

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

Side by Side with DMH/DD/SUS

Improving our system together.

Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW

Director

NCDHHS Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services

November 3, 2025

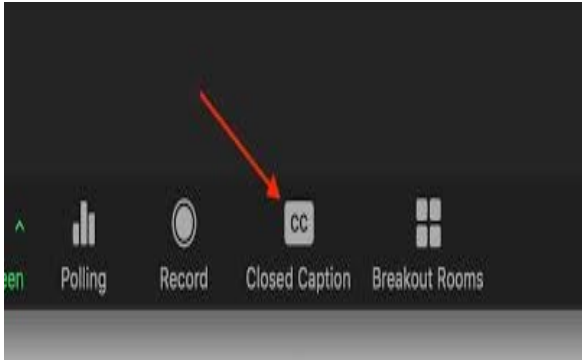


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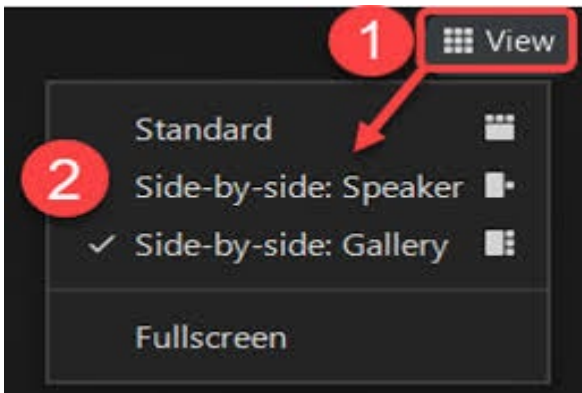
Housekeeping



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Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Focus: Strengthening North Carolina's MH, SU, IDD & TBI Workforce:
Innovations in Recruitment, Training, and Retention
3. Panel Discussion

Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW, DMH/DD/SUS Director

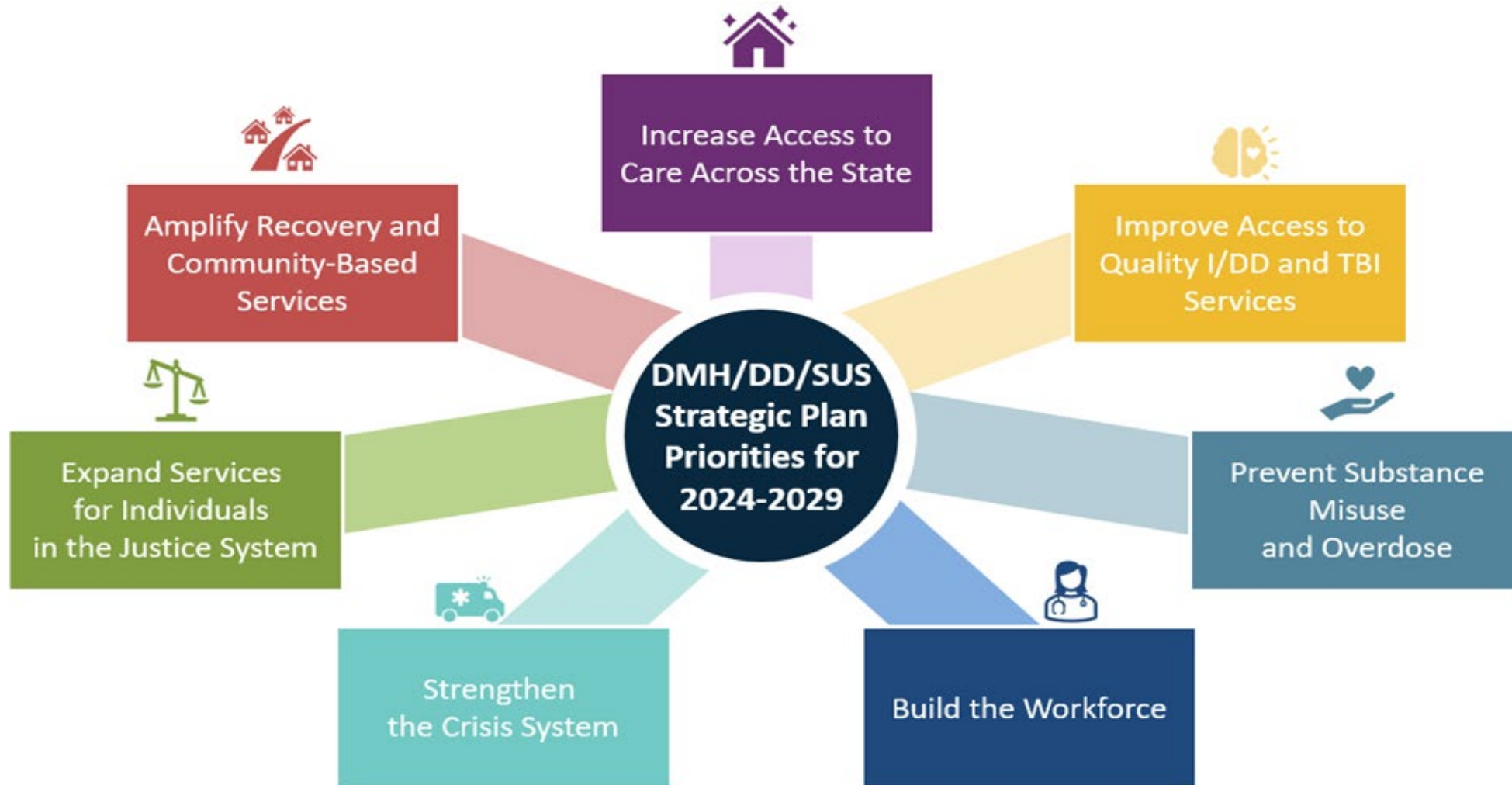


- 30 years in MH/SU/IDD Field
- 13 years in DHHS
- DMH/DD/SUS since Dec 2022
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Person with lived experience

