

NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Mental Health,  
Developmental Disabilities  
and Substance Abuse Services

# Community Engagement & Empowerment Team

Community Update | April 2023

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## Governor Cooper Signs Medicaid Expansion into Law

*North Carolina to become 40th state to expand Medicaid, expected to provide health coverage to more than 600,000 North Carolinians.*

Today, Governor Roy Cooper signed House Bill 76, Access to Healthcare Options, into law. The legislation will expand Medicaid, which is expected to provide health coverage to over 600,000 people across North Carolina and bring billions in federal dollars to the state. North Carolina is the 40th state to expand Medicaid.



“Medicaid expansion is a once-in-a-generation investment that will strengthen our mental health system, boost our rural hospitals, support working families and so much more,” said Governor Cooper. “This is a historic step toward a healthier North Carolina that will bring people the opportunity of better health and a better life.”

“This a historic moment that will transform the health and well-being of North Carolina,” said Secretary of Health & Human Services, Kody H. Kinsley. “Medicaid expansion is foundational in improving access to health care in rural areas, for better mental health and for veterans, working adults and their families. For 600,000 people, Medicaid expansion is life changing.”

Expanding Medicaid has been a top priority for Governor Cooper since he took office. Since 2017, he has worked within the confines of state law to begin the expansion of Medicaid, even when Republican legislators sued him in federal court to stop the process. Without Medicaid expansion, North Carolina has missed out on an estimated \$521 million each month that could go to improving mental health and helping rural hospitals remain open.

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## Public Comment on National Standards for Peer Support Certification

SAMHSA invites the public to comment on a proposed set of National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification. This certification has been developed in collaboration with local, state, and federal partners and include mental health, substance use, and family/youth peer support. Visit the [SAMHSA's National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification](#) website for more information and to submit public comments.

**Comments will be accepted through Monday, April 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

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## Public Comment on HUD Fair Housing Proposed Rule

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Proposed Rule-Open comment is **April 10, 2023**. For more information about this rule download the [FAQ and Fact Sheet](#) or the [Quick Reference Guide](#). Visit the HUD [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing webpage](#) for more information and resources.

You can also visit the [Housing and Services Resource Center](#), a partnership between ACL and HUD. The HSRC [Fair Housing page](#) compiles a variety of additional resources for the aging and disability networks, including the [Engaging the Disability Community in Fair Housing Planning Webinar Series](#). Comments can be submitted online through [Regulations.gov](#).

## NCDHHS - DMH/DD/SUS

### Joint Communication Bulletins

Joint communication Bulletins are formal communications that the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, and the Division of Medical Assistance use to inform the public as new developments occur.

[Read More](#)

### NC Olmstead Plan

The Olmstead Plan is designed to assist people with disabilities who receive or are eligible for publicly-funded services to reside in and experience the full benefit of being part of day-to-day life in communities alongside those without disabilities.

[Read More](#)

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### NCDHHS Press Releases

[Visit our Website](#)

### Grant Opportunities

[Visit our Website](#)

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## Crisis Resources 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

- If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, call or

text 988 immediately.

- [Know the Warning Signs and Risk Factors of Suicide](#)
- [Be Prepared for a Crisis](#)
- [Read our guide "Navigating a Mental Health Crisis"](#)
- [What You Need to Know About Youth Suicide](#)
- If you need more information, referrals or support? Contact the [NAMI Helpline](#).
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center



[Learn More](#)

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## NC Medicaid to Resume Annual Recertification Process

Since March 2020, states were required under the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency to maintain enrollment for nearly all Medicaid beneficiaries and their level of coverage regardless of eligibility status. This helped ensure they continued to receive health care coverage during the pandemic. The federal 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act set a timeframe to resume Medicaid beneficiary eligibility recertifications. NC Medicaid began this process today.

NCDHHS is focused on ensuring people who remain eligible for Medicaid continue to be covered and those who are no longer eligible know their potential options, such as buying coverage, often at a reduced cost, through the [federal Healthcare Marketplace](#).

Over the past few months, Medicaid has worked closely with local Departments of Social Services and other partners to reach as many beneficiaries as possible to explain what to expect and their potential options to obtain health benefits.

Recertifications will take place over the next 12 months and will be conducted based on a beneficiary's recertification date. Medicaid terminations or reductions could begin as early as July 1, 2023, although some could lose coverage as early as May 1, 2023.

More information and additional resources:

- Medicaid recertification fact sheet [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Medicaid recertification video [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Medicaid End of the PHE/CCU website [medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/End-of-PHE](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/End-of-PHE), which includes a toolkit and other information for stakeholders

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## Medicaid Beneficiaries Should Sign Up for Enhanced ePASS

North Carolina has a secure self-service website, called ePASS, where beneficiaries can apply for various benefits, view case details, renew their Medicaid and update their information without having to visit or contact their local Department of Social Services.

