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NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: May 15, 2020

Upcoming Pertinent Legislative Meetings:

Date and Time	Committee	Location Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio
Monday, May 18, 1 p.m.	House convenes	
Monday, May 18, 2 p.m.	Senate convenes	

Vision to the Recovery of the Public BH/IDD System from Pandemic:

It seems fitting to start this update with the link to the most recent address by DHHS Deputy Secretary Kody Kinsley on “Flattening the Second Curve”:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v_CNZSHIFg&feature=youtu.be. Deputy Secretary Kinsley outlines what has occurred statewide to date. More importantly, he notes the vision to shore up the public BH/IDD system and recover from the pandemic. That includes providers practicing whole person care and changing the justice, economic, education and social systems “to support and maintain recovery”.

NC General Assembly:

The legislature passed the first COVID-19 funding and provision bills and went into low gear after completing that task. Reports are that they will return on Monday, May 18th to begin attending to more State business and further address COVID-19. The House Select Committee on COVID-19 continues to meet to hear updates from State agencies and continued community and professional needs from other organizations.

House Select Committee on COVID-19, Education Work Group handouts:

School Nutrition Update: <https://ncleg.gov/documentsites/committees/house2019-199/Education%20Working%20Group/May%2014,%202020/DPI%20-%20School%20Nutrition.pdf>

Broadband and Connectivity Update:
<https://ncleg.gov/documentsites/committees/house2019-199/Education%20Working%20Group/May%2014,%202020/NCDIT%20-%20School%20Connectivity%20&%20Homework%20Gap.pdf>

Reopening Schools Considerations:
<https://ncleg.gov/documentsites/committees/house2019->

[199/Education%20Working%20Group/May%2014,%202020/NCDPI%20&%20NC-DHHS%20School%20Reopening%20Presentation.pdf](#)

Other Recent Updated Resources:

- The most recent [updates in behavioral health](#) resources related to COVID-19 can be found on the DHHS COVID-19 website and more info on State funded services is on the [DMH/DD/SAS website](#).
- The most recent [updates on education resources](#) related to COVID-19 are available through DPI.
- Updates on [Food and Nutrition Services](#), including information about maximum allotments and extension of certification periods, are also on the DHHS website.
- *Food and Nutrition Services Participants Can Now Use Benefits at Authorized Online EBT Retailers:* North Carolina [Food and Nutrition Services](#) participants can purchase groceries online using their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards at authorized online EBT retailers. The new flexibility allows participants to buy food while also promoting social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and helping families with transportation and mobility barriers.
- *School Buses will serve as Wi-Fi Hot Spots for Remote Learning:* School buses are bringing internet access to communities without it to help more North Carolina students connect to school online. Governor Cooper announced the plan to equip more school buses with hotspots following the announcement that K-12 public schools would continue remote learning through the end of this school year.

NC Bills introduced in 2020 Long Session:

[S708/H1048](#), prohibits county Departments of Social Services from implementing more stringent child protective services than the State requires. Referred to Senate Rules/House Judiciary

[S765](#), Education Omnibus, includes \$2.9 m from the Coronavirus Relief Fund for Extended School Year Services for exceptional children, not referred at this time.

[H1035](#), Education Omnibus, COVID-19, provisions related to class sizes, testing, etc., reported favorably by House Education Committee, re-referred to House Rules.

[H1037](#), COVID-19 Health Care Working Group Policy Rec., considerable overlap with provisions of in the new law (S704), reported favorably by House Health Committee on 4/29, re-referred to House Rules

[H1039](#), COVID-19 Response Act - Economic Support, provisions related to unemployment, reported favorably by House Commerce Committee on 4/29, re-referred to House Rules

[H1040](#), Healthcare for Working North Carolinians, provisions to address the gap in insurance coverage for working individuals aged 19-64, referred to House rules

[H1046](#), COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave, provisions allowing for paid sick leave related to COVID-19 in organizations of 500+ employees and includes provision addressing retaliation by employer and violations, referred to House Finance

[H1071](#), State/Federal Funds for School Connectivity, \$4.6 m recurring/\$15 m non-recurring for SFY20-21, referred to House Appropriations

NC Bills still in action from 2019 Long Session:

- [H5](#): Close the Medicaid Insurance Gap (see S3)
- [H76](#): School Safety Omnibus
- [H102](#): Enhance Permanency Innovation Institute (see S245)
- [H121](#): Expunction Related to Raise the Age/No Conviction
- [H234](#): Funds for Child Advocacy Centers
- [H241](#): Education Bond Act of 2019
- [H250](#): Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions
- [H291](#): Continue Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Work Group (SSWG) and Extend Children's Council
- [H297](#): Psychologist Interjurisdictional Compact
- [H434](#): Suicide Risk Ref./Mental Health/Teen Violence
- [H471](#): Reduce Administrative Duplication MH/DD/SAS Providers
- [H555](#): Medicaid Transformation Implementation, the Senate has withdrawn this bill from the calendar and re-referred it to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.
- [H580](#): Increase Foster Care Rates/Funds (see S636)
- [H601](#): Funds for NAMI North Carolina, Inc.
- [H613](#): Essential Services for Homeless Youth
- [H655](#): NC Health Care for Working Families, the bill was re-referred to the House Committee on Health, received a favorable committee substitute, and was re-referred to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations.
- [H702](#): Modify Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (see S555)
- [H822](#): Comprehensive Behavioral Health Plan, the bill has been sent to the Senate, passed the 1st Senate reading, and has been sent to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.
- [H825](#): Strengthen Child Fatality Prevention System: passed first reading and referred to the House Committee on Health.
- [H826](#): Standardized Assessment/Foster Care Pilot
- [H956](#): Funds/Youth Villages and Other Purposes
- [H966](#): 2019 Appropriations Act, this bill was placed on the calendar for January 14, 2020, withdrawn from the calendar and re-referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.
- [H1038](#): Omnibus COVID-19 Response Funds: passed the first reading and re-referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.
- [S3](#): Close the Medicaid Insurance Gap (see H5)
- [S175](#): Funds/Eliminate NC Pre-K Waitlist
- [S212](#): NC Fast/Early Child/Transformation/ACH Assess., the conference committees have been appointed.

[S245](#): Enhance Permanency Innovation Institute (see H102)

[S251](#): Modernization of Drug Court Programs

[S361](#): Healthy NC., the Senate failed to concur on the health committee substitution, so the Senate and House have appointed committee conferees for the bill.

[S382](#): School Psychologist Compensation and Recruitment (see H482)

[S427](#): Smart Start Funds (see H124)

[S476](#): Compt-Based Assess. & Mental Health/Teen Viol., after over three months of inactivity, the bill has conference committees appointed in the House and the Senate.

[S549](#): Child Welfare/Behavioral Health Pilot/Funds

[S624](#): Guilford County Mental Health Facility /Funds (see H360)

[S636](#): Increase Foster Care Rates/Funds (see H580)

[S740](#): COVID-19 Recovery Act: passed the third Senate reading, passed the 1st House reading, and referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.