Strengthening North Carolina's Licensed and Unlicensed Workforce - MH/ IDD/ TBI/ SU

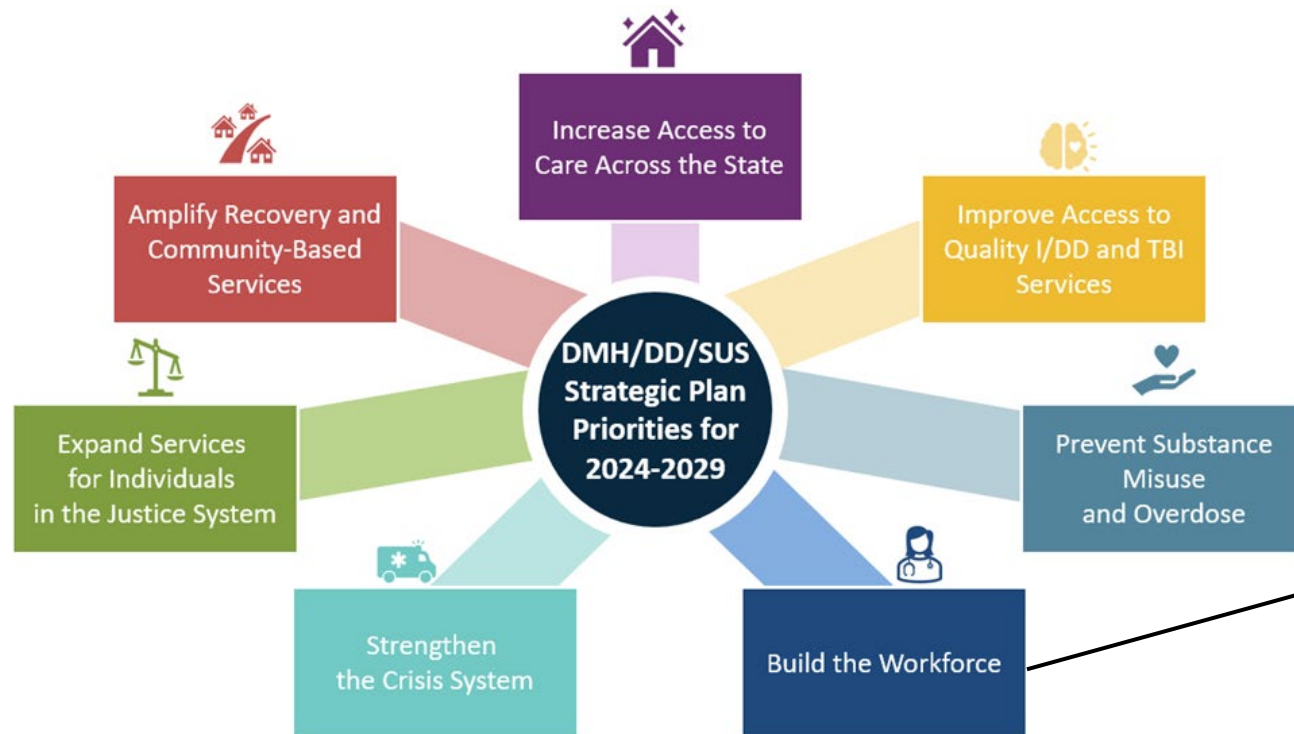


DMH/DD/SUS Strategic Priorities 2024-2029





Priority 4: Build the Workforce



Goals

- **Strengthen the Peer Workforce.** Build a well-trained and well-utilized peer workforce whose work leverages their lived experiences.
- **Strengthen the DSP Workforce.** Build a well-trained and supported DSP workforce.
- **Increase Licensed Providers.** Increase the number of licensed providers entering the public workforce.
- **Increase Supports for Unlicensed Providers.** Increase training and support for unlicensed professionals providing services to people using the public system.

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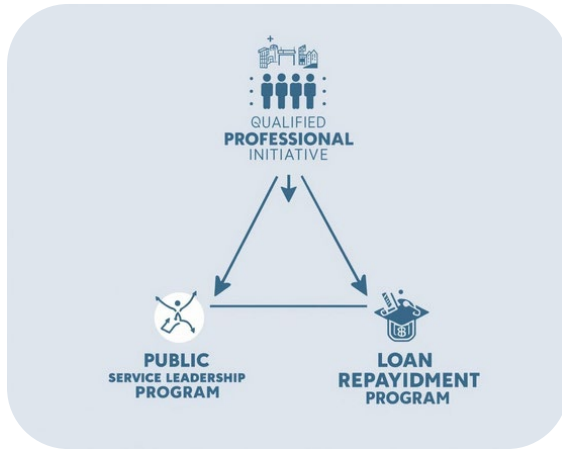
CCANTY ACCOUNTS | WE Vaners

North Carolina faces a **significant workforce crisis** in MH/SUD/IDD/TBI care, with 40% of residents living in areas lacking adequate care.