NC Medicaid encourages beneficiaries to create an [enhanced ePASS account](#) where they can make sure their contact information is correct and make any updates without having to go through their local DSS.

Correct addresses ensure that beneficiaries receive information about how the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) affects their eligibility for Medicaid benefits and other ways to receive health care (e.g., through the marketplace).

Although the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has not announced a date for the end of the PHE, it is anticipated to happen in 2023. To help beneficiaries create an ePASS account,

## Meetings & Educational Opportunities

### NC Medicaid Managed Care - Meet the Health Plans Virtual Outreach Presentation

Join the NC Medicaid Enrollment Broker to learn more about the health care options available to you.

**Date/Time:** April 6, 2023, 10:00-12:00 p.m.

**Join Link:** [Click here to join](#)

**Dial-In:** 888-475-4499

**Meeting ID:** 949 2124 8813



### NCDHHS Developmental Disabilities Awareness Beyond the Conversation

The observance of Developmental Disabilities Awareness offers an opportunity to educate people on the impact of developmental disabilities and the effects they have on the lives of those who live with them. Individuals who live with developmental disabilities often face challenges.

For Developmental Disabilities Awareness, NCDHHS, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services will host a webinar to elevate awareness to some of these challenges and provide resources to individuals and family members of those with developmental disabilities.

**Date/Time:** April 10, 2023, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

**Join Link:** [Click here to register](#)



### NCDHHS Mental Health Town Hall

Join Senator Lisa Grafstein, Director Kelly Crosbie, Deputy Secretary Debra Farrington, and Senator Graig Meyer for a Mental Health Town Hall in Person County.

**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** 105 S. Lamar Street, Roxboro, NC



[Click here to download the flyer](#)

## Monthly Joint DMH/DD/SUS and DHB Provider and Consumer Webinars



### Joint DMH/DD/SUS and DHB Provider Webinar

This webinar series is for providers, practice managers, quality improvement professionals, and care coordinators to provide updates from the Division of MH/DD/SUS and the Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid).

**Date:** Thursday, April 6, 2023

**Time:** 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**Join Link:** [Click here to register](#)



### Joint DMH/DD/SUS and DHB Consumer Webinar

This webinar series is for consumers, family members, and community stakeholders to provide updates from the Division of MH/DD/SUS and Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid).

**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023

**Time:** 2:00-3:00 p.m.

**Join Link:** [Click here to register](#)

Comments, questions and feedback are welcome at:

**Email:** [BHIDD.HelpCenter@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:BHIDD.HelpCenter@dhhs.nc.gov)

**Website:** [Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services](#)

Previous webinars for these series can be found on the

[Community Engagement and Training website.](#)

## Not So Civil Commitment Virtual Panel Discussion

Maggie Lederer, J.D. Candidate at Duke University School of Law will discuss her recent paper "[Not So Civil Commitment: A Proposal for Statutory Reform Grounded in Procedural Justice.](#)" Professors Marvin Swartz and Mark Botts will offer comments.

**Date/Time:** April 12, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

**Join Link:** [Click here to register](#)

### Not So Civil Commitment

A Virtual Panel Discussion

Wednesday, April 12 at 4:00pm

Maggie Lederer, J.D. Candidate at Duke University School of Law will discuss her recent paper "Not So Civil Commitment: A Proposal for Statutory Reform Grounded in Procedural Justice." Professors Marvin Swartz and Mark Botts will offer comments.



Maggie Lederer  
J.D. Candidate  
Duke University  
School of Law



Marvin Swartz  
Associate Professor  
Department of Psychiatry &  
Behavioral Sciences  
Wilson Center for Science  
and Justice at Duke Law



Mark Botts  
Associate Professor of  
Public Law and Government  
University of North Carolina  
School of Government




REGISTER  
NOW!

YOU'RE INVITED  
for a statewide screening of

UNMET

North Carolina's Two Developmental Disability Crises

Scan the QR code or visit  
the link & reserve your spot!



APRIL 17 • 6:30 PM • ONLINE via ZOOM

<https://bit.ly/UNMETstatewide>



HOSTED BY



UNMET: North Carolina's Two Developmental Disability Crises is a 25-minute film commissioned by the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities showing the real-life situations of individuals with developmental disabilities and what it looks like when their needs are unmet.

Meet a young man with autism who is about to age out of high school without support because he is on North Carolina's 16,000-person waiting list for services.

