

**Thank you for joining. The Community Partners webinar will begin shortly.
Gracias por unirte. El seminario web para socios comunitarios comenzará en breve.**

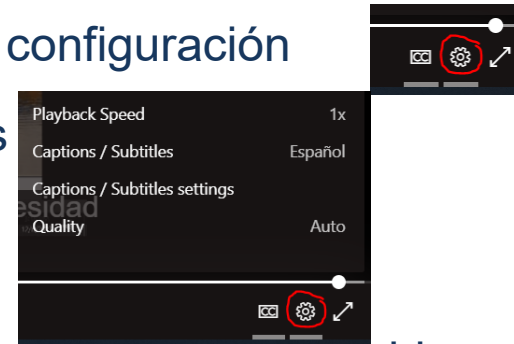
A copy of today's slide deck and recording will be available on our website at
[medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/transformation/more-information](https://www.medicicaid.ncdhhs.gov/transformation/more-information)

Una copia de la presentación y de la grabación de hoy estará disponible en nuestro sitio web

Quick tips on attending a Microsoft Teams Live Event / Consejos rápidos para asistir a un evento en vivo de Microsoft Teams

To view the webinar with captions/subtitles / Para ver el seminario web con subtítulos:

- Click the settings (gear icon) / Haga clic en el icono de configuración
- Click captions/subtitles / Haga clic en captions/subtitles

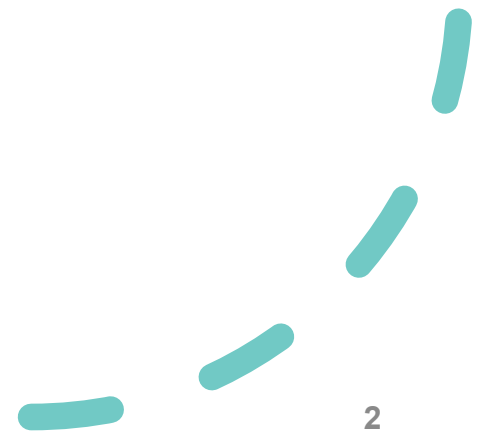


Use the Q&A feature at the top right of the screen to ask questions and provide comments, we will try to answer as many questions as possible in the Q&A session at the end of the webinar.



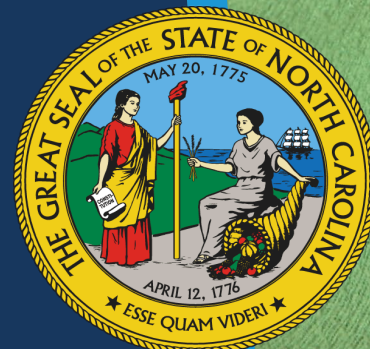
**Ericka
Johnson**

**Chief of Staff
NC Medicaid**



NC Medicaid Community Partners Webinar

March 19, 2025



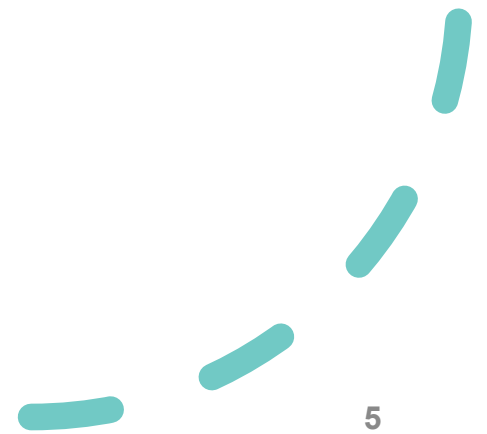
AGENDA

- Welcome
- 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) 5121
- Medicaid Updates
- Children and Families Specialty Plan
- Connecting Communities and Medicaid
- Resources
- Questions & Answers



**LaQuana
Palmer**

**Deputy Director
Communications and Engagement**



KEY FEATURES: FEDERAL CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT (CAA) REQUIREMENTS

CAA 5121 requires states to provide screening and diagnostic services and care management to eligible children/youth in the last 30 days of their placement and first 30 days after release (care management only) who are being held post-adjudication. The effective date of these requirements is January 1, 2025.