22 counties have no psychiatrists, and 68 lack child and adolescent specialists.

9

Framework for Licensed / Unlicensed Professional Development



Qualified Professionals

Expand entry into the MH/SU/IDD/TBI workforce.

New Law Passed: Associate Degree in Human Services + 2 years QP experience

Next Step: Mental Health Commission rule change in process.

Impact: Opens rural workforce pipeline by retaining locally trained graduates



Social Worker Pipeline

Develop a statewide leadership pipeline for social workers.

Full Pathway: From high school through graduate study and licensure.

Collaboration: UNC School of Social Work, NCDHHS, and 25+ colleges/universities.

Focus: Rural recruitment, public service placements, and retention.



NC Licensed Workforce Loan Repayment

Retain licensed providers in underserved areas.

Investment: \$20M fund offering up to \$50K for 3-year rural service.

Priority: Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties with highest shortages.

Goal: Keep licensed clinicians serving in high-need regions.

Qualified Professionals

Qualified Professional (QP) Initiative

Currently

North Carolina faces significant workforce shortages — 97 of 100 counties are Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas, and IDD shortages remain substantial.

The current QP requirements reflect an outdated workforce strategy.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT ACT [Session Law 2025-37](#),

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO DIRECT THE COMMISSION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO ENGAGE IN RULEMAKING TO AMEND THE STAFF DEFINITIONS FOR CERTAIN QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS.

Solution

A dedicated certification program for qualified and trained unlicensed professionals for the public system.

Facts

- Currently, there are an estimated 1500 AAS in Human Service graduates since 2022, with enrollment up nearly 10% in just the last year.
- **An AAS in Human Services typically has up to 55% more practical content than a 4-year degree.**
- AAS in Human Services offered by 41 NC Community College schools.

Implementing Session Law 2025-37 (HB 67): Next Steps for QP Pathway Activation

While Session Law 2025-37 is now in effect, **implementation across North Carolina's system is not yet feasible** due to several operational and regulatory dependencies.

Key Areas Requiring Alignment:

- **Medicaid & State-Funded Clinical Coverage Policies (CCPs):**
Must be updated to reflect the new QP definition. Until then, Medicaid providers must continue following the **existing QP criteria** to remain compliant and avoid audit risk.
- **Systems and Oversight Infrastructure:**
Updates are needed to support associate-level QPs, including:
 - Documentation and audit standards that reflect new qualifications.
 - Consistent interpretation and enforcement by **Managed Care Entities and LME/MCOs**.

What's Next

DMH/DD/SUS is working closely with:

- **DHHS General Counsel**
- **The Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services**
- **Medicaid Policy Teams**

to finalize these updates and release **formal implementation guidance** once all dependencies are resolved.

Implementation timelines and provider guidance will be shared once available.

Social Worker Pipeline

DMH/DD/SUS Partners with NC Social Work Coalition on Workforce Development

NCDHHS in partnership with UNC-CH, has begun the creation of a Public Service Leadership Program (PSLP).

- Goal One: Develop a pipeline by recruiting North Carolinians to enter the field of social work and increase awareness and knowledge of our public sector system programs
- Goal Two: Recruit, educate, and place social work students and graduates in public sector positions
- Goal Three: Create resiliency to strengthen the existing workforce so that they are retained and effectively serve populations with complex needs

In partnership with 25 schools this program is to assist in closing what is expected to be a shortage of 195,000 social workers across the US and NC.

Total Funding

\$10 M over 5 years

Timeline

Jan 2025 – Jan 2030



Loan Repayment Program

NC Mental Health/Substance Use Loan Repayment Program

Program Purpose: The recruitment and retention of additional licensed MH/SUD providers in rural, underserved areas of the State to provide MH/SUD services.

For whom? “Licensed behavioral health providers” means any of the following providers specializing in mental health or substance use, or both:

- Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialists
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors (formerly known as Licensed Professional Counselors)
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
- Licensed Psychologists
- Licensed Psychological Associates

How much? A total of \$20 million will be dedicated to them to repayment program incentives.