[Register Here](#)

## NC Medicaid Ombudsman Interactive Monthly Update

The NC Medicaid Ombudsman presents a monthly webinar about Medicaid Managed Care and related topics. The webinars are designed for Medicaid beneficiaries, health care providers and other Managed Care stakeholders. We're interactive! Presenters will solicit feedback from attendees about their experiences with Managed Care and answer questions from attendees. Please join us.

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

**Join Link:** [Click here to register](#)

## Substance Use Disorder & Mental Health Symposium Save the Date | Friday, April 21, 2023 | 7:30-1:00 p.m.

**Theme:** Building a Resilient Community

**Location:** JB & Claire Davis Corporate Training Center  
Continuing Education & Industrial Center

**Topics:**

Social Media & Mental Health

Preventing Secondary Trauma

Effectiveness of Community Involvement

Four Corners: Five States of Grief

**To register contact: 336-633-0268**

### Substance Use Disorder & Mental Health Symposium

**Save the Date |** Friday, April 21  
7:30 am - 1 pm

**Theme |** Building a Resilient Community

**Location |** JB & Claire Davis Corporate Training Center,  
Continuing Education & Industrial Center

**Topics |** Social Media & Mental Health  
Preventing Secondary Trauma  
Effectiveness of Community Involvement  
Four Corners: Five States of Grief

**To register call 336-633-0268.**



# 2023 NC TIDE Conference


## April 24-26, 2023 | Wilmington, NC

Mark your calendar and register for the 2023 NC TIDE Conference by April 1, 2023 to take advantage of early bird savings. Preparations are already underway to ensure #NCTIDE23 is the best conference yet!


Register  
HERE

## Bringing It Home: Ending Homelessness in NC Conference Save the Date | May 2-3, 2023

Featuring:



Ann Oliva, CEO  
National Alliance to  
End Homelessness



Kody Kinsley, Secretary  
NC Department of Health  
and Human Services



### Bringing It Home Ending Homelessness in NC Virtual Conference

**May 2-3, 2023**

Save the Date



Join us May 2-3, for the 2023 Bringing It Home: Ending Homelessness in NC virtual conference, featuring Ann Oliva, CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness and NCDHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley. This year's conference will also include a panel discussion with the NC Balance of State CoC Lived Expertise Advisory Council, a virtual speed networking session, a mindfulness session, and a variety of interactive workshops. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

Are you interested in participating in a leadership-focused, in-person networking event for Bringing It Home attendees on May 1, 2023 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh? Please let us know through [this brief poll](#) so that we can plan accordingly!

## Tailored Plan 101: Ready, Set, Launch Series

This webinar series is designed to support all Medicaid providers, practice managers, quality improvement professionals, care coordinators and other leaders within your practice to help you prepare for the launch of Tailored Plan in April of 2023. Please tune in for timely Medicaid updates in this monthly series that will continue through Tailored Plan launch to ensure that all of us are ready for launch!

Join NC Medicaid for the next Back Porch Chat session of the Tailored Plan 101: Ready, Set, Launch Series.

**Date/Time:** Thursday, May 18, 2023, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Join Link:** [Click here to register](#)

## National Council for Mental Well Being

Check out the [Advocacy Handbook!](#) The Handbook has tips and tricks for virtual meetings with legislators, as well as templates for scheduling meetings and sending follow-up emails. Please share with your colleagues and let us know if you have any questions. Also, never miss an alert from the National Council by [signing up for our Advocacy Alerts](#).

## National Take Back Day April 22, 2023

Unused and expired medications can be dangerous and tragic if not disposed of properly. Using prescription medication that is not yours can be dangerous. The DEA organizes a National Prescription Drug Take Back Day twice a year (in April and October) to protect families and communities from the harms of misuse of medications.

Many communities in North Carolina work with local prevention providers and coalitions, law enforcement, pharmacies, and hospitals to plan Take Back events at local town halls, tribal buildings, faith-based organizations etc., so check out social and local media such as Facebook groups, text messaging subscriptions and newspaper ads for more information about upcoming local Take Back events.

### **What is NOT accepted at local drug take back programs**

Certain items are not acceptable to dispose of at take back events, including:

- Any hydrogen peroxide or iodine containing medications.
- Any aerosol medications such as asthma inhalers
- Thermometers
- Alcohol or illegal drugs
- Syringes, needles, and other sharps

The DEA allows vape cartridges to be collected, providing that the battery is removed prior to disposal.

