North Carolina Pediatric Society

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May 9, 2023

Dear Valued FHNC Partner:

We are writing with sad news. NCPeds will be letting our contract with the NC Division of Social Services for our Fostering Health NC work end on July 1, 2023. This was a tough decision.

Together with you, we have accomplished so much! Here are few examples:

- Strong, neutral convening of key and diverse partners to problem solve and trouble shoot barriers to care for children and youth in foster care.
- Outreach to and education/training of 70+ county child welfare agencies, plus multiple private placing agencies, over the 6 years NCDSS has contracted with NCPeds/FHNC (more than that when including time funded by others).
- Education and training to foster parents/caregivers licensed through county DSS as well as private agencies.
- Provided outreach and education to multiple medical practices and providers across the state using various platforms – In person, one-on-one, conference settings and virtual/webinar.
- Convening of 40-60 groups of professionals at the local level to provide technical assistance around health and well-being of children and youth in foster care.
- Strong collaboration with care management entities and recent growing relationships with new providers of care management.
- Strong satisfaction reported by participants and reliance on FHNC team to troubleshoot and problem solve.
- Convening of multiple groups through State Advisory Team and workgroups over the years to address particular issues and topics related to foster care.
- Various accomplishments through the FHNC’s Transition Age Youth workgroup: including outreach to youth-serving agencies and young adults who have aged out of foster care to serve on the workgroup; identification of improvements needed around the topic of young adults formerly in foster care keeping Medicaid until age 26, including creation of one-pager noting importance of this; promotion of the need to expand the work around youth aging out of foster care receiving information about naming a HCPA and education around an easy to use document (Five Wishes). Expertise of FHNC team member used to promote this in trainings around this topic.
• Strong representation across the state on issues of children and youth in foster care in health setting and strong representation of health needs for these children in child welfare settings.
• One of four state-based organizations recognized by American Academy of Pediatrics' National Center for Medical Home Implementation.
• Participation in development of legal pathway for child welfare agencies to access Medicaid claims information to assure children can get needed medical treatment (such as asthma inhalers) when they are removed from their home. Worked closely with CCNC to promote access to this system.

We also acknowledge that care and communication gaps were discovered and more work remains to be done. We are deeply concerned about how complicated Medicaid coverage has become for children and youth in foster care, and the risk of lack of care management provided to these children at critical junctures. We will continue to raise these concerns in other venues, just as we know you will continue your work to support children and youth in foster care.

FHNC was initially conceived as a proof of concept. Thanks to your passionate work, we know that information, education, technical assistance and convening a spectrum of knowledgeable and caring people at both the state and local level, can improve health comes for children and youth in foster care. We continue to care deeply about comprehensive health care for children and youth in foster care, and young adults who were formerly in foster care, and intend to use other venues to advocate for needed care.

A few practical notes – we have asked NCDSS how they would like to handle the FHNC Resource Library. Until the end of 2023, or until NCDSS lets us know otherwise, we will keep the library up-to-date and publicly available. Also, NCPeds has time-limited resources for select trouble-shooting with particular issues, so please continue to reach out to us when you need help navigating the system and we can try to help direct you.

We appreciate your passion and commitment. FHNC's accomplishments would not have been possible without you. It has been an honor and privilege to meet so many inspiring and diverse experts a - we thank you all! We hope to work with you in other ways as we all continue to work to the promote the health and well-being of children and youth in foster care.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Hudgins, MPP Christy Street, MSW
Executive Director Director
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