Eligible Individuals	Required Screening And Diagnostic Services	Required Care Management Activities
<p>Medicaid-enrolled children and youth who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Under 21 years of age or former foster youth between the ages of 18 and 26; and ✓ Being held in a carceral facility post-adjudication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Comprehensive health, developmental history, and physical examinations ✓ Appropriate vision, hearing, and lab testing ✓ Dental screening services ✓ Immunizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Comprehensive needs assessments (e.g., behavioral health, health-related social needs) ✓ Development of a person-centered care plan—including social, educational, and other underlying needs. ✓ Referrals and related activities (e.g., appointment scheduling) to link individuals to needed services in the community. ✓ Monitoring and follow-up activities (e.g., follow-up with service providers) to ensure the care plan is implemented.

PATHWAY TO FULL COMPLIANCE WITH CAA 5121

CMS acknowledged states are in different stages of readiness to implement CAA Section 5121 requirements as of Jan. 1, 2025.

NC Medicaid plans to phase-in the requirements, beginning with the state's five youth development centers (YDCs).

Screening and Diagnostic Services to begin in Early 2025:

- The Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) will schedule appointments for screening & diagnostics for youth committed to one of the YDCs within the 30-days prior to their scheduled release date.
- An estimate of 5-10 youth release from YDCs each month.
- To meet CAA 5121 requirements, DJJDP will use community-based providers to deliver all screening and diagnostic services; YDC providers will not deliver these services.

Reentry Care Management Services to begin ~Summer 2025:

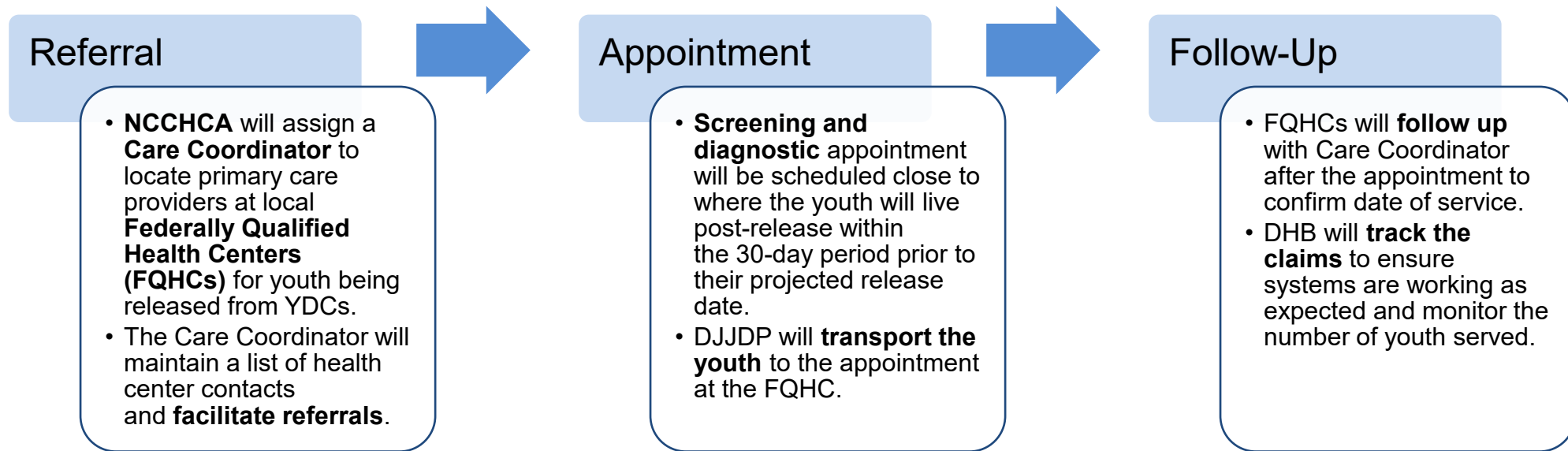
- YDC youth will begin receiving pre-release care management within 30 days prior to release.
- NC Medicaid has elected to provide a full year of post-release care management.
- Care managers will coordinate with YDC social workers and court counselors on the youth's care plan.