### **Preparing for Drug Take Back Day**

- Gather any unused or expired prescription drugs, making sure to look in all possible storage areas to prevent anyone from intentionally or accidentally finding and ingesting medications.
- Before you take your prescription drugs to the collection site, remove any personal information from the medication labels or packaging to protect your privacy.
- Make sure to transport your prescription drugs safely to the collection site by placing them inside a sealed container or plastic bag can ensure that they are transported safely without risk of spilling while driving.
- At the event, staff and volunteers at the collection site will give instructions on how to drop off your medications. Some sites have drive-thru events where you do not have to exit your vehicle. There will be plenty of help if you have any questions about the event.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day helps protect families and communities when neighbors safely dispose of prescription drugs. By sharing take back information with friends and family, and participating in local events, you are promoting a healthier community.

### **Other Drug Take Back Resources**

Local Take Back events can also occur in more places/locations than events hosted around National Take back Day (April 22). If community members are not able to make an event, many communities offer permanent medication drop boxes, Dispose Rx and Detera chemical medication disposal kits to help community members discard their medications safely. Helpful links to year-round drug collection sites, such as the DEA's [Controlled Substance Public Disposal Locations Search Utility](#) can provide information for permanent collection sites by putting in local zip codes. Also, the [FDA Flush List](#) gives residents information on medications that are safe to flush down the toilet.

### **Law Enforcement Partnership**

In addition, DEA's Diversion Control Division has [a list of point of contacts](#) for law enforcement for each state and region.



## Local Consumer and Family Advisory Committees (LCFAC)

Check your local LME/MCOs for meeting dates and times. Some have started meeting in a hybrid manner.

[LME/MCO Directory](#)

## State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee

SCFAC meetings are held on the **2nd Wednesday** of every month and are open to the public. The February SCFAC meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting. The virtual platform and teleconference options will be provided for additional attendees.

### WebEx Virtual Meeting Details:

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 9:00-2:45 p.m.

**Location:** 306 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh NC  
Bath Building Conf. Room 107

**Join Link:** [Click here to join](#)

**Access Code:** 2433 556 2669

**Password:** UjgCMrdM337

**Dial-In:** 1-415-655-0003

**Access Code:** 2433 556 2669

[Visit the State CFAC page](#) for more information.

## State to Local Collaboration

### State-to-Local Collaboration

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Join Link:** [Click here to join](#)

**Dial-In:** 904-900-2303 or 415-655-0003

**Access Code:** 2422 176 1856

**Password:** beVeuiYA793

## NC Medicaid Managed Care

### NC Medicaid Managed Care Hot Topics Webinar Series

Every 3rd Thursday of the month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** April 19, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

[Register for 3rd Thursday webinars](#)

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### NC Medicaid Beneficiary Portal

Medicaid serves low-income parents, children, seniors, and people with disabilities. The Beneficiary Portal offers information on applying for Medicaid and more. How do I get a ride to my medical appointment? How do I change my health plan (PHP)?

[Go to the Beneficiary Portal](#)

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### NC Medicaid Transformation

Here are some additional sites that you may go to find more information on Medicaid

### NC Medicaid Managed Care

Beneficiaries have several resources to [help answer questions](#) about their transition to NC Medicaid Managed Care. Those who want a reminder of which health plan they are enrolled in should call the [Enrollment Broker](#) at: 1-833-870-5500 (TTY: 833-870-5588)

Questions about benefits and coverage can be answered by calling their health plan at the number listed in the welcome packet or on the [What Beneficiaries Need to Know on Day One fact sheet](#).

For other questions, beneficiaries can call the NC Medicaid Contact Center at 888-245-0179 or visit the "Beneficiaries" section of the [Medicaid website](#).

To learn more [click here](#).

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### Tailored Care Management Updates

Transformation:

<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/transformation>

<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/transformation/more-information>

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## Updated Guidance

NC Medicaid has published [Tailored Care Management Updated Guidance](#), including updates to the Tailored Care Management Provider Manual, The Use of Care Manager Extenders, Tailored CM 101 Frequently asked Questions, and updated guidance on rates.

For more information on Tailored Care Management, please see the Medicaid bulletin article [Tailored Care Management Update: AMH+/CMA Certification Round Two Desk Reviews Completed](#).

All updates can be found on the Tailored Care Management [webpage](#).

With NC Medicaid's transformation to managed care, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) will continue to offer to Medicaid beneficiaries a comprehensive array of behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) services.

In previous guidance, including the [Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Development Disability Tailored Plan Final Policy Guidance](#) and [Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Development Disability Tailored Plan Request for Applications](#).

