

NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

# Inclusion Works Community Advisory Committee Meeting

We'll get started in a few minutes.  
Please mute your microphone

April 21, 2026

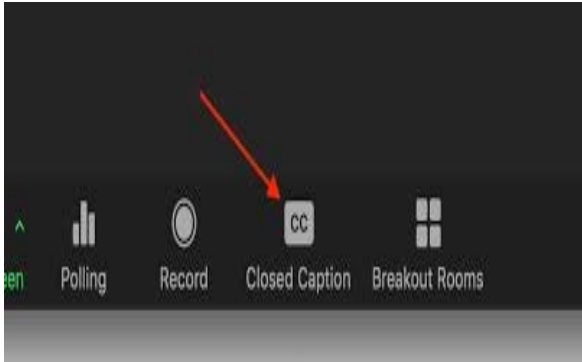


## Housekeeping

- Reminders about the webinar technology:
  - Please make sure you are using a computer or smart phone connected to the internet, and the audio function is on, and the volume is turned up.
  - Please make sure your microphone is muted for the duration of the call unless you are speaking or asking questions.
  - Questions can be submitted any time during the presentation using the “Q&A” box located on your control panel, and we will answer as many questions as time allows after the presentation.



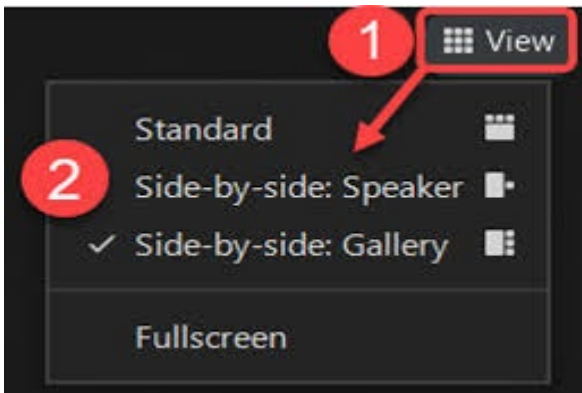
# Housekeeping



- American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters and Closed-Captioning
  - ASL Interpreters and Closed-Captioning options will be available for today's event.
  - For closed-captioning options select the "Closed Caption" feature located on your control panel.

Intérpretes en lengua de signos americana (ASL) y subtítulos:

Habrá intérpretes de ASL y opciones de subtítulos disponibles para el evento de hoy. Para opciones de subtítulos, seleccione la función "Subtítulos" ubicada en su panel de control.



- Adjusting Video Layout and Screen View
  - Select the "View" feature located in the top-right hand corner of your screen.

# Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Advisory Committee Details**
- **Inclusion Works Strategic Plan and Updates**
- **Employment Assessments, Referrals, and CIE Liaisons**
- **Work Together NC Update**
- **Innovation Program and WISE Online Academy**
- **Inclusion Works Training Opportunities and Resources**
- **Q & A**



# Welcome

# Introductions



**Claire Colligan**, MS, LCMHC, LCAS, CCS  
I/DD Employment Lead, I/DD, TBI, & Olmstead  
*DMH/DD/SUS*



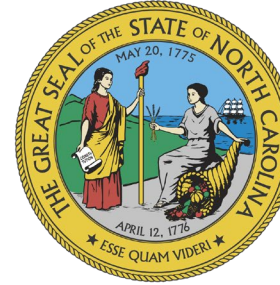
**Katherine Titus**, MSW  
Senior Technical Assistance and Training Manager  
*WISE*



**Anita McMahan**, MA  
Chief of Employment Services and Program  
Development  
Division of Employment and Independence for People  
with Disabilities



**Yolanda Perkins**, EdS  
Implementation Specialist  
Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



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**Work Together NC**

*Possibility to Opportunity*



**wise**

# Community Meeting Details

### **Purpose Statement:**

To provide a forum for individuals with lived experience, family members, providers, and advocates to share their thoughts, perspectives, and opinions about the Inclusion Works Program. NCDHHS will share key updates about Inclusion Works and gather feedback on the implementation of program activities.