Additional Facilities that House CAA 5121-Eligible Population to be Phased In:

Facilities that house post-adjudication youth under 21 or 18 – 26 on former foster care Medicaid will phase-in CAA 5121 requirements starting in 2026.

COORDINATION WITH FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCS) FOR CAA 5121

North Carolina's Division of Health Benefits (DHB), Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP), and Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA) are coordinating to provide CAA 5121-required screening & diagnostic services to youth committed to the state's youth development centers (YDCs).



COUNTY JAILS SUSPENSION POLICY UPDATE

- Historically, NC Medicaid policy has required termination instead of suspension of NC Medicaid beneficiaries incarcerated in county jails (unless under age 21, or ages 18 to 26 on NC Medicaid as former foster child).
- NC Medicaid changed this policy, effective Feb. 1, 2025, to suspend instead of terminate coverage for beneficiaries in county jails. This policy change will help avoid gaps in Medicaid coverage post-release from incarceration.
 - Beneficiaries incarcerated in a county jail for 30 days or less will not have benefits suspended and will remain enrolled with their current health plan.
 - Beneficiaries incarcerated in a county jail for 31 days or more will have benefits suspended and will be disenrolled from their health plan. Upon release, per Session Law 2024-34, they will remain excluded from health plan enrollment for a period of 365 days.

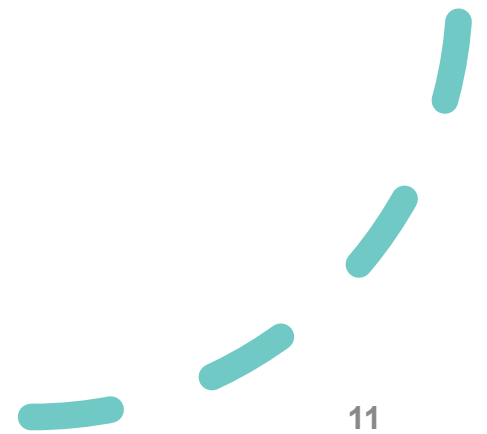
POST-RELEASE MEDICAID DIRECT ENROLLMENT

- Session Law 2024-34 (<https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/PDF/2023-2024/SL2024-34.pdf>) PART XII. CLARIFYING MEDICAID BENEFITS FOR INMATES, SECTION 12.1.(a) G.S. 108D-40 – states that beneficiaries who are incarcerated and whose Medicaid has been suspended will remain excluded from Managed Care for up to 365 days following their release.
- As of January 1, 2025, Medicaid beneficiaries whose Medicaid was suspended during a period of incarceration will be placed in NC Medicaid Direct (or the EBCI Tribal Option, if eligible) upon release.
- The beneficiary will stay in NC Medicaid Direct for 365 days after their release. On the first of the month following the 365-day mark, the beneficiary will be assigned a new delivery system (e.g., Standard Plan, Tailored Plan, etc.).
- This process allows easier access to physical health providers and reduces system transitions and confusion during the post-release period. This also allows beneficiaries to access needed mental and behavioral health services through the LME/MCO, if needed.



**Jay
Ludlam**

**Deputy Secretary
NC Medicaid**



Medicaid Updates

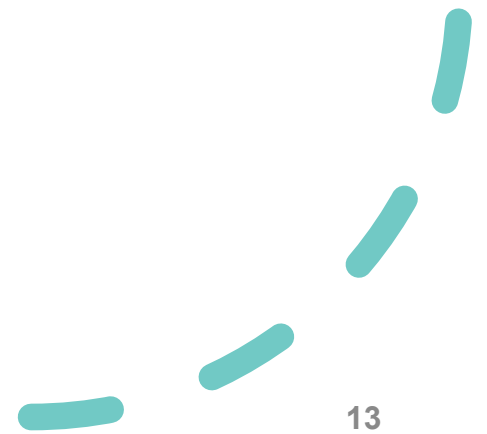
As Medicaid enters the national conversation, the goal of NCDHHS is for our community partners to be aligned with NC Medicaid's mission to share the positive benefits of Medicaid in North Carolina.

