

OPSA Meeting

9/30/25

Welcome /Roll Call/Opening Remarks – Deb Goda

DB 101 Presentation - Lisa Oakley and Joe Houck, EIPD

Disability Benefits 101 (DB 101) is an online resource designed to help people with disabilities, their families and guardians, disability service providers, and other disability advocates better understand how work and benefits can go together. The disability benefits software was launched on 5/5/2025. We hope that DB101 is going to be a great tool for everyone because it's user friendly and helps get rid of all the myths and confusion about Social Security benefits, healthcare, employment and more.

The website is <https://nc.db101.org/> and is located on the NCDHHS EIPD homepage <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/eipd>

Olmstead Quarterly Report - Rebecca Boss, TAC

- The report for April 1,2025- June 30,2025 focused on priority area 2 (enhancing opportunities for community inclusive living).
- Money Follows the Person and Kinship care progress noted.
- Funding for crisis facilities expanded.
- A new behavioral health urgent care (BHUC) opened this quarter in Pitt County. The facility will open its doors to clients on Monday, Oct. 27.
- There was an increase in funding for peer respite.
- New forensic assertive community treatment (FACT) has been started.

Advanced Direct Support Professional Certification - Tina Barrett, DMH/DD/SUS

The OPSA spotlight for September is on the Advanced training certificate. DMH/DD/SUS has partnered with the community college system to launch programs at Stanley, Asheville Buncombe (AB Tech), and Forsyth Technical. Classes have already started and have waitlists. These are currently being offered free of charge.

Public Comment

Talley Wells raised concern about the cuts to Medicaid

Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Made by Deb Goda

In attendance (as noted in meeting chat)

Tamara Smith- NCDHHS, OOS/DMHDDSUS (by phone)
Deb Goda, NCDHHS, OOS
Patricia Sikes, NCDHHS, Division of the Services for the Blind (DSB)
Debra Farrington- NCDHHS
Lisa Oakley -NCDHHS, EIPD
Janie Shivar– NCDHHS, OOS
Tina Barrett, NCDHHS, DMH/DD/SUS
Cynthia Speight, NCDHHS, DSB
Jessica Frisina- NCDHHS, Division of Social Service (DSS)
Neal McHenry-NCDHHS, Office of General Counsel (OGC)
Talley Wells- North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)
Julie Bloomingdale- NCDHHS, EIPD
Rebecca Boss-TAC
Megan Lee-TAC
Amber Costello- NCDHHS, DMHDDSUS
Jenny Hobbs- NC Child
Corye Dunn- Disability Rights of NC, (DRNC)
Jeff Stevens – NCDHHS, EIPD
Charlie Hittinger – NCDHHS, DSB
Gwen Thompson- Mathematica
Ben Fischer- Mathematica
Wilson Raynor- NC Providers Council
Sarah Potter- Parent Advocate, Meet the Need
Jean Anderson- State CFAC
Sarah Tomlinson - NCDHHS, Division of Health Benefits (DHB)
Matt Potter NC Empowerment Network
Anne Odusanya – NCDHHS, DPH
Terri Pennington - DHB
Pam Scott-NCDHHS, OGC
Kathleen Gibson- Oxford House Inc.
Betty Vines- NCDHHS, DMHDDSUS
Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke- NCDHHS, EIPD
Karen Feasel- NCDHHS, DMHDDSUS