

2018 Short Session –Policy Agenda

April 2018

Top Priorities

Medicaid Waiver: We support legislative changes towards an improved 1115 waiver. We support primary care rate floors at rates sufficient to offset the increased administrative burden (such as Medicare or Medicaid, whichever is higher per code). We support Tailored Plans for individuals with severe and persistent mental health needs; a statewide Plan for children in the foster care system; strong Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment; administrative ease, appropriate care for newborns and other vulnerable populations, network adequacy/access to care, including specialty care; timely and accurate payment to providers; and a strong benefit package for children. To see more:

<https://ncpeds.site-ym.com/?page=MedicaidReform>

Workforce Adequacy: NCPeds strongly supports medical teams and access by children to a full range of health care services. NCPeds supports efforts to improve workforce, including using Graduate Medical Education (GME) funds to attract and retain “home grown” physicians, especially in underserved areas. We support telemedicine as a strategy to support, not supplant, the medical home. We support appropriate training and practice supports for providers.

Other Areas of Support

School Nurses: NCPeds supports increased funding to assure more school-children have access to school nurses.

Reach Out and Read: NCPeds supports \$250,000 to Reach Out and Read to support and expand this evidence-based program in rural communities.

Suicide Prevention: Support for Child Fatality Task Force efforts towards

- 1) required suicide prevention training and protocol in schools (this was addressed in two bills that have passed the House and are eligible for consideration in 2018: HB 285 and HB 894) and
- 2) funding to expand the CALM (“Counseling on Access to Lethal Means”) Program in NC. Funding to go to DHHS to implement expansion through appropriate engagement with third parties. (Estimated funding for expansion is \$29,600.)
- 3) designation and funding for a three-year lead suicide prevention position in North Carolina that would coordinate cross-agency efforts to carry out implementation of the 2015 NC Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan and determine a sustainability plan for ongoing statewide coordination for implementation of the Strategic Plan. Funding to go to DHHS to contract with appropriate non-agency organization to serve as backbone organization for this role; recommended funding is \$125,000 per year for 3 years

School Safety: NCPeds is supportive of strategies to promote safety and wellness in schools, including more school nurses. Measures to improve school safety should be evidence-based and developmentally appropriate.

Firearm Safety: NCPeds support efforts by the Child Fatality Task Force to fund a new statewide firearm safety initiative, as recommended by the 2017 Firearm Safety Stakeholder group, that is focused on education and awareness surrounding firearm safe storage and distribution of free gun-locks; funding to go to DHHS to appropriately engage a third-party organization to implement the initiative. (Two-year funding estimate is for \$155,700: \$86,500 for year one; \$69,200 for year two.)

Newborn Screening (SB190/HB270): NCPeds continue to support efforts to add Pompe Disease, MPS1, and XALD to the newborn screening protocols.

HIEA: NCPeds is supportive of strategies to assist physicians and others in the transition to the HIEA, including lengthening the timeframes for connection and encouraging succession planning.