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

**DATE: December 1, 2023**

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

**Medicaid Expansion Goes Live! Community Members Can Help!**

December 1, 2023 is a historical day in North Carolina as the expansion of Medicaid to close the insurance gap is implemented. Approximately 600,000 North Carolinians could benefit from Medicaid expansion. While there is a portion of newly eligible individuals who can be easily identified, there are also some individuals who are not currently connected to Medicaid and would need to apply. NC DHHS has developed a [website](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/north-carolina-expands-medicaid#Stayinformedandmakeadifferencegetupdatestrainingorvolunteertohelp-2330) that includes [a toolkit](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/north-carolina-expands-medicaid#ToolkitFreematerialsfortalkingaboutNCMedicaidexpansion-2329) to assist communities in educating their constituents. They are also asking community members to help “spread the word” about the expansion of Medicaid. Want to get more involved? Anyone can subscribe to receive email updates on Medicaid expansion. You can also be trained to present in your community, become a Medicaid Ambassador to attend in-person events and be trained to be a volunteer health insurance enrollment assister. Follow this [link](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/spread-the-word) to sign up.

**NC Division of MH/DD/SUS Unveils a Community Collaborative Model**

The [NC Division of MH/DD/SUS Community Collaborative Model](https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn%3Aaaid%3Asc%3AVA6C2%3Afa25c536-0a87-4d8b-95be-5492b9ed578e) has been developed to present ideas, receive feedback, and collaborate on policy priorities.

The three levels are:

* Large scale public engagement
* Focused engagement on a range of topics
* Collaboration with advisory committees (4 committees) that are dedicated to a single topic.
	+ Workforce – Peer
	+ Workforce – Direct Support Providers
	+ Crisis System
	+ Supports for Justice-Involved Individuals

***Opportunity for Input!***

**Proposed Temporary Rules on Parental Concern Hearings per Parent Bill of Rights**

The NC Department of Public Instruction has published notice of a [proposed temporary rule](https://www.oah.nc.gov/documents/rules/16-ncac-06g-0701-proposed-temporary-rule/download?attachment). The temporary rule provides parents of children in North Carolina public schools a way to request a parental concern hearing before the State Board of Education ("SBE") regarding the procedures or practices of a public school unit under Chapter 115C, Article 7B, of the General Statutes. The temporary rules do require that a parent(s) document evidence the principal of the school at which the parent's child is enrolled was notified about these concerns at least 30 days prior to requesting a hearing before the SBE.

This temporary rule is developed in response to the new Parent Bill of Rights law that passed the NC General Assembly in 2023. [SL2023-106](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/s49) was ratified and vetoed. The NCGA overrode the veto in July and it became law.

A public hearing on the temporary rule is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14th at 10:30 a.m. Here is the [link](https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=mc71cb2a60815c84f5270971762b1c2bb) to join via Webex.

Comments from the public should be directed to: Ryan Collins, 6301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27601; email ryan.collins@dpi.nc.gov. The comment period began November 10, 2023 and ends December 7, 2023.

**Language Access Plan Launched by US HHS**

On November 15th, the US Department of Health and Human Services released their updated [Language Access Plan](https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/language-access-plan-2023.pdf) to ensure that federal agencies under US HHS reduce barriers to service through language. The purpose of the plan is to ensure greater access to the life-saving services that the federal government provides for people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and for people with disabilities. The Plan also focuses on recognizing the effective communication and accessibility requirements of Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to increase inclusivity of communication for persons with disabilities.  Read the press release at this [link](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/11/15/breaking-language-barriers-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-plan-address-language-barriers-strengthen-language-access.html).

**NC Court Role in Leandro Decision to be Reconsidered**

The NC General Assembly leaders, in their roles as Legislative Intervenors, requested that the NC state Supreme Court review the Leandro decision. The state Supreme Court has granted a discretionary review of the Leandro decision specifically to look at whether the trial court had “subject matter jurisdiction” when they ordered the state to spend almost $700 million in school improvements.

The [Public School Forum of NC](https://www.ncforum.org/leandro/) webpage notes, “the Leandro decision was made by the NC Supreme Court in 1994 when five school districts in low-wealth counties filed a lawsuit against the state specifying that their school districts did not have enough month to provide an equal education even though they taxed their residents higher than the average across the state. The NC Supreme Court ruled that the state has the obligation to ensure that all children have access to a sound basic education.” The discretionary review is around the jurisdiction of levels of courts in North Carolina to order compliance.

[NC Political News article, October 26, 2023](https://www.ncpoliticalnews.com/news/nc-supreme-court-agrees-to-rehear-leandro-school-funding-lawsuit)

[The Carolina Journal article, September 22, 2023](https://www.carolinajournal.com/legislative-leaders-argue-for-new-state-supreme-court-review-in-leandro-case/)

**Resources:**

**988 Dashboard –** NC DHHS has established a [988 dashboard](https://dashboards.ncdhhs.gov/t/DMHDDSAS/views/988PerformanceDashboard112022thru102023_17002346658920/988Dashboard?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y). They have been tracking and compiling data around the use of the 988 suicide hotline in North Carolina. For example, the dashboard shows that adolescents age 13-17 were the second highest users of 988. The dashboard also provides advocates and community partners an opportunity to watch for trends and areas where advocacy may be needed.

**Teaching Parents of Children with Disabilities About Sexual Health** – training has launched. Teaching Parents of Children with Disabilities About Sexual Health is a free training program presented by parents of children with special healthcare needs. The Whole Child Health Section of the NC Division of Child & Family Well-Being developed this three-module training in collaboration with a core workgroup that included parents of children with disabilities, Whole Child Health Section Staff, community partners, and a subject matter expert. After completing the training modules participants will gain tools to increase confidence and commitment to educate about sexual health, develop strategies for teaching their child about sexual health topics, and gain knowledge about common sexual health safety issues for children with disabilities. The trainings are offered at no cost and are available in English and Spanish, in person or virtually. See the flyer below for a module overview. There are 3 modules included in the training with flexible scheduling options. *To learn more or book your FREE sexual health training, emai: l*mahala.turner@dhhs.nc.gov.

[Flyer in English](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/sexual-health-training-flyer/download?attachment)

[Flyer in Spanish](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/sexual-health-training-flyer-spanish/download?attachment)

**Mental Health Legislative Breakfast** will be held on February 3, 2024. This breakfast is open to anyone (does include a registration fee and offers scholarships) and is an opportunity to hear from key legislative and policy leaders in the State and to network with other advocates. Registration opens on December 1. You can follow their [website](https://legislativebreakfastmh.org/) for more information as it is posted.

**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

**New Laws:**

[S. 115](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S115), SL2023-3, **Repurpose RJ Blackley Center as Psych Hospital**

[H. 76](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h76), SL2023-7, **Access to Healthcare Options**

[S. 20](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2023/S20), SL2023-14, **Care for Women, Children and Families Act**

[H. 190](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H190), SL2023–65, **Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions – Agency Bill**

[H. 605](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H605), SL2023-78, **School Threat Assessment Teams**

[H. 815](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H815), SL2023 – 82, **The Loving Homes Act**

[H. 674](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H674), SL2023-96, **Child Advocacy Centers/Share Information**

[S. 49](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S49), SL2023-106, **Parents Bill of Rights**

[H. 186](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2023/H186), SL2023-114, **Juvenile Justice Modifications**

[H. 259](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H259), SL2023-134, **2023 Appropriations Act**

[H. 361](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H361), SL2023-135, **Require Report/Protection & Advocacy Agency**