

NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Mental Health,  
Developmental Disabilities  
and Substance Abuse Services

# Community Engagement & Empowerment Team

Community Update | February 2023

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## NCDHHS - DMH/DD/SAS

### 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

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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### Department Press Releases

Click [here](#) for the latest updates

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### Grant Opportunities

[Learn More](#)

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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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## 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, fact sheets are available with step-by-step instructions in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

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## NCDHHS, UNC Health to Repurpose R.J. Blackley Facility into Psychiatric Hospital for Children and Adolescents

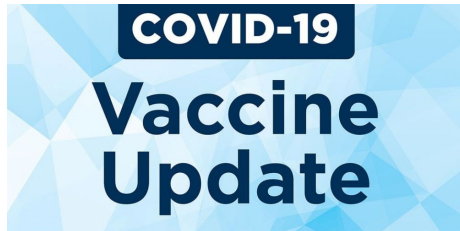


As part of a shared commitment to behavioral health and the well-being of children and families, NCDHHS and UNC Health will partner to convert the R.J. Blackley Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center in Butner, N.C., into a 54-bed inpatient psychiatric hospital for children and adolescents.

Each day in North Carolina, well over 250 people are waiting for behavioral health services in emergency departments. That includes more than 50 children and adolescents. Many end up languishing in emergency rooms or other settings for days because North Carolina has historically lacked the inpatient capacity to meet the behavioral health needs of the community.

UNC Health and NCDHHS aim to open this new facility as early as July 1, 2023, providing relief to families seeking specialized, inpatient behavioral health treatment for their loved ones.

## Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Dose Available for Kids 6 Months to 4 Years



Most children 6 months to 4 years are [now eligible for their updated COVID-19 vaccine](#), which protects against COVID-19 variants. These vaccine doses are becoming available in North Carolina this week following the Food and Drug Administration's emergency use authorization and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation](#).

The updated vaccine is a bivalent vaccine that targets both the original coronavirus strain and Omicron variants. Like previous COVID-19 shots, children 6 months through 4 years get a smaller dose of this updated vaccine than other age groups. Children under 5 should get the same vaccine brand for all recommended doses. Children are eligible for the updated dose of their COVID-19 vaccine if they are:

- 6 months to 5 years and got their last dose of a Moderna vaccine at least two months ago.
- 6 months to 4 years who already had two doses of the Pfizer vaccine and are ready for their third dose.

Children 6 months and older may be able to get this updated COVID-19 dose along with other routine vaccines at the same visit. Parents should talk with a health care provider to make sure their child is up to date on COVID-19 and other vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe to take alongside the annual flu shot.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, boosters, or to find locations to get a COVID-19 and flu vaccine, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov) or call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at 800-CDC-INFO.

## Meetings & Educational Opportunities

### Mental Health Town Hall

#### A Community Discussion on Improving Behavioral Health & Resilience Across North Carolina

Join Secretary Kody Kinsley, Majority Leader John Bell, Senator Jim Burgin, Senator Kandie Smith, Representative Gloristine Brown, and Representative Timothy Reeder for a community discussion on improving behavioral health & resilience across North Carolina.

**Date/Time:** Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Location:** East Carolina Heart Institute Auditorium, Health Sciences Campus, 115 Heart Drive, Greenville, NC 27834

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

# Please join us for a Mental Health Town Hall



A community discussion on improving behavioral health & resilience across North Carolina

February 9 • 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

East Carolina Heart Institute Auditorium

Health Sciences Campus, 115 Heart Drive, Greenville, NC 27834

Secretary Kody Kinsley, Majority Leader John Bell, Senator Jim Burgin, Senator Kandie Smith, Representative Gloristine Brown, and Representative Timothy Reeder join the conversation after introductions.

**Please RSVP:** <https://forms.office.com/g/Ep2ggyEmwL>



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES

## Monthly Joint DMHDDSAS and DHB Provider and Consumer Webinars



### Joint DMHDDSAS 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/SAS and the Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid).

**Date:** Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023

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

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



### Joint DMHDDSAS and DHB Consumer Webinar

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

**Date:** Monday, Feb. 27, 2023

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

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

Previous webinars for these series can be found on the [Community Engagement and Training website](#).

Have a question, send it to us. The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services is working to centralize questions so we can ensure your questions are answered in a timely manner by the appropriate subject matter experts.

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](#)

## NC Medicaid Ombudsman Webinar

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, Feb. 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

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

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## 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, Feb. 16, 2023, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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

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## Money Follows the Person (MFP)

### MFP Lunch and Learn

- **Date/Time:** Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- **Join Link:** (Registration Required): [Click here to register](#)
- **Topic:** Overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Network
- **Presenter:** Rebecca Williams, Lead Information Specialist – Training & Technical Assistance, Southeast ADA Center – A Project of the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University
- **Description:** This webinar will briefly review the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), discuss Sections 1 – 4 of the ADA, and provide an overview of the ADA network, and the Southeast ADA Network in particular.