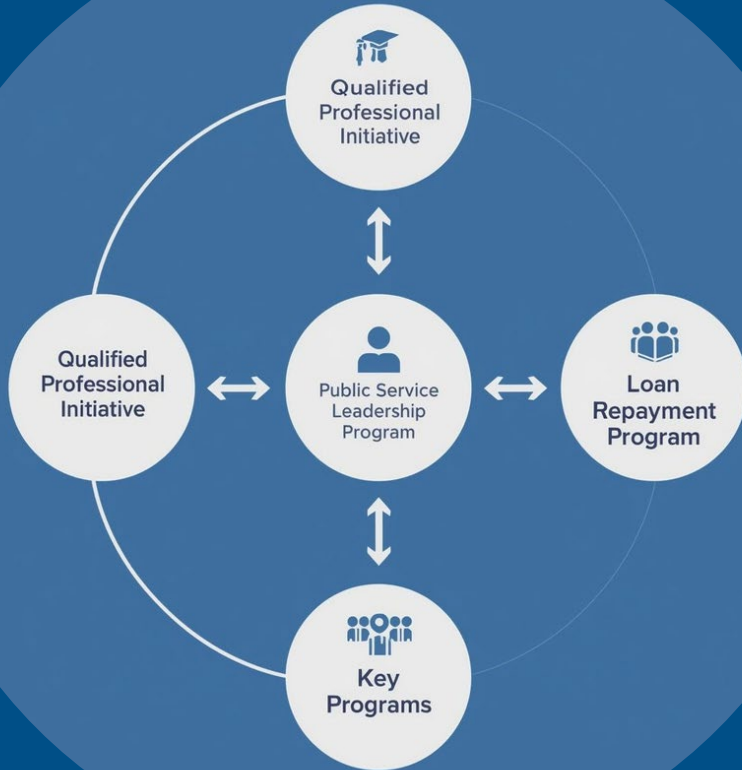
Integrated Initiatives

The initiatives work synergistically to create a **cohesive strategy**.

The **Qualified Professional Initiative** serves as the entry point, while the **Social Worker Pipeline** fosters leadership development.

Meanwhile, the **Loan Repayment Program** incentivizes retention, ensuring that skilled professionals remain in North Carolina's public service sector.

Together, they form a robust framework for addressing workforce shortages and enhancing service delivery statewide.



Panel Discussion

Saarah Waleed, MS, NCC, LCMHC, Chief Clinical Officer – SU/ Justice Involved Services



Clinical Policy and Programs

- Substance Use
- Gambling
- Justice
- Primary Prevention
- MH/SU Workforce

Elizabeth Zook, MA

Workforce Analyst, Center on the Workforce for Health



- 30+ years in the MH/IDD/SUS Field
- With DMH/DD/SUS since Aug 2025
- Project Co-Lead, CC Workforce Collaborative
- Former Community College Professor
- Former Provider/Manager of MH/DD/SUS services

Sara Reives, Reives-Houston, Ph.D., PsyD (ABD)

Assistant Dean for Workforce Development and Lead PI for Behavioral Health Springboard at the UNC School of Social Work



- 15+ years developing training on trauma, mental health, and substance use.
- Leads Behavioral Health Springboard workforce initiatives.
- Holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology; completing a PsyD in Clinical Psychology.
- Certified in child and adolescent trauma; MHFA instructor.
- Former NC Central University faculty member.

Melissa Smith, MSED, RT-R,MR,CT,CNMT

Sr. State Director of Health Science Programs, NCCCS



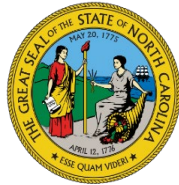
- 30+ years in Healthcare and Education
- Provides leadership and support for initiatives to advance health science education and workforce development across the state
- Product of the NC Community College System
- 2022 NC Community College System Faculty of the Year

Public Service Leadership Program (PSLP) Participant Survey



Qualtrics Survey Link

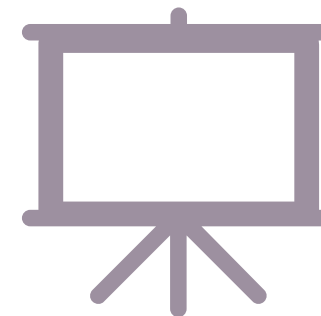
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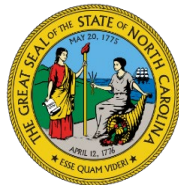
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Questions and feedback are welcome at
BHIDD.HelpCenter@dhhs.nc.gov.



The recording and presentation slides for this
webinar will be posted to the [Community
Engagement & Training](#) webpage.



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Appendix



Unlicensed MH/SUD Professionals in North Carolina

**Qualified Professional (QP) certification in partnership with the
NC Community College System**

Update QP certification in North Carolina, develop recruitment programs, and create tailored mental health training to meet workforce needs.

- The bulk of Mental Health and Substance Use “Treatment” is provided by unlicensed, uncertified individuals
- NC Administrative Code allows for “Qualified Professionals” who typically have a human service degree + years of experience to provide care
- These QPs can be supervised by a Licensed Professional
- No formal certification model exists; training, K/S/A are often lacking and training is left up to provider agencies (typically not owned/managed by clinicians)

**Poor quality care
Burnout of Licensed Professionals**

Session Law 2025-37 (HB 67) Expands QP Pathways in North Carolina

Following the passage of [Session Law 2025-37](#), North Carolina is creating clearer, more accessible career pathways for people entering the **mental health, substance use, intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), and traumatic brain injury (TBI)** workforce.

Highlights:

- Aligns with the **DMH/DD/SUS 2024-2029 Strategic Plan** priority to grow and support the unlicensed workforce.
- Expands **Qualified Professional (QP)** eligibility to include individuals with an **associate degree in human services and two years of supervised experience**.
- Builds on the strength of **41 NC Community Colleges** offering Applied Science degrees in Social and Human Services — preparing graduates for essential care roles.

