

# North Carolina Essentials for Childhood

## April 2017 Update

North Carolina Essentials for Childhood is a statewide collaborative initiative to prevent child maltreatment and promote child and family well-being. Using the principles of collective impact, the Essentials for Childhood leadership and working groups are working to implement the [recommendations](#) of the 2014 NCIOM Task Force on Essentials for Childhood. More information about the project can be found [here](#).

### April: Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#), and many of our partners have been working to raise awareness of child maltreatment, opportunities for prevention, and stories of stakeholder impact on children and families.

By raising awareness and sharing information about the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect, Prevent Child Abuse NC is changing the conversation to focus on prevention strategies and resources to protect children, strengthen families, and connect local service providers with decision makers and the general public. Harnessing the collective power of community organizations, schools, local officials, law enforcement, businesses, and families is essential to ensuring child safety. Many cases of child abuse and neglect are preventable when everybody is working together at both the state and local levels. We know what is predictable is preventable! [Click here](#) to learn more and for additional prevention resources.

On April 4, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, planted their own Pinwheels for Prevention Garden. Joined by Secretary Mandy Cohen and North Carolina First Lady Kristin Cooper, the Department planted several hundred Pinwheels outside their Raleigh office to bring awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month.

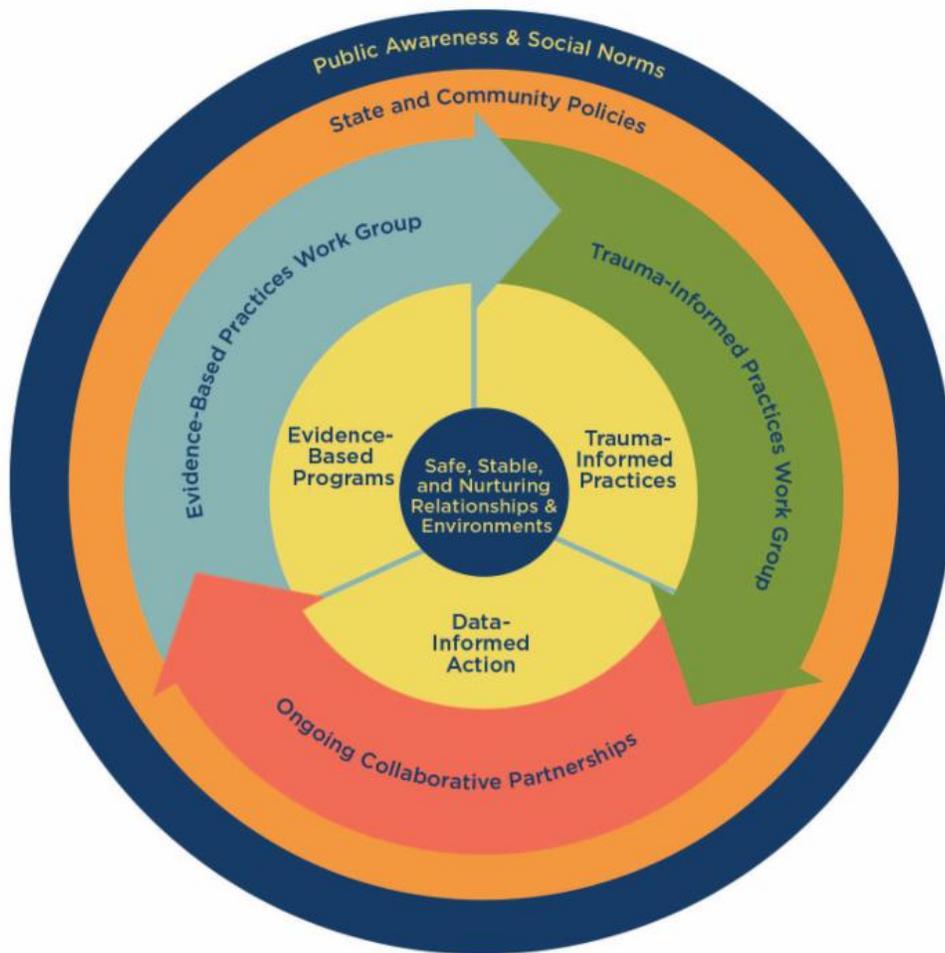




## *Strategic Planning & Backbone Activities Update*

NCIOM backbone staff have been working with the Steering Committee and work groups to refine the vision, mission, and key goals of the Essentials for Childhood collective impact initiative and to develop actionable and achievable strategies for 2017.