NCDHHS released detailed information about the Standard Plan and future Behavioral Health (BH) and I/DD Tailored Plan (Tailored Plan) benefit packages. NCDHHS currently covers a subset of BH services under its 1915(b)(3) waiver, which will sunset upon the Tailored Plan launch in **October** 2023. NCDHHS is seeking authority to cover most of the current 1915(b)(3) services through the 1915(i) authority (Tailored Plan). Information on the 1915(i) services is available in the [NC Medicaid Transition of 1915\(b\)\(3\) Benefits to 1915\(i\) Authority white paper](#).

## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Updates

- The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has approved a carry forward request for unspent funds from the TBI State Partnership Program grant year one to be used in the current grant year two. The funding will be added to the Brain Injury Association of NC (BIANC) contract to enhance grant deliverables.
- The Brain Injury Association of NC (BIANC) website offers a large variety of information, educational learning tools and maintains a comprehensive online resource guide. The website can be found at [www.bianc.net](http://www.bianc.net)

- The TBI Program is recruiting for membership on the TBI Grant Steering Committee. This steering committee plays an important role in oversight of grant activity, monitoring project progress, making recommendations, problem solving challenges and other critical functions. Interested individuals should contact Sandy Pendergraft at [sandy.pendergraft@bianc.net](mailto:sandy.pendergraft@bianc.net) or Michael Brown at [michael.brown@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:michael.brown@dhhs.nc.gov). All are welcome and encouraged to join!
- A diverse and growing library of free online TBI training modules can be found at [www.biancteach.net](http://www.biancteach.net)
- The North Carolina Assistive Technology Program is hosting three AT Pop-Up events this Spring to help people learn about local resources and get hands-on experience. [Check out the flyer](#).

## Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
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HUMAN SERVICES**

# NCDHHS I/DD Supported Living Levels 2/3 Workgroup

Anyone utilizing Innovations Supported Living levels 2 or 3; their providers or families/natural supports are all invited to participate in Quarterly meetings held regarding Innovations Supported Living Levels 2/3. To receive more information on the meetings and be added to our listserv, please contact Tracy Pakornsawat, [tracy.pakornsawat@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:tracy.pakornsawat@dhhs.nc.gov) and ask to be added to the SL 2/3 Listserv.

## NC Certified Peer Supports

### North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialists

#### Peer Support Certification Renewal Reminders

##### **Attention Peer Support Specialists!**

Peer Support Certification Renewal reminders are sent 60 days before your certification expires. Please visit the Peer Support Program [website](#) for details on how to renew your certification.

#### Peer Support Job Board

Click [here](#) for up-to-date available peer support jobs across the state.

#### PSS Employment Information

- 4394 Certified Peer Support Specialists as of 03/24/2023
- 1706 Certified Peers are employed as PSS
- 953 PSS are seeking employment

Full & up-to-date statistics can be found by visiting: <https://pss.unc.edu/data>

#### Upcoming PSS Trainings

- [PSS 40-Hour Trainings](#)
- [20-Hour Additional Trainings](#)

#### Reporting Complaints or Ethical Violations

Allegations or observation of unethical and/or illegal behavior of a CPSS may be reported at: <http://pss.unc.edu/contact-us>, or by calling 919-843-3018.

## Veterans, Service Members & Families

### Veterans, Military Members, & Families

#### Veterans, Military Members, & Families Resources

- [NC Governor's Workgroup Meetings \(NCGWG\)](#)
- [News Releases](#)
- [Guidelines for Helping Your Family after Combat Injury](#)
- [Impact of Invisible Injuries: Helping your Family and Children](#)
- [Understanding Refugee Trauma: For School Personnel](#)
- [After a Crisis: Helping Young Children Heal](#)
- [Resource Guide for Veterans](#)



## Community Engagement & Empowerment

### In-Person Training

The CE&E Team is available to conduct in-person and virtual trainings at no-cost! Reach out to your CE&E Team members to set up any of our trainings from our [Training & Technical Assistance Center \(TTAC\)](#). Our team will continue to follow all guidelines that are suggested by the State, CDC, or your organization/facility. The CE&E Team is here to help. Contact us to begin planning for your next event!

[Request a Training!](#)

**CE&E Contact Information:**

CE&E Team Email: [CEandE.staff@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:CEandE.staff@dhhs.nc.gov)  
Ann Marie Webb: [AnnMarie.Webb@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:AnnMarie.Webb@dhhs.nc.gov)  
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Wes Rider, BSW: [Wes.Rider@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Wes.Rider@dhhs.nc.gov)

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## CE&E Community Updates!

Stay in the know, join our mailing list to receive updates from the Community Engagement and Empowerment Team!

Join Our Mailing List!



[Click Here to Sign-Up](#)

Visit the [Community Engagement and Training webpage](#) for downloadable versions of the CE&E Community Updates.

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