MH/SU/IDD/TBI System Announcements & Updates

N O V E M B E R
NATIONAL
NATIVE
AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

North Carolina is proud to be home to the largest American Indian/Native American population east of the Mississippi River, with approximately 130,000 individuals representing eight statutorily recognized tribes and four Urban Indian Organizations.

NCDHHS actively collaborates with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) to support cultural initiatives and ensure that every individual has access to the care that they need.

National Family Caregivers Month

November is [National Family Caregivers Month](#). While family caregivers should be celebrated every day, this is a time to recognize and honor caregivers nationally, raise awareness around caregiving issues, educate communities, and work to increase support for our nation's caregivers.

DMHDDSUS supports family caregivers, and through the [Mental Health Block Grant](#)-funded Family and Caregiver Support Services reinforces our commitment to providing essential advocacy and resources for those caring for loved ones with behavioral health needs, substance use disorder, I/DD, and TBI.



NOVEMBER 11TH IS

★ ★ ★

VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

North Carolina is home to over 750,000 veterans and has the greatest number of active-duty troops on the East Coast.

Our state is also in the top 5 per capita nationally for 21st Century veteran residents.

DMHDDSUS actively supports our North Carolina Service Members, Veterans, and their families through funding community resources like:

- NCServes
- NC4Vets.org
- Veterans Services of the Carolinas (VSC)
- Veteran Restoration Quarters
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
- Veteran Support Specialist Training
- North Carolina National Guard Voucher Program



Federal Government Shutdown – Department Operations

The federal government shutdown continues, creating uncertainty for state operations and the people we serve.

- **No furloughs will occur before the end of October.** NCDHHS continues to receive expected federal funding, and most operations remain intact.
- Some federally funded programs are beginning to show strain:
 - SNAP & WIC: Benefits will continue through October; potential disruptions if shutdown extends into November.
 - LIEAP: Currently limited to households already pre-approved.
- The Department's leadership team is closely monitoring the situation and working to minimize service disruptions.
- Regular updates are available on the [NCDHHS website](#).

Message from Secretary Dev Sangvai:

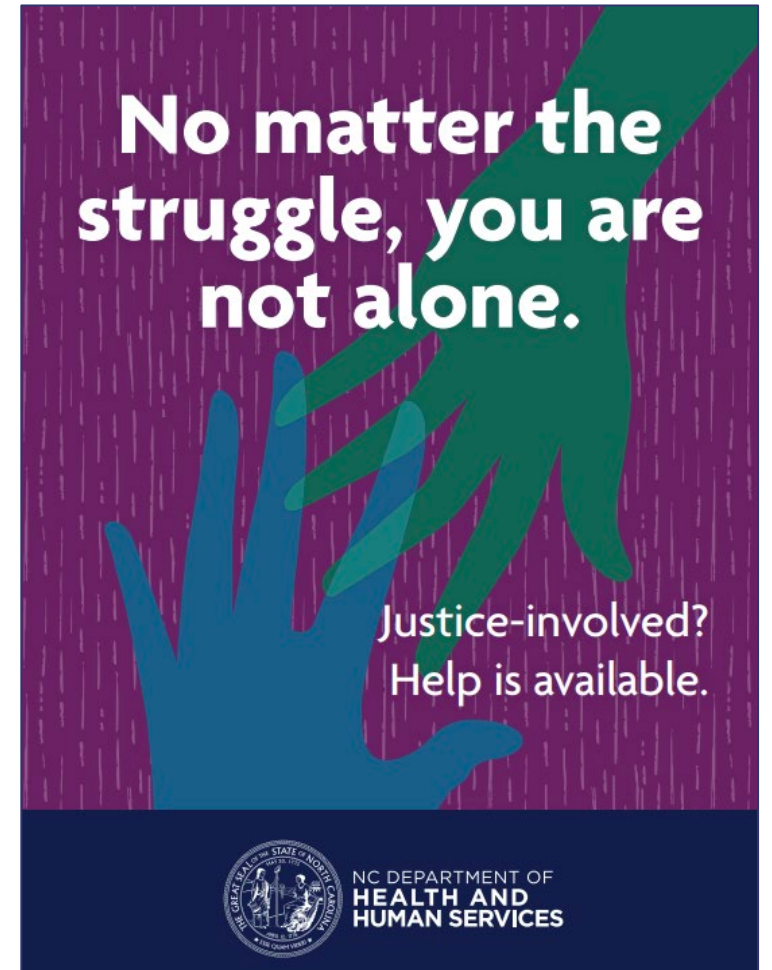
“Thank you for your continued commitment during this uncertain time. Your dedication and professionalism make a difference for the people of North Carolina every day.”

Now Available: North Carolina Justice Reentry & Recovery Pocket Guides

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is offering free **Justice Reentry & Recovery Pocket Guides** to help **law enforcement, courts, probation officers, LEAD/CIT teams, and providers** connect people leaving the justice system to care.