### MFP Roundtable

- **Date/Time:** Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
  - **Join Link:** [Click here to register](#)
  - **Topic:** MFP Updates and an exploration of Advocacy and Self-Advocacy
  - **Presenter:** Pam Williamson, Assistant Director, Southeast ADA Center, Burton Blatt Institute
  - **Description:** This session will include updates on the MFP program and will have an interactive exploration of advocacy and self-advocacy.
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## Competitive Integrated Employment Lunch and Learn Series

Join us to learn about best practices to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) on their path to achieving Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE). The purpose of the series topics are to highlight actions for CIE preparation.

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

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

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# NCDHHS Person-Centered Planning Training

DHHS is implementing a DHHS approved Person Centered Planning training that meets the requirements for service providers responsible for developing a PCP. Person Centered Planning is a collaborative planning practice which emphasizes self-determination and choice in helping individuals to achieve their unique vision of preferred life. Core principles and practices of Person-Centered Planning, and how these differ from traditional approaches, will be reviewed.

Participants will receive concrete guidance in both the process and documentation of Person-Centered Planning, including strategies for respecting strengths-based, person-centered principles while also satisfying expectations associated with clinical, accreditation, and fiscal regulations. Hypothetical, case-based examples of quality Person Centered Plans will be shared as a way of illustrating key quality elements. There are five live virtual training sessions to choose from.

The training will be recorded and posted online for future use. This training will be offered free of charge. Live virtual training dates are:

- Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, 9:00-1:00 p.m. - **Registration is closed.**
- Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, 9:00-1:00 p.m. - **Registration is closed.**
- Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, 12:30-4:30 p.m. - **Registration is closed.**
- Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 9:00-:00 p.m. - **Registration is closed.**
- Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 12:30-4:30 p.m. - [Click here to register](#)

Visit the [Person-Centered Planning Training webpage](#) for more information.

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## 45th Legislative Breakfast on Mental Health

**The 45th Legislative Breakfast on Mental Health Addresses Challenging Transitions: Why We Need Legislation and Policy that Effectively Supports Comprehensive, Community-Based Care**



Join experts in the field of mental health and lived experience panelists for a deliberate conversation about the state of mental health. Experts include Dr. Nora Dennis from BCBS, Dr. Austin Hall from UNC, Dr. Brody from UNC, and Dr. Copeland from Duke and they all want to have an informed conversation on mental health initiatives and the need for changes in policy across our state.

This year, the breakfast will focus on challenging transitions that require coordinated legislative and policy efforts to address. The breakfast will be broken into two pillars: (1) Early Intervention & Prevention and (2) Transitions & Continuity of Care. Each pillar will include panelist discussions to offer inside insight and solutions to address the changing needs of individuals with mental health issues living in our communities.

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, 9:00-1:00 p.m.

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

**Location:** UNC Friday Center, 100 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27599

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## NC "One Community in Recovery" Conference

14th Annual NC "One Community in Recovery" Conference  
Wellness and Empowerment  
March 1-3, 2023 | Embassy Suites, Greensboro, NC

The Annual NC "One Community in Recovery" Conference is a yearly

conference planned by a statewide committee of behavioral health providers and advocates, many of whom have lived experience with recovery from mental health and/or substance use.

We warmly invite all individuals involved in any aspect of recovery and resiliency around mental health and substance use disorders. This conference will be beneficial to addictions specialists, administrators, advocates, allies, counselors, educators, family members, individuals with lived experience, marriage and family therapists, peer support specialists, policy makers, psychologists, social workers, and other health and human service professionals interested in recovery.



**Supporter and Exhibitor Opportunities - [Click Here for Details](#)**

Sure to be an inspiring and informative event, this conference is designed to foster the continuing growth of the North Carolina Recovery Movement, to teach participants how to get recovery programming up and running in their own communities, to showcase some of the most progressive recovery practices and to bring the community of providers and individuals in recovery together as students and partners. [Exhibits are open](#) to state agencies, public and private corporations and foundations, local organizations, service organizations and community-based organizations involved in providing services that support the recovery of the person as a whole. Exhibitors should be interested and engaged in collaborating to support positive health and well-being of individuals in recovery.

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## 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 call 336-633-0268**

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## 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!




