Fostering Health NC Bridges the Gap between Child Welfare and Child Health Care

Fostering Health NC is a project of the North Carolina Pediatric Society (NCPeds), guided by the American Academy of Pediatrics’ (AAP) Standards of Care with a goal of improving the overall health and well-being of children and youth in foster care.

Over the past seven years, Fostering Health NC (FHNC) has helped to positively transform medical care for children and youth in foster care in North Carolina by promoting the importance of comprehensive care to meet the special health care needs of children and youth in foster care. FHNC helps connect those working with children and youth in foster care. Those connections and collaboration among partners involved in the lives of children and youth in foster care are key to ensuring a vulnerable population receives appropriate care.

The FHNC team works closely with County Departments of Social Services, primary care medical homes, care management agencies and other partners to problem solve, collaborate and develop processes to help ensure children and youth in foster care have access to comprehensive, whole-body healthcare.

FHNC provides the following:

- Leverages partnerships among key groups at the local level that work together to coordinate and provide trauma-informed care for this exceptionally vulnerable population.
- Provides education and training on best practices for health and well-being for those in foster care.
- Provides technical assistance for local implementation across the state.
- Is guided by a State Advisory Team comprised of professionals in child physical health, behavioral health, pharmacy, social services, and other areas of expertise.
- Maintains a resource library with information and resources useful for stakeholders.
- Assists NC with implementing the Health Oversight and Coordination Plan (HOCP).

To date, over 100 medical homes and 70 (of 100) County Departments of Social Services (DSS) agencies have received training to equip staff with tools and resources to better coordinate care for children and youth in foster care.

Fostering Health NC Website: [www.ncpeds.org/fosteringhealthnc](http://www.ncpeds.org/fosteringhealthnc)

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