Each guide includes quick links to **Mental Health, Substance Use, IDD, TBI, housing, and reentry supports.**

- Orders include 150 English and up to 150 Spanish pocket guides.
- Order materials by December 17, 2025, to receive them by late December.
- https://share.hsforms.com/1rT_BV4vdQrOo-s8cpLef4w5bzii

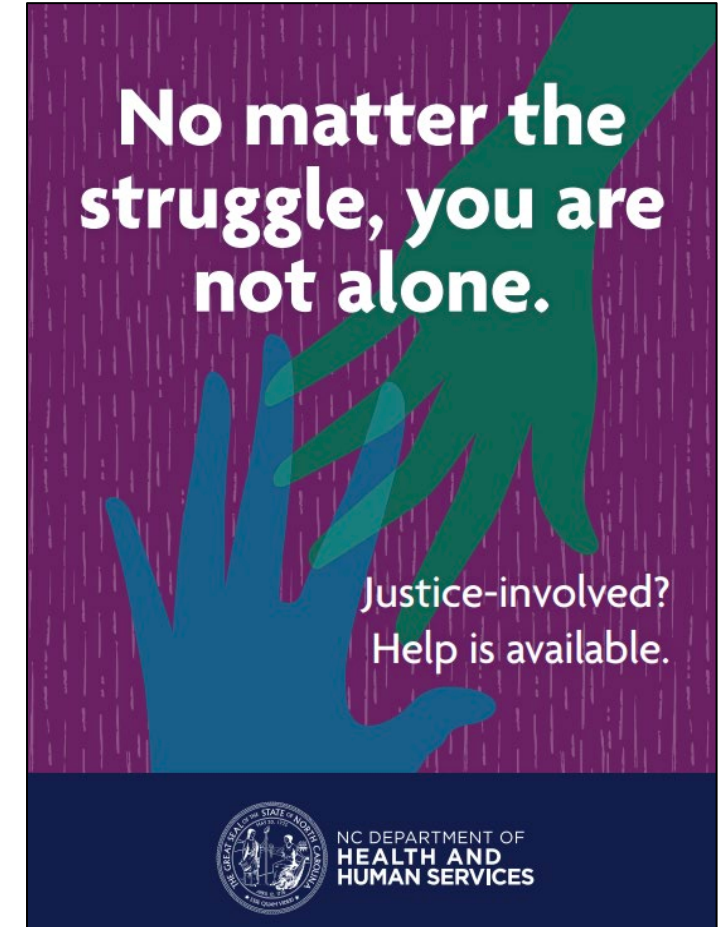


Guías de bolsillo sobre recursos en NC de reingreso y recuperación para personas involucradas en el sistema judicial

El NCDHHS está proporcionando **guías de bolsillo gratuitas sobre recursos de reingreso y recuperación para personas involucradas en el sistema judicial** para ayudar a **fuerzas del orden, tribunales, oficiales de libertad condicional, equipos LEAD/CIT y proveedores** a conectar a personas que salen del sistema judicial con servicios de atención y apoyo.

Cada guía incluye enlaces rápidos a recursos de **salud mental, uso de sustancias, discapacidad intelectual y del desarrollo (IDD), lesión cerebral traumática (TBI), vivienda y apoyo para la reintegración.**

- Ordenes incluyen 150 guías en inglés y hasta 150 guías en español
- Ordena los materiales antes del 17 de diciembre de 2025 para recibirlos a finales de diciembre y distribuir en tu comunidad
- https://share.hsforms.com/1rT_BV4vdQrOo-s8cpLef4w5bzii



Children and Families Specialty Plan Launches Dec. 1, 2025

NCDHHS is preparing to launch the **Children and Families Specialty Plan (CFSP)** — a first-of-its-kind Medicaid Managed Care health plan designed to improve the health and well-being of children and families across North Carolina.

About the Plan:

- Provides seamless, coordinated care for **Medicaid-enrolled children, youth, and young adults** currently or formerly served by child welfare.
- Ensures access to consistent care — including **mental health services** — even when families move across counties.
- Operated by **Healthy Blue Care Together (HBCT)**, with strong provider networks and trained care managers ready for launch.

What's Next:

- Beneficiary choice period and key milestones will be shared in the coming weeks.
- Learn more at the [Children and Families Specialty Plan webpage](#).

Adolescent Gambling and Gaming Series

A new online course from UNC Behavioral Health Springboard (UNC-BHS) and the NC Problem Gambling Program helps mental health professionals and youth-serving organizations address the growing risks of **gambling, gaming, and digital media use among youth**.

Key Insights:

- 15% – 20% of youth gamble regularly
- 2% – 8% show signs of problematic gambling
- Online gambling and sports betting are rapidly expanding
- Gamified platforms reinforce risky, dopamine-driven behaviors

Why it matters:

These behaviors are linked to rising rates of anxiety, depression, substance use, and suicidal ideation.

The course offers evidence-based prevention, screening, and treatment strategies—ideal for professionals in schools, juvenile justice, and community organizations.



Public Invited to Comment on Proposed Social Services Block Grant Plan

The **North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)** is seeking **public comment** on the proposed **Social Services Block Grant Plan** for the **2025–2026 fiscal year**, which outlines how **\$76 million in federal funds** will be allocated to support essential social service programs.

Programs supported include:

- Adoption and foster care
- Adult day care and protective services
- Counseling and housing support
- Residential treatment services

The [full plan](#) is available for public review on the [NCDHHS website](#).

