, are formally made responsible for implementation.
* Policy implementation is what happens after a bill becomes law.

*(Theodoulou and Kofinis, 2004)*

* Educate the people or organizations affected by the new policy.
* Change pre-existing administrative operations and systems (or create new ones)
* Monitor and/or enforce the policy as needed.

*(Polaris Strategy, CDC, 2021)*

**NC Rules Oversight:**

In North Carolina, rules are processed through the [Office of Administrative Hearings—Rules Division](https://www.oah.nc.gov/rules-division). The Rules Division performs legal analysis and administrative and technical work in the review, compilation, production, and publication of the North Carolina Register (NCR) and the North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC); and provides administrative support and legal counsel to the Rules Review Commission (RRC).

**Resource for Statutes:**

The NCGA website has [a link](https://ncleg.gov/Laws/GeneralStatutes) to the North Carolina statutes and that will take you to the statutes.

**Rules and Policy in Health and Human Services:**

Mental Health/Intellectual-Developmental Disabilities/Substance Use Services:

* [Chapter 122C of the NC statutes](https://ncleg.gov/Laws/GeneralStatuteSections/Chapter122C) covers MH/IDD/SUS services.
* [NC Commission on MH/IDD/SUS](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-use-services/north-carolina-commission-mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-use-services) has authority to process rules related to MH/IDD/SUS services
* The NC DHHS Secretary also has authority to process rules related to MH/IDD/SUS services.
* The NC Division of MH/IDD/SUS uses [“Joint Communication Bulletins”](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-use-services/joint-communication-bulletins) to communicate about changes to policy.

Medicaid:

* [Chapter 108A of the NC statutes](https://ncleg.gov/Laws/GeneralStatuteSections/Chapter108A) covers the Medicaid program.
* The Division of Health Benefits oversees [rules for Medicaid](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/meetings-notices/rules-actions).
* [Clinical coverage policies](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/providers/program-specific-clinical-coverage-policies) (CCP) are used to frame services around Medicaid.
* Clinical coverage policies for MH/IDD/SUS services are CCP 8A – 8P.
* The [Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/meetings-notices/committees-and-work-groups/medical-care-advisory-committee) advises the state about issues such as revisions to existing policies, policy development and methods of assessing the quality of care for NC Medicaid.
* The [Physician Advisory Group (PAG)](https://ncmedsoc.org/nc-physician-advisory-group-medicaid-seeking-to-fill-open-seat/), through the NC Medical Society, provides advice to the Department of Health and Human Services, along with other professional societies and organizations, in developing new or amended Medicaid clinical coverage policies.
* NC DHHS has also provided “concept papers” and other [guidance on Medicaid Transformation](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/proposed-program-design) and has asked for feedback when changes are made.

**Rules and Policy in Education:**

* [Chapter 115C](https://ncleg.gov/Laws/GeneralStatuteSections/Chapter115C) of the NC statutes covers primary and secondary education.
* The [State Board of Education](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/about-dpi/state-board-education) has authority to set policy and general procedures for public school systems across the state, including teacher pay and qualifications, course content, testing requirements, and manages state education funds
* The [Center for Safer Schools](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/center-safer-schools) has been given authority through recent legislation to develop guidance around issues such as school threat assessment and school safety grants.

**Rules and Policy in Juvenile Justice:**

* [Chapter 7B](https://ncleg.gov/Laws/GeneralStatuteSections/Chapter7B) of the NC statutes covers the juvenile code.

**Resources on Policy Development and Implementation**

* [Polaris Strategy and Policy Development Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/policy/polaris/policyprocess/strategy-development/index.html)
* [Influencing Policy Development, University of Kansas, Community Tool Box](https://ctb.ku.edu/en/influencing-policy-development)
* [Policy Toolkit: A guide to systems transformation through policy change, Strive Together](https://www.strivetogether.org/policy-toolkit-a-guide-to-systems-transformation-through-policy-change/)
* [Inclusive Policy Research and Policy Development with Impacted Communities, Next100](https://thenext100.org/reports/inclusive-policy-research-and-policy-development-with-impacted-communities/)

**Bills Filed and Action:**

[H. 23](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H23), Education Studies and Other Changes, passed House, referred to Senate Education/Higher Education

[H. 26](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H26), Education Omnibus, passed House, referred to Senate Education/Higher Education

[H. 47](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H47), School Protection Act, referred to House Committee on Education K-12

[H. 58](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H58)/[S. 74](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S74), Parents’ and Students’ Bill of Rights, H. 58 referred to House Rules Committee, S. 74 referred to Senate Rules Committee