# Community Advisory Meeting Schedule

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday every 3 months (quarterly) at 11:00am**

For future meetings, we are considering hosting meeting after typical “work” hours

**The Community Meeting has been UPDATED!** Future meetings will allow opportunity to update and track progress on the Inclusion Works Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

## 2026 Meetings:

|                  |
|------------------|
| April 21, 2026   |
| July 15, 2026    |
| October 20, 2026 |

## Reminders:

- RSVP to Calendar Invitations
- Come prepared with questions and ideas about the Inclusion Works program
- Reach out to [Claire.Colligan@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Claire.Colligan@dhhs.nc.gov) if you know other individuals who would like to participate in Advisory Committee

If there is a specific topic you would like NCDHHS to cover during the Advisory Committee, please reach out to Claire Colligan ([Claire.Colligan@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Claire.Colligan@dhhs.nc.gov)) and it will be added to the agenda for our next meeting.

# Inclusion Works Program Updates

## Inclusion Works Updates

### What's New for Spring 2026:

- The second round of the Provider Innovation Grant applications closed on April 15. We are reviewing applications now. **Thank you to all who applied!**
- Our new [Informed Choice video](#) is now available on NCDHHS YouTube.
- Special Events held during April 2026 to celebrate **Autism Acceptance Month**, including our Lunch and Learn on April 15 led by Mike Chapman from UNC TEACCH. [Watch the recording here!](#)
- Social Media Campaign with WTNC beginning soon!



# Inclusion Works Strategic Plan



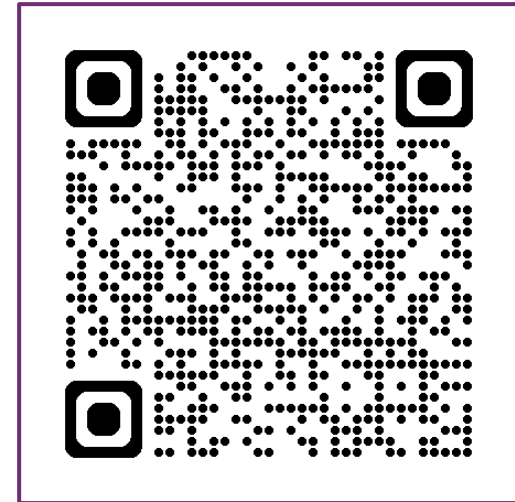
## Inclusion Works Strategic Plan

The Inclusion Works Strategic Plan will continuously evolve based on feedback from community and availability of resources and funding.

We are now 6+ months into Strategic Plan implementation!

Inclusion Works will release **annual progress reports** on the Strategic Plan.

The report on our first year of implementation will be released in **August 2026**.



Find it on the **Inclusion Works** website!

# Five Core Inclusion Works Goals – Strategic Plan

The Inclusion Works Strategic Plan is organized by outlining the **Goals, Objectives, and Strategies** that NCDHHS will employ to increase Competitive Integrated Employment for people with I/DD.