NCDHHS & NC Universities Launch Public Service Leadership Program (PSLP)

Overview:

NCDHHS and the [NC Social Work Coalition on Workforce Development](#) — a group of **25 accredited social work programs statewide** — are partnering to launch a **five-year Public Service Leadership Program** to strengthen North Carolina's social work workforce.

Goals:

- Increase awareness of social work careers among NC students.
- Equip social work students with skills to serve families, rural, and Medicaid-eligible communities.
- Support current professionals to build resiliency and improve retention.

Details:

- Led by **UNC School of Social Work**, with applications opening **March 2026**.
- Focus on key areas: **child and family services, mental health, substance use, aging, IDD, and justice-involved populations**.
- Backed by NCDHHS leadership and Director **Kelly Crosbie**, emphasizing workforce development and community impact.

Celebrating the Contributions of People with Disabilities in the Workplace

In recognition of **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**, **NCDHHS** and the **NC Council on Developmental Disabilities** are highlighting the achievements of North Carolinians with disabilities who are thriving in meaningful, competitive employment.

Spotlight: Brittany Ellis

- Works full-time at **Johnston County Industries**, leading a **Peer Mentoring Group** for co-workers.
- Supported by **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)**, which helped her find jobs that match her strengths.
- Advocates for inclusion through [Inclusion Works](#), which promotes equitable access to employment.
- Shares her message: *“Everyone has their own talents and gifts—it’s important for everyone to contribute their abilities.”*

Learn more: [Read the full story on the NCDHHS blog](#)



North Carolina Expands Access to Integrated Care

AdvaNCe Health Together: A New CCBHC Learning Community

DMH/DD/SUS, in partnership with **Trillium Health Resources** and **OPEN MINDS**, has launched the **AdvaNCe Health Together Learning Community** — an initiative to expand access to integrated mental health, substance use, and physical health care statewide.

What it means for NC:

- Supports the **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)** model
- Advances goals in the [2024–2029 Strategic Plan](#)
- Provides training, technical assistance, and peer collaboration
- Builds readiness for statewide **CCBHC certification**

Current CCBHCs:

Anuvia · B&D Integrated Health · Coastal Horizons · MAHEC · SouthLight

Learn more: [NCDHHS CCBHC webpage](#)

Join a Brain Injury Advisory Council Subcommittee

The **Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC)** is seeking passionate individuals to join one or more subcommittees and help improve services and supports for people with brain injuries across North Carolina.

Why Participate:

- Shape policy and guide service delivery statewide.
- Elevate the voices of individuals with lived experience.
- Collaborate with providers, advocates, and community members.
- You do **not** need to be a BIAC member to serve.

Get Involved:

Complete this brief [Interest Form](#) to join a subcommittee and make a difference.

Inclusion Connects Releases Quarterly Report Expanding Access for People with I/DD

As part of NCDHHS' ongoing commitment to improving services for individuals with **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)**, the **Inclusion Connects Program** has released its **fourth quarterly report**.

Report Highlights:

- Expanded access to community-based services and supports.
- Improved data collection to better understand service gaps.
- Strengthened partnerships with providers, families, and advisory committees.
- Continued focus on promoting inclusion, equity, and competitive integrated employment for individuals with I/DD.

Learn more: Read the full report on the Inclusion Connects webpage.



New Pathway to Strengthen NC's MH, SU, I/DD & TBI Workforce

Building a Stronger Workforce for North Carolina

Overview

Following the passage of *Session Law 2025-37 (HB 67)*, North Carolina is expanding its Mental Health, Substance Use, I/DD, and TBI workforce through new community college pathways — a key goal of the DMH/DD/SUS 2024–2029 Strategic Plan.

Key Highlights

- Creates a **clear career pathway** for unlicensed professionals statewide.
- Updates qualifications for **Associate and Qualified Professionals (QPs)** — now allowing those with an **AAS in Human Services + 2 years of supervised experience** to qualify.
- **41 NC community colleges** offer programs that train students in crisis intervention, counseling, and ethics.
- The **NC Mental Health Commission** must finalize rulemaking before the new qualifications take effect.
- DMH/DD/SUS is developing **tools, resources, and engagement events** to support providers and colleges.

NCDHHS and CHESS Health Launch Free Resource for Veterans

Supporting Mental Health and Recovery Through the Connections App

NCDHHS, CHESS Health, and Diamond Mind, LLC have launched a new initiative to provide **veteran-focused mental health and recovery support** through the **Connections: Recovery Support App** — a free, 24/7 digital tool that connects users to trained peers, moderated communities, and daily recovery check-ins.

Highlights:

- Designed for **North Carolina's 615,000 veterans**, offering culturally relevant, strengths-based support.
- Features **veteran-specific peer huddles** and **provider trainings** on culturally competent care.
- Part of NCDHHS' ongoing work to build **accessible, veteran-centered behavioral health systems**.
- App available **in English and Spanish** to all North Carolinians.

Download the Connections App to join or learn more: [CHESS Health Website](#)

NCDHHS Expands Access to Mental Health Care

New Behavioral Health Urgent Care Opens in Pitt County

NCDHHS, Trillium Health Resources, and Integrated Family Services celebrated the opening of a new **Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC)** in **Pitt County** on **October 27**, marking the **seventh BHUC** launched in the past 18 months.