## 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!

[Click here for more information](#)

## 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](#).

## Awareness Month - February

### • Black History Month - February 1-28, 2023

February 1 marks the beginning of Black History Month all across the nation. This year the theme of North Carolina's Black History month is "Black Resistance". The theme will feature some of the powerful African-American's who blazed their way through the historic and unprecedented prejudices of society. These include Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr, Rosa Parks, and leaders in different industries such as politics, science, and culture.

The celebration of Black History first began in 1915, 50 years after the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed. The following September, Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). The organization was dedicated to promoting achievements by African Americans.

The ASNLH is now known, as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). This group first sponsored Black History week in 1926. They chose the second week in February as it correlated with President Lincoln and Frederick Douglas's birthdays. This event is what sparked and inspired the Black History Month we now know with local celebrations, lectures, and performances.

Local celebrations for the Triangle area can be found at: [Black History Month events in the Triangle 2023 - Triangle on the Cheap](#)



Be sure to check your local listings for celebrations throughout the state.

In conjunction with celebration, the group Soul Shop is a Christian based project in North Carolina. They have several community programs for youth, adults, and churches. One of their goals is to help lower the rate of suicide throughout the African American community. Be sure to check out their website and watch the YouTube video for more information on this local resource, [Home Soul Shop is faith-based trainings empowering communities to save lives and bring hope\(soulshopmovement.org\)](#).

Another community resource, RI International, which is a diversity, equity and inclusion focused program, will have two upcoming trainings in the next couple of months. One will take place in Durham and the other in Charlotte. Be sure to check out their website for more information on these trainings, [RI International](#).

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- **American Heart Month - February 1-28, 2023**

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. But you can do a lot to protect your heart. [Learn more about heart-healthy living](#).

Prioritizing your heart can help you avoid severe illness. People with poor cardiovascular health are also at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. [Learn how COVID-19 affects your heart](#).

Self-care is heart-health care. Practicing self-care can keep our hearts healthy. Being physically active, eating healthier foods, getting enough sleep, not smoking, and finding healthy ways to reduce stress can help prevent heart disease. And, when we take care of our hearts, we set an example for those around us to do the same.

Get to know #OurHearts! Learn what a healthy blood pressure, cholesterol, weight, and blood sugar level is for you and how they impact your risk for heart disease. Having a basic understanding of information that concerns your health and using the information to inform health-related decisions and actions for yourself and others, is strongly linked to better health.

## Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC)

### 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, Feb. 8, 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, Feb. 22, 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:** Feb. 16, 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 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](#).

### 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

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 April 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](#)

## 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.
- March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. A calendar of education and awareness events will be available toward the end of February.
- 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)

## Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
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### 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

- 4265 Certified Peer Support Specialists as of 01/20/2023
- 1622 Certified Peers are employed as PSS
- 886 PSS are seeking employment

### 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.

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## Certified Older Adult Peer Specialist Training Opportunity

North Carolina Division MH/DD/SAS has identified funds to implement the Certified Older Adult Peer Specialist (COAPS) Initiative. The funds will be used to contract with the University of Pennsylvania COAPS Center to provide **FREE training with the cost of travel to the training location to be provided with these funds**, to current NCCPSS over the age of 50 years old. COAPS training Increases understanding of aging, mental health, and co-occurring issues in older adults, teach specialized techniques to support older adults in recovery and Increases the level of expertise for current Certified Peer Specialist.

The training is a 3-day training, and the plan is for regional trainings, but the location of the trainings will be based on the location of the participants. The NCCPSS Program will have a certification for COAPS Designation and can be used for the required 20-hr re-certification training.

There will also be an opportunity for NCCPSS/COAPS Designation to become COAPS Facilitators for the State. This will be a 2-day **FREE training with the cost of travel to the trainings to be provided with these funds**.

View the [COAPS flyer](#) for more information.

For more information or to sign-up for a COAPS training, please contact Debbie Webster at [Debbie.Webster@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Debbie.Webster@dhhs.nc.gov), or 919-218-2515.

## 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

### Community Engagement & Empowerment Team (CE&E)

The Division of MH/DD/SAS, Community Engagement & Empowerment Team provides

education, training, and technical assistance to internal and external organizations and groups to facilitate community inclusion and meaningful engagement of persons with lived MH/DD/SUD experience across NCDHHS policy making, program development, and service delivery systems.

[Learn More](#)

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## In-Person Training

**Remember to get with your CE&E team member to set up trainings for your community events, committees, and CFAC meetings.**

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)  
Badia Henderson, BBA: [Badia.Henderson@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Badia.Henderson@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!**

Our Community Engagement and Empowerment Communications will keep you informed on Department updates, upcoming events & trainings. It's easy and will take you less than two minutes to sign-up for our email list. All you need to do is scan our QR code on your smartphone, or click the following link, and fill out the sign-up form. Don't wait! Sign-up today.

**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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with



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