**Informed  
Choice**



**Quality I/DD  
Services**



**Community  
Outreach**



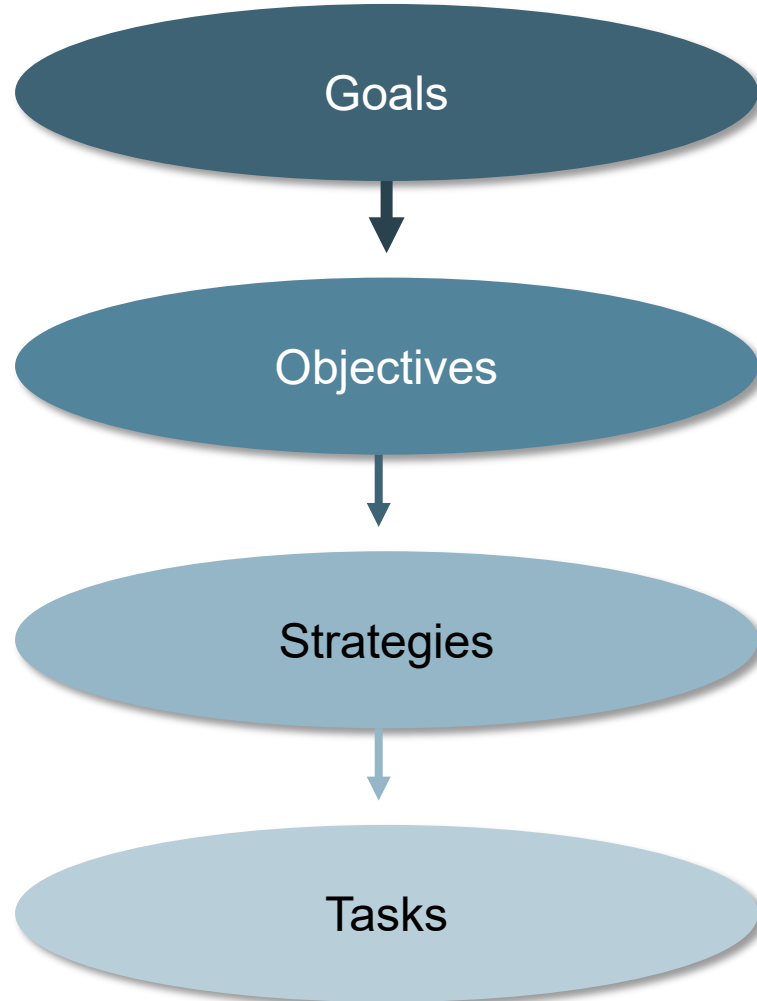
**Workforce  
Development**



**Employer  
Connection**

# Inclusion Works Implementation Plan

The Inclusion Works Implementation Plan breaks the **Five Core Goals** down by **Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Tasks** with assigned owners and due dates to increase accountability.



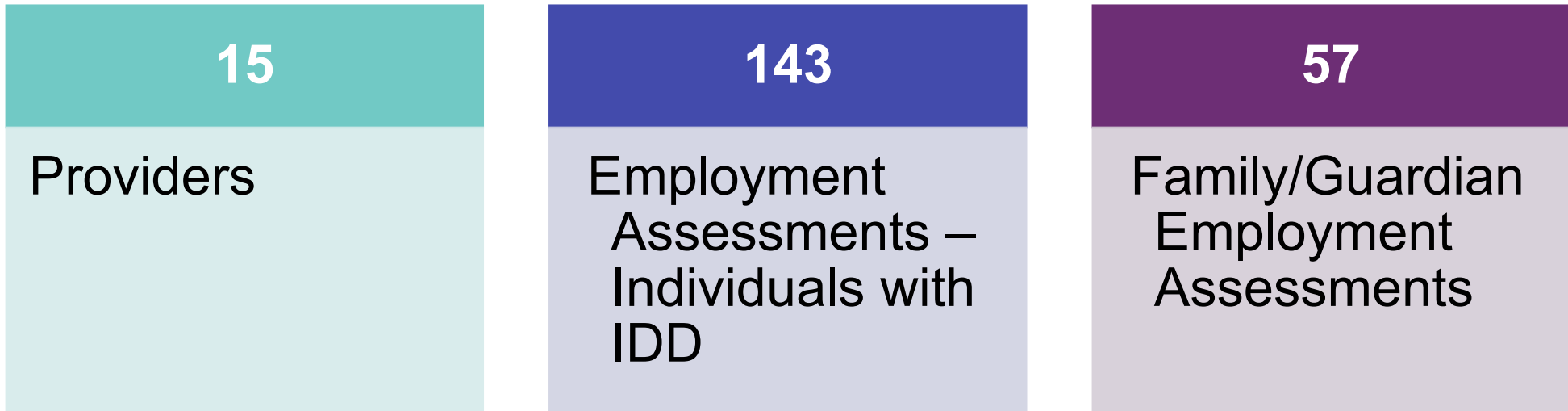
## All Strategies and Tasks are assigned:

- Planned Start and End Date
- Divisional or Organizational Owner
- Task-specific Owner
- Status

**Tracking tasks allows us to stay accountable to accomplishing the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan**

# Employment Assessments

## The Work Together NC Team



As of March 31, 2026

## Testimonial

*"The team came in and met with participants, a family member, and a caregiver to ensure all assessments were completed. We are very appreciative of the wonderful assistance provided over the past two months in ensuring participants were assessed. Thanks for your Amazing TEAM!"*



# CIE Liaison Team

CIE Liaisons are part of a **collaborative** approach toward CIE supports and care management

North Carolina  
LME/MCOs



EIPD

CIE Liaisons are a **joint team** of LME/MCO and EIPD staff specializing in **CIE Referrals**

Their responsibilities include:

- Working with individuals who expressed interest in CIE during Employment Assessments
- Contacting families or guardians to discuss employment options
- Sharing information and resources about the benefits of CIE and available services
- Supporting individuals to apply for EIPD or Supported Employment based on their eligibility

# ONE TEAM!

## Process for Receiving CIE Liaison Referrals

### Work Together NC

Work Together NC completes Employment Assessments and uploads documents to SharePoint site with EIPD.

CIE Liaison Team →

**Progress to Date:**

**37** Referrals to EIPD

**25** Cases Opened with EIPD

### EIPD

**EIPD Outreach Team Lead** populates LME/MCO-specific Referral Progress Tracking sheets with member information and notifies CIE Coordinators of new referrals

**EIPD Outreach Team** identifies: Regional VR office and local counselor

Triage Meeting to determine path of supports (SE vs EIPD) and assign CIE Liaison based on team capacity

### CIE Coordinators

**CIE Coordinator** identifies:

- Contact information for individual/ guardian
- Name and contact of TCM
- List of services individual is receiving/ authorized for

# Work Together NC Community Engagement

## **Inclusion Works Advisory Committee**

- Members with varied perspectives (lived experience, Tailored Plans, providers, NCDHHS, family members, advocates, and researchers)
- Meets monthly to share ideas and advance Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) aligned with the Inclusion Works Strategic Plan
- Focuses on applying the plan's goals, strategies, and objectives

## **Transportation Alliance**

- Members with varied perspectives
- Meets every six weeks to identify transportation barriers for individuals with IDD
- Shares resources, develops supports, and problem-solves next steps

# Provider Innovation Program and Wise Online Academy

# Inclusion Works Provider Innovation Program Second Cohort Application – Closed on 4/15

**Program Goal:** Support Providers expand competitive integrated employment for their members

## Benefits of Program (all at no cost):

- Organizational assessment
- Strategic Change Plan
- Personalized Training Content
- Ongoing Technical Assistance
- Financial Incentives - \$ for participating in program

**The team is actively reviewing applications.  
The new cohort will begin in Summer 2026.**

**Thank you to all who applied!**



### Jobs

Each provider will be supported to obtain new CIE jobs over the course of the project.



### Provider Innovation

Each provider will be supported to complete a Provider Innovation Training and Technical Assistance Plan to Expand CIE.



### Training and TA

Providers actively engage in training and technical assistance opportunities.



### Employment Data

Employment data will be collected and shared confidentially.



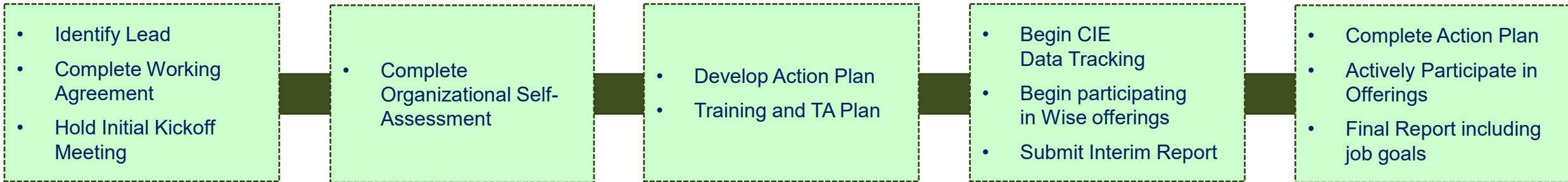
# Current Cohort of the Provider Innovation Program

## Four Provider Agencies selected for Provider Innovation Program

- 1 Vocational Opportunities of Cherokee Inc.
- 2 Alleghany County Group Homes Inc.
- 3 OE Enterprises Inc.
- 4 Neuse Enterprises Inc.