Highlights:

- Provides **24/7 mental health and substance use crisis care** for children and adults.
- Part of **\$13.5 million investment** to open crisis centers in **Lenoir, New Hanover, and Pitt counties**.
- Aims to **divert individuals from emergency departments** by offering immediate, compassionate, and specialized crisis support.
- Reflects NCDHHS' ongoing commitment to a system where there is **someone to contact, someone to respond, and a safe place to go**.

Team DMH/DD/SUS Supports Fort Bragg Suicide Prevention Run

Team DMH/DD/SUS participated in the **Fort Bragg Annual Suicide Prevention Run/Walk** on Sept. 26, engaging with over **2,000 service members and families**.

- Theme: *“Unite Together in an Unbreakable Bond as a Community”*
- Shared key resources: **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**, **Peer Warmline**, and **Veteran-specific supports**
- Staff: **Kayreen Gucciardo**, **Pamela Rodriguez**, and **Savannah Simpson**
- Distributed educational materials and stress-relief giveaways

This annual event underscores the power of **connection**, **community**, and **hope** in preventing suicide.



DMH/DD/SUS Fireside Chat Replay: How Inclusion Connects is Making a Difference

Catch the replay of our recent conversation on how **Inclusion Connects** is improving access, expanding services, and supporting individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities across North Carolina.

Speakers:

- **Kelly Crosbie**, Division Director, DMH/DD/SUS (Facilitator)
- **Ginger Yarbrough**, Chief Clinical Officer – IDD, TBI & Olmstead
- **Tina Barrett**, Assistant Director – IDD

Watch as Ginger and Tina answer audience questions and share insights on current progress and future priorities for the Inclusion Connects initiative.



Watch the Chat:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tsi3jccWWnQ>



North Carolina Celebrates 80 Years of National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Governor **Josh Stein**, **NCDHHS**, and the **NC Council on Developmental Disabilities** hosted a celebration at the Executive Mansion to mark **NDEAM** and honor the contributions of workers with disabilities.

Highlights:

- Governor Stein signed the NDEAM proclamation in **English and Braille**.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation Program** supports 25,000+ North Carolinians annually.
- Initiatives like **Inclusion Works**, **Project Spark**, and **Bridge to Success** expand access to meaningful, competitive jobs.
- In 2024, **4,000 individuals** achieved competitive integrated employment.

Learn more: [Inclusion Works](#)

To learn more about employees and their work experiences in North Carolina, please read our [National Disability Employment Month blog post](#).



DMH/DD/SUS Promotes Mental Health Resources at El Futuro's Kermes Cultural Event

Event Overview:

On September 28, the DMH/DD/SUS team joined [El Futuro's Kermes cultural celebration](#) in support of the Hispanic/Latino community's mental health and wellness. The event welcomed **1,000+ attendees** with live music, traditional food, and community engagement.

Our Impact:

- Distributed **Peer Warmline bags** with [information on the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) and other services.
- Reached families and individuals who may face barriers to care.
- Strengthened connections in a **culturally affirming, community-centered environment**.



North Carolina Recognized at National AATOD Conference

North Carolina was recognized as a national leader in opioid treatment collaboration at the **American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD)** Conference, held October 8 in Philadelphia.

Highlights:

- Anna Stanley, NC State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) Administrator, presented on NC's **innovative approach to expanding access to MOUD**, including methadone availability in all 100 counties.
- Shared success of **weekly engagement meetings** between SOTA and Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs), which have strengthened provider and community collaboration.
- Recognition reflects NC's commitment to improving access, coordination, and outcomes in opioid treatment — a key priority of the **DMH/DD/SUS Five-Year Strategic Plan**.



North Carolina Shares Substance Use Updates at Fall Conference

At the Governor's Institute Fall Addiction Medicine Conference, DMH/DD/SUS Director Kelly Crosbie shared key updates, including:

- \$6 million in new funding for community-based services. [Download the RFA](#)
- Support for youth with opioid use disorders
- Launch of the [Unshame NC](#) stigma-reduction campaign
- Expanded access to medication treatment, primary care support, and mobile opioid treatment programs
- 97 opioid treatment programs now operating in 54 counties

These efforts reflect North Carolina's commitment to accessible, evidence-based care. The [Governor's Institute](#) is committed to developing and supporting a workforce that is better equipped to meet the needs of patients with SUD, by offering training and technical assistance that ensures clinicians have the knowledge and skills to provide high-quality, science-based services.

North Carolina Champions Integrated Care at National Conference

DMH/DD/SUS Director Kelly Crosbie welcomed over 900 attendees to the [Collaborative Family Healthcare Association](#) (CFHA) [Integrated Care Conference](#) on October 16 in Raleigh, NC. A slate of panelists and over 900 attendees explored innovative ways to expand access to whole-person care.

Director Crosbie underscored North Carolina's commitment through:

- [Collaborative Care Model](#): Embedding mental health in primary care.
- [NC-PAL](#): Connects primary care providers to mental health consultation and resources in real time.
- [CCBHCs](#): 24/7 mental health and substance use services integrated with primary care.

These efforts reflect the state's commitment to building responsive, person-centered care systems as outlined in the DMH/DD/SUS [five-year strategic plan](#).