- NC Medicaid continues to be an innovative and fiscally responsible investment that keeps North Carolinians healthy.
- NC Medicaid has bipartisan support and has not had cost overruns for the past 11 years.
- NC Medicaid contributes \$30 billion to the state's economy, and 98% of expenditures go towards services in communities across the state.
- Investments in Medicaid are critical to reducing long-term costs on the state and federal level, as well as lasting outcomes for beneficiaries.
- NC Medicaid enables access to high quality health care that North Carolinian's need, including access to care for behavioral and mental health, substance use, disabilities, and veterans.
- NC Medicaid disproportionately benefits rural communities in North Carolina and is critical to supporting the state's workforce.
- Proposed federal changes would have a negative impact on the health of North Carolinians.



**Melanie
Bush**

Deputy Medicaid Director



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SPECIALTY PLAN

The Children and Families Specialty Plan is a new NC Medicaid Managed Care health plan.

- It is a single, statewide health plan that will be managed by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina under the name Healthy Blue Care Together.
- Potential Children and Families Specialty Plan beneficiaries include NC Medicaid-enrolled children, youth and young adults currently and those formerly served by the child welfare system.
- The Children and Families Specialty Plan will launch Dec. 1, 2025.
- Until then, potential beneficiaries will continue to get health care services the same way they do today – through NC Medicaid Direct.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SPECIALTY PLAN

What is the Children and Families Specialty Plan?

The new health plan will:

- Provide beneficiaries with seamless, integrated, coordinated health care.
- As a statewide health plan, the Children and Families Specialty Plan will ensure beneficiaries have access to the health care and can continue to receive care from their providers if their foster care placement causes them to move to another location in the state.
- It is part of North Carolina's commitment to improve the long-term health and well-being of children who receive Child Welfare services.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SPECIALTY PLAN

The Children and Families Specialty Plan will provide coverage for all services provided by Standard Plans and most services offered by Tailored Plans.

This includes:

- Physical health, including regular check-ups, vaccinations and preventive care
- Pharmacy
- Care management
- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)
- Behavioral health, including outpatient therapy, inpatient treatment and crisis and therapeutic residential options for children
- 1915(i) Home and Community-Based Services
- Unmet health-related resource needs
- Long term services and supports
- Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) services

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SPECIALTY PLAN

Who is eligible for the Children and Families Specialty Plan?

NC Medicaid beneficiaries who are in foster care, receiving adoption assistance and enrolled in the former foster care eligibility will be eligible for the Children and Families Specialty Plan.

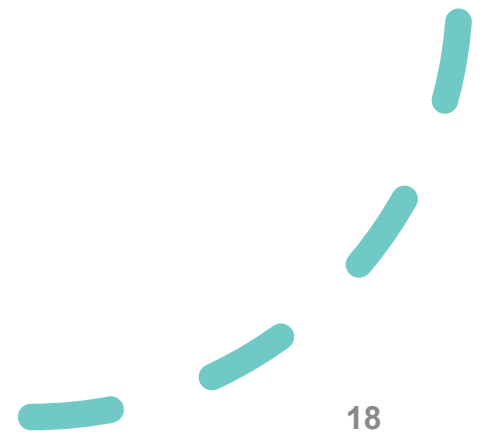
Most beneficiaries eligible for the Children and Families Specialty Plan will be automatically enrolled in the health plan. This includes:

- Children and youth currently in foster care
- Children and youth currently receiving adoption assistance
- Young adults under age 26 formerly in foster care
- Minor children of these populations



**Shadonna
Headen**

**Senior Engagement Manager
Communications and Engagement**



INTRODUCTION OF OUR GROUP

- The External Implementation Partners Work Group (now know as CCM) was founded in 2023 shortly after Medicaid expansion was announced by Governor Roy Cooper. This workgroup continued through the launch of Medicaid expansion in December 2023.
- In the year after Medicaid expansion launched in North Carolina, the External Implementation Partners Work Group meeting series was a steady source for leadership to provide information to our trusted partners. It also provided a venue to bring together feedback and suggestions to improve outreach and engagement efforts.
- Beginning in 2025, the workgroup was reimagined to reflect its expanded mission.