## Provider Innovation Program Milestones



## New Video Available!

Hear from Amy Miller, CEO of OE Enterprises, about her experience participating in the Inclusion Works Provider Innovation Program.



Scan the QR code to watch!

# Wise Online Academy 100 SERIES



The Wise Online Academy (WOA) 100 Series is an online training series based on customized employment core competencies.

Whether you are a new or seasoned employment professional, this course will give you the knowledge, tools and resources to deliver quality, customized services and move people forward in their job pursuits.

## What to Expect:

- Immediate Application: Practical strategies you can apply with job seekers right away.
- Accessible & Flexible: Fully on-demand to fit your schedule.
- Stay Current: Refresh your skills with current best practices.
- Boost Professional Competence: Strengthen your effectiveness in delivering competitive, integrated employment services.



The training series consists of self-paced online training content.

- Completion of the 4-part course results in an ACRE Certificate of completion with a Customized Employment Emphasis.

REGISTER

*"As a new person in customized employment, with a depth of knowledge and experience in this field, this training gave me the confidence and tools to do and understand my job."*

For Questions, Contact: Katherine Titus, [katherine@gowise.org](mailto:katherine@gowise.org)

## Benefits for Staff:

- Earn \$100
- Increase knowledge and ability to help the people they work with
- The Certification belongs to them

## Benefits for Employers:

- Well-Trained and Talented Staff
- Increase the capacity of your team
- Free for Employers
- Does

**Exciting Changes are Coming to the Program in the next Fiscal Year**

**Stay Tuned for More Details!**



# Inclusion Works Training Opportunities and Resources

## Disability Benefits 101 North Carolina

Disability Benefits 101 (DB 101) is an online directory that helps individuals with disabilities understand how work, benefits, and health coverage interact based on their specific state.

- It provides information in plain language with simple tools to help dispel myths and reduce confusion around public benefits, earned income, health insurance, and more
- NC-specific DB101 went live in **May 2025**

**Worried about how work will impact your benefits? Visit DB101!**

**Disability Benefits 101**

**North Carolina**



# Inclusion Connects Background

Inclusion Connects is an NCDHHS program to connect people with I/DD to more choices and more access to services and supports. It is designed to help people with I/DD, regardless of age or ability level, and their families navigate the complex system of services from birth to the end of life.



Link to Inclusion Connects Website

## Inclusion Connects Activities



### Supporting the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce:

Addresses workforce shortages and connects DSPs with providers and people with I/DD.



**Promoting Access to Services:** Focuses on providing access to necessary services, including those on the Innovations Waiver Waitlist.



**Improving Housing Access:** Enhances the housing options available for people with I/DD.



**Strengthening Interpersonal Violence (IPV) Supports:** Prevent IPV for people with I/DD and provide trauma-informed information and tools.



**Inclusion Works:** Expand support employment services and increase access to Competitive Integrated Employment



# Training Opportunities and Upcoming Conferences

## Available Training Opportunities:



**Supporting a Vision  
for Employment**



### Wise Online Academy 100 SERIES



The Wise Online Academy (WOA) 100 Series is an online training series based on customized employment core competencies.



**Work Together NC**

*Possibility to Opportunity*

## Join Inclusion Works at Upcoming Conferences:



**April 29 – May 1**



**June 9 – 10**

# Q & A

# Stay involved with updates from Inclusion Works!

Register for our bi-monthly [Lunch and Learns](#)



Visit the [Inclusion Works Website](#)



Join our [mailing list](#) and receive community updates



Visit the [Work Together NC Website](#)