# NC ESSENTIALS FOR CHILDHOOD Conceptual Model



*Vision:* Children, youth, and families thrive in safe, stable, nurturing, and healthy relationships and environments and are able to reach their full potential within their community.

*Mission:* Promote child and family well-being in North Carolina by implementing the collective statewide strategic plan for preventing child maltreatment and securing child and family well-being developed by the 2014 Essentials for Childhood Task Force.

## Key Goals:

- Raise awareness and commitment to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments and prevent child maltreatment.
- Create the context for healthy children and families through evidence-based, trauma-informed programs and policies.
- Use data to inform action.
- Support improved agency coordination and across-state alignment.

## CDC Reverse Site Visit

Michelle Ries, Anne Foglia, Adam Zlotor (NCIOM), Catherine Joyner (Division of Public Health), Kristin O'Connor (Division of Social Services), and Meghan Shanahan (UNC), will be attending the Essentials for Childhood Reverse Site Visit, hosted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on May 16-18. The reverse site visit brings together representatives from Essentials for Childhood collective impact initiatives in several states and provides opportunities for participants to discuss their successes and challenges with the implementation of the Essentials for Childhood collective impact framework. Session topics include: Essentials for Childhood Framework as related to CDC's Strategic Direction and Implementation of the Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Technical Package, Messaging and Framing Next Steps, and Potential and Challenges of Collective Impact at a Statewide Level.

# Work Group Updates

## Evidence-based Programs Work Group

Co-chairs: Jeff Quinn (Director of Community Resources, Durham Connects, Duke Center for Child and Family Policy) & Tony Troop (Program Manager, Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, Division of Public Health, Children & Youth Branch, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services)

The Evidence-based Work Group is working to increase support for aligning evaluation and RFP processes across agencies and organizations, starting with a home visiting program pilot project.

The work group is currently focusing on the following activities:

- (1) identifying home visiting evidence-based programs currently being implemented by state and private agencies, the sources of funding, and evaluation requirements;
- (2) assessing organizational capacity for implementation and lessons learned from previous efforts including the Race to the Top transformation zones; and
- (3) identifying opportunities for funders and programs to improve communication and cross-learning about best practices in implementation, evaluation, and sustainability

## Trauma-Informed Practices Work Group

NCIOM backbone staff have confirmed George (Tripp) Ake, PhD, (Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University Medical Center and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry in the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine) to serve as chair of the newly-launched work group on Trauma-Informed Practices. In early brainstorming and planning meetings, we have identified early care and education and public schools as the focus areas of this group, and are currently working on identifying ways that Essentials for Childhood can support current school initiatives in helping systems become trauma-informed. The work group will convene a series of meetings this fall.

Please visit our [website](#) for additional information about the work groups' mission, vision, and key strategies.

# Partner Updates

## PCANC Learning & Leadership Summit

On March 8 and 9, Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina held their 2017 Learning and Leadership Summit, bringing together stakeholders from across the state to discuss best practices, challenges, and new research about children and families, behavioral health, and approaches to child abuse prevention. Additional summit highlights included:

- Legislative Leadership Award given to Representative Craig Horn (R-Union) and Senator Tommy Tucker (R-District 35). Rep. Horn served on the NCIOM Task Force on Essentials for Childhood in 2014-15 and serves on the Child Fatality Task Force. Congratulations to Rep. Horn and Senator Tucker and thank you for your ongoing work on behalf of NC children and families!
- Our own Essentials for Childhood director Catherine Joyner (Executive Director, Child Maltreatment Prevention Leadership Team and Essentials for Childhood, Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health Section, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services) received the Donna Stone award. This award honors Joyner's many contributions to ensuring safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for North

Carolina's children and families and her career in preventing child maltreatment. Congratulations, Catherine!

- PCANC also presented Ms. Sam Bowman Fuhrmann with the 2017 Parent Leadership Award. This award honors Ms. Bowman Fuhrmann's tireless efforts in family advocacy, parent representation, and mentorship. Congratulations!
- Keynote speaker James Redford spoke about his experience making, "Resilience," a documentary about the biology of stress and the science of hope and the impact of the film on raising awareness of trauma and adverse childhood experiences. Watch the film trailer here: <http://kprfilms.co/resilience/> Prevent Child Abuse NC owns a copy of the film and is scheduling screenings and panel discussions across the state. If you'd like to host a screening and panel discussion, please contact Suzanne Metcalf at [smetcalf@preventchildabusenc.org](mailto:smetcalf@preventchildabusenc.org).



## Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Partners Endorse Recommended Areas for Moving to Action

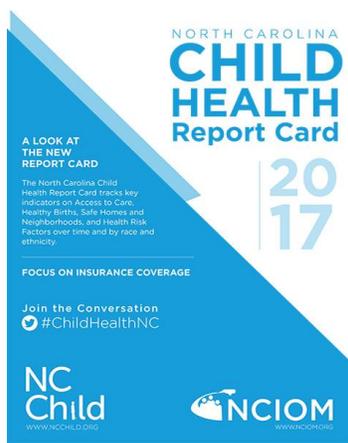
On March 10, more than 120 stakeholders kicked off phase 3 of the Pathways work. Pathways is an initiative of the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation, in collaboration with NC Child, The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., and BEST NC. Background on the Pathways initiative and the first two work phases is available [here](#). Stakeholders identified strategies for action on the following priority measures:

- Healthy Birthweight
- Early Intervention
- Social-Emotional Health
- Positive Parent-Child Interactions
- Formal and Informal Family Supports
- High Quality Birth to Eight Learning Environments
- Regular School Attendance

NCECF is now developing teams to support policy, practice, program and capacity-building agendas to improve early literacy outcomes.

*Get Parent Survey Data to Inform Your Work!* To help inform the strategy work, NCECF has worked with EdNC to create and distribute a [parent survey](#). Please consider sharing with your parent networks. Partners who distribute the survey can receive survey results. For more information, contact Mandy Ableidinger ([mableidinger@buildthefoundation.org](mailto:mableidinger@buildthefoundation.org)) at NCECF. Thanks for helping to move the Pathways work forward to ensure that more of our children are reading on grade level by the end of third grade!

## NCIOM & NC Child Publish 2017 Child Health Report Card



North Carolina's latest child health report card gives the state an 'A' in children's health insurance for achieving a record high coverage rate of 96%. However, the state received its only 'F' in child poverty for failing to address this serious public health epidemic and its deep racial and ethnic inequities.

The [North Carolina Child Health Report Card](#), issued annually by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) and NC Child, tracks key indicators of child health in four areas: Healthy Births, Access to Care, Safe Homes and Neighborhoods, and Health Risk Factors. The report provides data on such health concerns and risk factors as asthma, teen births, infant mortality, poverty, and child deaths.

## Center for Child & Family Health

The [Center for Child & Family Health](#) continues to support implementation of evidence-based programs, treatment for childhood trauma, and prevention of child maltreatment through a number of programs. Anyone who would like to learn more about the Center for Child & Family Health is invited to join one of the "Intro to CCFH" sessions. The upcoming schedule and more info is at <http://www.ccfhnc.org/intro/>.

## Policy Updates

### School Mental Health Policy

The State Board of Education approved the [School Mental Health Policy](#) on April 6, 2017.

### House Bill 741 (S.B. 311): DHHS Study/Maternal and Neonatal Care

Filed on April 11 and sponsored by Representatives Murphy, Boswell, Adcock, and Cunningham, [HB741](#) directs the Department of Health and Human Services to study issues around maternal and neonatal care. Topics of analysis should include access to high quality care, complexity of care, referral/transportation to different providers of care, disparities in access, and service gaps. DHHS would also develop recommendations for action steps to ensure high quality prenatal, maternity, and newborn care.

### House Bill 280: Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act

Filed on March 8, 2017 by Representatives McGrady, Lewis, Hall, and Martin, [HB280](#) proposes (1) increasing the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include 16 and 17 year olds (with the exception of certain felonies); (2) increasing the information available on juveniles to law enforcement and for court proceedings; (3) authorizing school-justice partnerships to reduce referrals to the juvenile court system; (4) requiring juvenile justice training for law enforcement officers; and (5) establishing a juvenile jurisdiction advisory committee.

### Senate Bill 594 (H.B. 608): Family/Child Protection & Accountability Act

Filed on April 4, 2017 by Senators Barringer, Harrington, and Tucker, [SB594](#) proposes (1) the development of a plan for regional organization, administration, and governance of the social services system in North Carolina; (2) third-party evaluation of the State's child welfare system and oversight of child welfare reform implementation; (3) guidelines for when and how the State will enter into joint corrective action plans with local DSS; and (4) the development of a child well-being transformation council.

## Contact

**Michelle Ries, Project Director**  
630 Davis Drive, Suite 100, Morrisville, NC  
[michelle\\_ries@nciom.org](mailto:michelle_ries@nciom.org)  
919.445.6153

## North Carolina Essentials for Childhood:

Ensuring a coordinated,  
comprehensive system to

## Stay Connected



#Essentialsforchildhood  
@NCIOM

support child and family  
well-being in North  
Carolina.

