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

**DATE: November 1, 2023**

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

**Review of New Laws:**

Several bills passed the NC General Assembly and became law during the 2023 Long Session. Below is a review of legislation that impacts children, youth and families, along with links to resources that can be used to track resources for next steps that are being taken to implement the new laws.

**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. $50 million was also included in the 2023 Appropriations Act for a behavioral health hospital.

**Tracking Resources:**

NC Newsline [article](https://ncnewsline.com/2023/10/23/crisis-in-childrens-mental-health-takes-a-heavy-toll-in-rural-southeastern-nc/)**,** October 23, 2023, “Crisis in children’s mental health takes a heavy toll in rural southeastern NC”

Business North Carolina [article](https://businessnc.com/unc-health-plans-to-build-2-billion-childrens-hospital/), September 27, 2023, “UNC Health plans to build $2 billion children’s hospital”

[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. Provisions were included in the 2023 Appropriations Act and Medicaid Expansion will be implemented on December 1, 2023.

**Tracking Resources:**

NC DHHS Medicaid Expansion resources, [questions and answers](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/questions-and-answers-about-medicaid-expansion#WillanyonebeautomaticallyenrolledinMedicaidunderthenewrules-2117), [bilingual toolkit](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/blog/2023/10/05/medicaid-expansion-website-toolkit-and-sign-form-available), [NC ePass](https://epass.nc.gov/)

Disability Rights NC, [website post](https://disabilityrightsnc.org/news/drnc-newsfeed/medicaid-expansion/), October 9, 2023, “More people can soon get health coverage through NC Medicaid”

Care4Carolina [resources page](https://care4carolina.com/all-resources/) with fact sheets

NC Justice Center, [FAQs about Medicaid Expansion](https://www.ncjustice.org/projects/health-advocacy-project/medicaid-expansion/faqs/)

[S. 20](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2023/S20), SL2023-14, **Care for Women, Children and Families Act**, adds provisions around surrender of infants and around foster care.

**Tracking Resources:**

NC DHHS, Division of Social Services, [webpage](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/child-welfare-services/safe-surrender-surrender-newborns-safely) on safe surrender of infants

Foster Family Alliance of NC [website](https://www.ffa-nc.org/)

[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.

**Tracking Resources:**

NC Division of MH/DD/Substance Use Services, Child Behavioral Health, [website](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being/whole-child-health-section/child-behavioral-health)

Side-by-Side Webinars [webpage](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-use-services/community-engagement-and-empowerment/community-engagement-and-training#2023SidebySidewithDMHDDSUS-4299)

NC Division of Child and Family Well-Being [website](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/division-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.

**Tracking Resources:**

NC Department of Public Instruction [press release](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2023/06/28/hb-605-would-provide-threat-assessment-teams-nc-schools), Center for Safer Schools [September Newsletter](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NCSBE/bulletins/36d41bf) and You Tube video message on Center work on threat assessments, including HB 605: Click [here](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnlvdXR1YmUuY29tL3dhdGNoP3Y9LS1MVnJFUGRheWMiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMDA0LjgzNTkzMzkxIn0.jv9-r21oXC461B97mGGHio3z3YarTxThIy3xs0mMSDw/s/2906429191/br/227379016130-l) to view the video.

NC State Bureau of Investigation [webpage](https://www.ncsbi.gov/BeTA/School-Resources) on Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams

[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.

**Tracking Resources:**

NC DHHS [memo](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/cws682023/download?attachment) to local departments of social services, September 29, 2023, delays implementation of H. 815

White House Fact Sheet, September 27, 2023, “Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Support Children and Families in Foster Care”

[Foster Family Alliance NC](https://www.ffa-nc.org/)

The Carolina Journal [article](https://www.carolinajournal.com/hb-815-seeks-exemptions-for-foster-care-child-limit/), June 15, 2023, “HB 815 seeks exemptions for foster care child limit”

[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.

**Tracking Resources:**

[Children’s Advocacy Centers NC](https://cacnc.org/)

UNC-CH, School of Government, [bill summary](https://lrs.sog.unc.edu/billsum/h-674-2023-2024)

[S. 49](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S49), SL2023-106, Parents Bill of Rights, enumerates the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their minor children.