[H. 83](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H83), Funds for AWAKE in Swain County, referred to House Appropriations Committee

[H. 142](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H142), Protect our Students Act – Agency Bill, passed House, reported favorably by Senate Committees—Judiciary, Education/Higher Education, and Pensions and Retirement and Aging, sent to Senate Rules

[H. 145](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H145), Social Services Reform, passed House

[H. 150](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H150), School Contracted Health Services, passed House

[H. 156](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H156), Funds for Establishing Safe Cultures, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 186](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H186), Division of Juvenile Justice Modifications – Agency Bill, passed House

[H. 187](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H187), Equality in Education, passed House

[H. 188](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H188), Standards of Student Conduct, passed House

[H. 190](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H190), Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions – Agency Bill, passed House

[H. 197](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H197), Broadband Changes, DIT – Agency Bill, passed House

[H. 206](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h206), Increase Dropout Age/Completion Indicator, referred to House Committee on Education K-12 then House Rules

[H. 253](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H253), Prevent Students from Harm Act, passed House

[H. 259](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H259), 2023 Appropriations Act, passed House

[H. 263](https://ncleg.gov/Legislation/Bills/FiledByDay/2023/H/03-02-2023), 2023 Appropriations Act, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 281](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H281)/[S. 215](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S215), Allow ERPO’s to Prevent Suicides and Save Lives, referred to Rules

[H. 286](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H286), Permanency Innovation Initiative/Say So/Funds, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 294](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H294), NC Housing Choice Incentive, referred to House Commerce then House Appropriations then House Rules

[H. 336](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H336)/ [S. 263](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S263), Healthy Students/A Nurse in Every School, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 357](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H357)/S. 262, Funds/Durham Juvenile Detention Ctr, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 361](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H361)/[S. 305](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S305), Require Report/Protection & Advocacy Agency, H. 361 passed House, S. 305 referred to Senate Rules

[H. 382](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H382), Registered Nurses in Schools, passed House

[H. 391](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H391), Civic Youth Group Access, referred to House Education K-12

[H. 398](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H398), Child Care Act, referred to House Rules

[H. 405](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H405)/[S. 694](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S694), Funds for Ready for School, Ready for Life, H. 405 referred to House Appropriations, S. 694 referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 420](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H420), Expand & Consolidate K-12 Scholarships, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 478](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H478), Support Students with Disabilities Act, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 500](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h500), NCCWTC/Medicaid Related Recs., passed House

[H. 559](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H559), Funds for Crossnore Communities for Children, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 569](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H569)/[S. 555](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S555), Working Families Act, referred to Rules in House and Senate

[H. 585](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H585)/[S. 448](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S448)/[S. 472](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S472), School Psychologist Omnibus, H. 585 referred to House Health and then House Rules, S. 448 referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 647](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H647), Expedite Child Permanency, passed House

[H. 665](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H665), Foster Parent Ombudsman, referred to House Health then Appropriations

[H. 667](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H667), Opportunity Scholarship Testing Requirements, referred to House Rules

[H. 705](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H705)/[S. 713](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S713), Build Safer Communities and Schools Act, both House and Senate bills referred to Rules

[H. 730](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H730), Funds for the Expansion of NC Pre-K, referred to House Rules

[H. 748](https://ncccp.sharepoint.com/sites/i2i/I2ICenter/Grants%20and%20Contracts/NCCCYF/Legislative%20News/NCCYF%20Weekly%20Leg%20Updates/2023/H.%20730%2C%20Funds%20for%20the%20Expansion%20of%20NC%20Pre-K%2C%20referred%20to%20House%20Rules), Felony Child Abuse/Expand Scope, passed House

[H. 762](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H762)/[S. 524](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S524), Social School Workers/Masters Pay, H. 762 reported favorably by House Education/K-12 and re-referred to House Appropriations, S. 524 referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 763](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H763), Limit School Counselor Ratios, referred to House Education, K-12

[H. 765](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H765), Public School Medical Assistants, reported favorably by House Education, K-12

[H. 817](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H817), Healthy Families and Workplaces/Paid Sick Days, referred to House Rules

[H. 823](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h823)/[S. 406](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S406), Choose your School, Choose your Future, H. 823 passed House S. 406 reported favorably by Senate Education, re-referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 834](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H834), Juvenile Capacity, passed House

[H. 841](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H841), Healthy Families & Workplaces/Paid Sick Days, referred to House Rules

[H. 846](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H846), Funds for NC Pre-K and Smart Start, referred to House Rules

[H. 848](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H848), Set Pay Schedules/Juvenile Justice Positions, referred to House Rules

[H. 855](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h855), Strengthening Care for Children and Families, referred to House Health then House Appropriations

[H. 858](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H858), Fonda Bryant Suicide Prevention Signage Act, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 860](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H860), Protect Our Youth in Foster Care, referred to Health House

[H. 862](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h862), Strengthen Child Fatality Prevention System, reported favorably by House Health and re-referred to House Appropriations

[H. 863](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H863), Foster Care Reform/Funds, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 887](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H887), Enhance Local Response/Mental Health Crises, referred to House Rules

[S. 49](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S49), Parents Bill of Rights, vetoed

[S. 74](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S74)/[H. 58](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H58), Parents’ and Students’ Bill of Rights, S. 74 referred to Senate Rules Committee, H. 58 referred to House Rules Committee

[S. 156](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S156), Medicaid Children and Families Specialty Plan, passed Senate

[S. 215](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S215)/[H. 281](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H281), Allow ERPO’s to Prevent Suicides and Save Lives, referred to Rules

[S. 262](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S262)/[H. 357](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H357), Funds/Durham Juvenile Detention Ctr, referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 263](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S263)/[H. 336](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H336), Healthy Students/A Nurse in Every School, referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 303](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S303), Strengthen Juvenile Laws, passed Senate

[S. 305](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S305)/[H. 361](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H361), Require Report/Protection & Advocacy Agency, H. 361 passed House, S. 305 referred to Senate Rules

[S. 317](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S317), Addressing the Workforce Housing Crisis, referred to Senate Rules

[S. 343](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S343), Protect the Children in Private Schools, referred to Senate Rules

[S. 358](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S358), Redirect Lottery Advertising for Foster Care, referred to Senate Rules

[S. 406](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S406)/[H. 823](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h823), Choose your School, Choose your Future, H. 823 passed House S. 406 reported favorably by Senate Education, re-referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 425](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S425), Medicaid Omnibus – Agency Bill, passed Senate, referred to House Health

[S. 448](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S448)/[S. 472](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S472)/[H. 585](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H585), School Psychologist Omnibus, H. 585 referred to House Health and then House Rules, S. 448 referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 493](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S493), Go Big for Early Childhood Education, referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 762](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H762)/[S. 524](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S524), Social School Workers/Masters Pay, H. 762 referred to House Education, K-12, S. 524 referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 555](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/s555)/[H. 569](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H569), Working Families Act, referred to Rules in House and Senate

[S. 567](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S567), School Mental Health Support Act

[S. 598](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S598), Healthy Students – A Nurse in Every School, referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 625](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S625), Child Welfare, Safety and Permanence Reforms, passed Senate, referred to House Judiciary 2

[S. 661](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S661), Health Benefit Plans/Mental Health Parity

[S. 670](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S670), Create New Student Weighted Funding Model,

[H. 405](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H405)/[S. 694](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S694), Funds for Ready for School, Ready for Life, H. 405 referred to House Appropriations, S. 694 referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 705](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H705)/[S. 713](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S713), Build Safer Communities and Schools Act, both House and Senate bills referred to Rules

[S. 740](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S740), Fully Fund School Psychologists and Counselors, referred to Senate Appropriations

**New Laws**

[S. 115](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S115), SL2023-3, Repurpose RJ Blackley Center as Psych Hospital, April 1, 2023 DHHS will enter into an agreement with UNC Health to operate RJ Blackley Center as a 54-bed psychiatric hospital for children and adolescents.

[H. 76](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h76), SL2023-7, Access to Healthcare Options, authorizes NC DHHS to apply for participation in federal Medicaid Expansion, funding provisions included in 2023 budget that must be signed into law by 6/30/23 for this law to take effect.

[H. 190](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H190), SL2023 – 65, Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions – Agency Bill, makes changes across DHHS Divisions including changing Division of MH/IDD/SAS to Division of MH/IDD, SUS and authorizing components of Division of Child and Family Well-Being.

[H. 605](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H605), SL2023- 78, School Threat Assessment Teams, establishes threat assessment teams, peer-to-peer support programs, school crisis kits, and expand law enforcement access in all public school units.

[H. 815](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H815), SL2023 – 82, The Loving Homes Act, to allow one child or siblings in foster care to be placed in a family foster home if the foster family has 5 biological children.

[H. 674](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H674), SL2023-96, Child Advocacy Centers/Share Information, to set certain criteria for children’s advocacy centers to be eligible to receive state funds, govern the sharing of information and records of children’s advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams, establish certain immunity for children’s advocacy centers.