A NEW CHAPTER

Our workgroup has been fully rebranded as Connecting Communities and Medicaid (CCM)!

Our Mission: To foster meaningful partnerships and drive collaborative solutions that improve access to care and address drivers of health. Through education, community and partner engagement, and policy discussions, we strive to empower communities, reduce health disparities, and ensure Medicaid beneficiaries receive comprehensive, person-centered support.

CCM FOCUS AREAS

The work group includes these key focus areas:

- Fostering Partnerships
- Addressing Social Drivers of Health
- Medicaid Updates and Policy Changes
- Education and Enrollment
- Reducing Health Disparities

FOCUS AREAS

Foster Partnerships

- Strengthen collaboration with community and partners.
- Build bridges between Medicaid, community partners, and services related to drivers of health (housing, food security, transportation, etc.).

Address Drivers of Health

- Discuss initiatives that tackle non-medical factors impacting health.
- Explore programs integrating Medicaid benefits with housing, nutrition and employment resources.

Medicaid Updates and Policy Changes

- Share timely information on Medicaid program developments.
- Provide insights into policy shifts and their implications for partners and beneficiaries.

FOCUS AREAS CONT.

Education and Enrollment

- Equip partners to support Medicaid education and enrollment.
- Leverage outreach strategies to reach underserved communities.

Eliminate Health Disparities

- Address inequities in access, outcomes and care.
- Ensure an inclusive and fair approach in all initiatives.

Together, we can transform NC Medicaid engagement and impact!

ABOUT THE CCM MEETINGS

Connecting Communities and Medicaid meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting topics include NC Medicaid updates, community partner presentations and connections.

“Connections” is an open forum where attendees can share resources and engage in open discussions with other community partners.

Example Discussion Topics:

- How does your organization currently engage with the community?
- In what ways can other organizations collaborate with you to improve community outcomes?
- What roadblocks does your organization encounter when serving the community?

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN!

We encourage you to be part of our Connecting Communities and Medicaid (CCM) Workgroups. If you are interested in joining, click the link below and complete your information.

[CCM Interest Form](#)



MEDICAID AMBASSADOR INITIATIVE

How to become a Medicaid Ambassador?

- Send an email stating your interest in becoming a Medicaid Ambassador to Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov
- Complete the Medicaid Essentials training
- Complete ePASS navigation training either by attending a live ePASS demo or watching the recording posted to the Medicaid expansion website
- Have an established confidentiality agreement with your organization
- Sign the Attestation form with NC Medicaid that you meet all the requirements

ePASS RESOURCES

- ePASS Fact Sheet [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Watch our video on how to help someone with an application using the links below:
 - English youtu.be/204bNI5pGkl
 - Spanish youtu.be/whLNhXj7zvM
- [ePASS website](https://epass.nc.gov) (epass.nc.gov)
- Local DSS Directory ncdhhs.gov/localdss

PROVIDER RESOURCES

- NC Medicaid Website [medicaid.ncdhhs.gov](https://www.medicaid.ncdhhs.gov)
 - Includes County and Provider Playbooks
- NC Medicaid Help Center [medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/helpcenter](https://www.medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/helpcenter)
- Regular Medicaid Bulletins [medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/providers/medicaid-bulletin](https://www.medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/providers/medicaid-bulletin)
- NC Medicaid Managed Care Webinar Series (Back Porch Chat)
Hosted by Medicaid and AHEC

May 15, 2025, noon-1 p.m.

To register or view previous webinars

ncahec.net/practice-support/medicaid-managed-care-2-2/

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

A copy of today's slide deck and recording will be available
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If we couldn't get to your question, feel free to email it to

Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov