



# **BIAC DMH/DD/SUS Update**

**Renee Rader  
Deputy Director/COO**

**3/13/2025**

# MARCH IS BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH



**March is Brain Injury Awareness Month**, a time to recognize the challenges faced by individuals living with brain injuries and to promote access to support and resources.

## **DMH/DD/SUS Resources:**

- Access support services for individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) through community-based programs.
- Find information on treatment, care coordination, and rehabilitation services for those affected by brain injuries.
- Learn about available state-funded programs for individuals with co-occurring conditions.

## **Get Involved with the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina (BIANC):**

- **Attend Events:** Participate in educational workshops, community gatherings, and virtual awareness events throughout the month.
- **Show Support:** Join fundraising efforts and awareness campaigns to support individuals with brain injuries.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Engage with BIANC to help raise awareness and provide direct support to those impacted.

**Learn more and get involved:** [BIANC Brain Injury Awareness Month](#)

# Inclusion Works Lunch and Learn: National Developmental Disability Awareness Month

Inclusion and awareness of people with I/DD is important; about 15% of the world's population has a disability.

Join Inclusion Works to celebrate National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, observed throughout March.

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

**Registration Link:** [Register for the webinar](#)

**Closed-Captioning & American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters will be provided.**



# PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

→ SEEKING UNDERSTANDING



**March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month**, dedicated to increasing public awareness of gambling-related issues and promoting prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

## NC DMH/DD/SUS Problem Gambling Program:

- Offers **prevention, education, outreach, and treatment services** for individuals and families affected by problem gambling.
- Provides a **24/7 helpline** (1-877-718-5543) and online chat for immediate support from [MoreThanAGame.nc.gov](https://www.morethanagame.nc.gov)
- Includes resources for youth prevention, professional training, and self-help tools.

## **ECU Partnership – Gambling Research & Policy Initiative:**

- A collaboration between NCDHHS and **East Carolina University** to promote research, inform policy, and support evidence-based prevention and treatment efforts.

## **Get Involved:**

- Access the [Problem Gambling Awareness Month 2025 Toolkit](#) for outreach materials and educational resources.

# DSP Recruitment and Retention Grants

As part of its [Direct Support Professional Workforce Plan](#), NCDHHS has invested **\$3 million** to strengthen North Carolina's **Direct Support Professional (DSP)** workforce, supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

- **Provider Agency Grants:** Over 140 agencies received funding to improve DSP recruitment, retention, and job satisfaction.
- **New Opportunities Coming:** A second round of incentives will launch in **Spring 2025**, focusing on recruitment, retention, and training.
- **Inclusion Connects Initiative:** Part of a broader effort to expand access, choice, and community participation for individuals with I/DD.

Learn more: [NCDHHS Press Release](#)



# You're invited!

## Register for a Research Session

Over the last year the DMH/DD/SUS has rolled out an Accessible Communications campaign to improve understanding and access to benefits for people with I/DD, TBI, and SMI, with a focus on:

- **Tailored Plans (TPs)**
- **Tailored Care Management (TCM)**
- **1915(i) services**
- **Innovations waiver**

To better understand the impact of the campaign, **we will host an information-gathering session** on your reflections, opinions on the materials, and feedback to inform future content updates.

We invite **partners and stakeholders, including local and state CFAC members**, to attend this 60-minute online focus group and provide input. **Spaces are limited.**



**Date:** March 14<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. EST

Register [here](#) or use the code above.

Thanks for considering participating!

# Non-Law Enforcement Transportation (NLET) Program

## Now Live: NLET Advisory Group Member Applications

As part of the monitoring and oversight process for the NLET Program, the State is establishing an Advisory Group composed of diverse representation from experienced stakeholder organizations and the community.

- The Advisory Group will:
  - Provide feedback about the NLET Program's implementation.
  - Provide recommendations for any improvements needed to ensure the Program's success.
- The expected time commitment is about 4 hours per month.
- Interested individuals can apply here: <https://forms.office.com/g/WvQJvUiQPL> and through the DMHDDSUS Webpage under: *Get Involved - Councils and Committees*
- The deadline for applications is May 9, 2025.



*The Non-Law Enforcement Transportation (NLET) program will provide transportation for: Adults, children and adolescents requiring transportation on a voluntary basis or are involuntarily committed (IVC) after the first exam between facilities and clinics (e.g., from an emergency department to a facility-based crisis center); Individuals in crisis that need transportation upon discharge from a facility.*

*The program will initially operate in select regions, which will be identified through a competitive request for proposal process.*

# Federal & State Updates

- We continue to receive all federal funding and grant payments as expected
- We are monitoring and tracking all federal funding sources daily and will keep you posted of any significant concerns or issues
- March 14<sup>th</sup> is approaching, and we are working to understand and prepare in the case of a government shutdown.



# TBI Team Updates

- New TBI Consultant
- New TBI Project Manager
- Brain Injury State Action Plan 2025
  - Current Status: Gaps and Needs Assessment in process
  - Next Steps:
    - Present results of Gaps and Needs Assessment and status of activities in current State Action Plan
    - BIAC to make formal recommendations to NC DHHS via BIAC Annual Report
    - NC DHHS provide draft BI State Action Plan
    - BIAC to provide feedback to NC DHHS
    - Final State Action Plan published

# TBI Dashboard

## **SCFAC Recommendation**

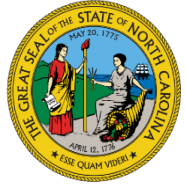
- Create TBI dashboard to track data from Medicaid, Tailored Plans, and Standard Plans

## **Current Status:**

- DHB & DMH/DD/SUS is in the design & data pulling process
- Will be added to dashboard link page on DHHS Website
- Anticipated to be completed prior to 7/1/25 deadline

# TBI Waiver Expansion Advisory Committee

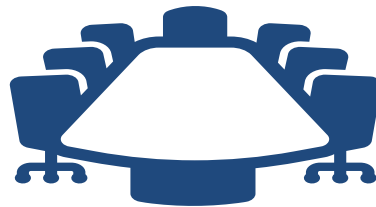
- **Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month 3-4pm**
  - Next meeting is 3/27
  - Open to everyone who wants to attend
  - To attend, email: [tbicontact@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:tbicontact@dhhs.nc.gov)
- **Currently reviewing proposed service definitions for clinical coverage policy.**
- **Next meeting will discuss:**
  - Supported Employment
  - Home Delivered Meals
  - Community Transition



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Mental Health,  
Developmental Disabilities and  
Substance Use Services



Join our Side by Side  
Webinars



Join our Advisory  
Committees



Join our  
Mailing List