**Tracking Resources:**

*Check your local school system for policy implementation on the Parents’ Bill of Rights.*

Reflector [article](https://www.reflector.com/news/local/implementation-of-parents-bill-of-rights-could-be-delayed/article_e94747d8-4e93-11ee-a6f9-a3fa55b33d63.html), September 12, 2023, “Implementation of parents’ bill of rights could be delayed” (NOTE: Although this delay was reportedly requested by Superintendent Truitt, it does not appear that the NC General Assembly delayed the implementation)

[H. 186](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2023/H186), SL2023-114, Juvenile Justice Modifications, modifies laws around juvenile justice transfer process, court-ordered evaluations, interrogation, etc.

**Tracking Resources:**

NC Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [website](https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/juvenile-justice-and-delinquency-prevention)

UNC-CH, School of Government, [bill summary](https://lrs.sog.unc.edu/billsum/h-186-2023-2024-2)

[H. 259](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H259), SL2023-134, 2023 Appropriations Act, budget for SFY23-24 and SFY24-25

**Tracking Resources:**

NCCCYF, Policy and Research Committee, October 2023 [Monthly Update](https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn%3Aaaid%3Asc%3AVA6C2%3A74bf0c42-a0d9-42d8-83bc-7b563f1fb956)

NC DHHS, Side-by-Side [webinar presentation](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/side-side-presentation-20231023/open), including budget analysis, October 23, 2023

NASW-NC [website post](https://www.naswnc.org/news/654458/Final-2023-NC-Budget---What-it-means-for-social-work.htm), October 5, 2023, “Final 2023 budget – what it means for social work”

[H. 361](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H361), SL2023-135, Require Report/Protection & Advocacy Agency, requires the Protection and Advocacy Agency for NC (Disability Rights NC) to report its actions regarding its impact on persons with disabilities to the NC General Assembly.

**Tracking Resources:**

Disability Rights NC [press release on legislation](https://disabilityrightsnc.org/news/proposed-law-unnecessary-and-bad-precedent/), March 28, 2023

UNC-CH, School of Government, [bill summary](https://lrs.sog.unc.edu/billsum/h-361-2023-2024)

**Opportunity for Feedback!**

NC DHHS is updating the [State Health Improvement Plan](https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/units/ldas/docs/NCSHIP-2023-101723.pdf?mc_cid=4ee3fc3830&mc_eid=4a51a06ff7), per a [press release](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/2023/10/25/state-health-improvement-plan-updated-addressing-social-drivers-health-medicaid-expansion-and), based on recommendations from a work group of stakeholders. (Remember that you can use the magnifying glass on the Adobe document to search terms such as “children” and “mental health”). One social factor noted is the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on health outcomes (pages 52-55). To learn more about the Health North Carolina 2030 initiative, use this [link](https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/units/ldas/hnc.htm). Public comments can be sent to:

Healthy North Carolina 2030

NC Division of Public Health

1916 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1916

**Resources:**

* A **Medicaid Expansion** [**toolkit**](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/blog/2023/10/05/medicaid-expansion-website-toolkit-and-sign-form-available)has been developed and is available at no cost for community members to use with individuals who may be eligible for Medicaid expansion on December 1, 2023. As noted in earlier monthly updates, Medicaid expansion and the unwinding of the Public Health Emergency that is causing Medicaid recertification are occurring at similar times. A [NC Health News September 19, 2023 article](https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2023/09/19/medicaid-unwinding-update/?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=north-carolina-health-news&utm_content=September+21%2C+2023) shows that 87% of individuals who are losing their Medicaid benefits through the recertification process are due to “procedural disenrollments”. NC DHHS is reaching out to their community partners for assistance in getting information out to their community members to ensure that individual eligibility information is up-to-date.
* An October 5, 2023 [press release](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/2023/10/05/ncdhhs-receives-148-million-grant-strengthen-behavioral-health-system-children-and-families) announced that NC DHHS, Division of Child and Family Well-Being, has received a **$14.8 million federal grant to focus on System of Care and high fidelity wraparound** services in the State.

**Bills Filed and Still Active for 2024 Short Session:**

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

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

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

[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

[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

[H. 823](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h823), Choose your School, Choose your Future, passed House

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

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

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

[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

[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