

# North Carolina Essentials for Childhood

## August 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](#).

## Trauma, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Opiate Use

One of the priority recommendations from the Task Force on Essentials for Childhood was to integrate awareness of trauma, brain development, and trauma-informed practices into ongoing health and social initiatives. The Essentials for Childhood team has identified working with existing initiatives and stakeholders involved in addressing the impact of opiate use and overdose in our state as a priority for aligning work on childhood trauma as a means of opiate use prevention.

Recent research has shown a link between trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and opioid addiction; while an estimated 75% of individuals with substance use disorders have experienced trauma, rates are even higher for individuals seeking treatment for opioid addiction. A 2016 study showed that people reporting five or more ACEs with three times more likely to misuse prescription opiates, and five times more likely to use injected drugs.[1] Trauma-informed approaches to both prevent exposure to ACEs and help individuals with substance use disorders have shown to be effective and cost-saving.

As the Essentials for Childhood team examines the links between trauma, adverse childhood experiences, and opiate use, we would like to learn more from our partners about work in our state on integrating trauma-informed approaches and the prevention of childhood trauma into the state response to opiate use.

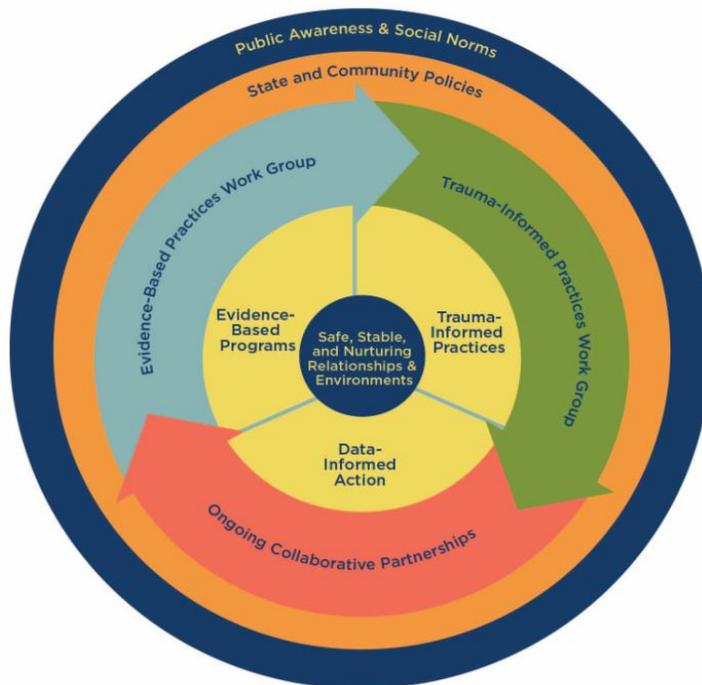
Please share your comments or additional resources [here](#). We will use partner/stakeholder comments to develop strategies to align the Essentials for Childhood vision of safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children and families with existing initiatives.

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[1] Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice, Trauma-Informed Approaches Need to be Part of a Comprehensive Strategy for Addressing the Opioid Epidemic. June 2017. [http://www.acesconnection.com/fileSendAction/fcType/0/fcOid/468137553024138668/filePointer/468278290830069822/fodoid/468278290830069817/CTIPP\\_OPB\\_final-corrected.pdf](http://www.acesconnection.com/fileSendAction/fcType/0/fcOid/468137553024138668/filePointer/468278290830069822/fodoid/468278290830069817/CTIPP_OPB_final-corrected.pdf)

# Strategic Planning & Backbone Activities Update

## 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 Zolotor (NCIOM), Catherine Joyner (Division of Public Health), Kristin O'Connor (Division of Social Services), and Meghan Shanahan (UNC), attended 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 included: 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.

The NCIOM team and steering committee members continue to work with our CDC team to assess ongoing strengths and weaknesses of this collective impact initiative. We have participated in webinars on child/family services messaging, collective impact governance and infrastructure, and have received technical assistance from the CDC, as well as feedback and shared learnings from other Essentials funded states.

## Work Group Updates and Additional Activities

### Children's Cabinet: Facilitated Discussion

On July 28, NCIOM convened a group of over 30 stakeholders to discuss potential models and strategies for the development of a state-level leadership body to lead policy decisions for child and family serving agencies and organizations. The goal of this meeting was to develop a shared understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of such a body, a shared vision for the optimal structure for North Carolina, and consensus on next steps of the discussion. Stakeholders, including representatives from state agencies, philanthropic partners, advocacy organizations, and family/youth representatives, reviewed models from other states, participated in an environmental scan to identify existing groups with similar or overlapping goals, and identified challenges in the state that may necessitate a cross-system leadership body. Participants discussed potential benefits, roles, structure, and charge of a statewide leadership body.

The Child Well-Being Transformation Council (established by S.L. 2017-41 / H630) was discussed as a starting point for development. In the course of this discussion, participants raised several concerns and suggested considerations for strengthening the Council and clarifying its scope and goals.

The following considerations summarize common themes that emerged as opportunities to build upon the Child Well-Being Transformation Council's vision to promote child and family well-being across the state:

- Common mission and vision
- Defined scope of work and flexible action plan
- Diversity of membership
- Process for involving local communities
- Dedicated staff
- Relationship with existing initiatives
- Cross-system data-sharing
- Aligning public and private funding

### 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 Programs 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 assisting the Department of Health and Human Services with the development of a plan to implement Medicaid coverage for home visiting programs for pregnant

women and families with young children (NCGA SB429 2017).

## Trauma-Informed Practices Work Group

Chair: 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

In our planning and strategy-setting for this work, we have decided to focus the group's work on trauma-informed schools and initiatives to support learning about trauma and its impact on children and development within school and early care and education settings. The basic goals of the group are: 1) sharing innovative practices; 2) reaching consensus on language about trauma; 3) producing a comprehensive literature review to inform the conversation; 4) determining next steps for dissemination and development of evaluation process for trauma-informed practices in school and early care and education settings.

We have identified and invited approximately 30 individuals from schools, administration/state agencies, philanthropy, and other related fields to participate in the work group, and will be convening this fall. Work group meeting dates are:

October 5, 1 pm to 3 pm

November 9, 1 pm to 3 pm

## Pathways Data Advisory Council

NCIOM and Essentials for Childhood partners have been involved with the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation's Pathways to Grade-Level Reading initiative since its inception. Last spring, NCECF released Pathways' "Measures of Success." NCIOM will be continuing work with NCECF on a Data Advisory Council, in order to further develop the measures identified by the Pathways' work to date and identify data development priorities and strategies for North Carolina.

More on NCECF and Pathways to Grade Level Reading here: <http://buildthefoundation.org/pathways/> (additional information in Partner Updates below)

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

## Partner Updates

### Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

PCANC has been continuing to work to bring attention to adverse childhood experiences, and the importance of early childhood interventions. Recent media includes a [WRAL interview](#) with First Lady Kristin Cooper and a [featured piece](#) by the WRAL health team on ACES, prevention, and long-term health.

PCANC owns a copy of "Resilience" and is scheduling screenings and panel discussions across the state. Watch the film trailer here: <http://kplrjfilms.co/resilience/> 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 Design Teams Kick Off Next Phase of Pathways Work

On June 21, 64 participants attended the first of five meetings of the Pathways Design Teams at RTI International. The Design Teams are the third phase of the Pathways work and are focused on identifying strategies for action to impact the areas prioritized by the Pathways Partners: Children's Social-Emotional Health, High Quality Birth-through-age-Eight Care and Education, and Regular School Attendance.

Background on the Pathways Initiative is available [here](#), a fact sheet is available [here](#), and a report on the research behind the work is available [here](#).

Design Team members represent government agencies, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, foundations, and research institutions. Expertise spans health, family support, community engagement, early learning environments, and K-12 education. Click [here](#) for more information about the Design Teams, including the co-chairs.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Create shared understanding of the Design Team process and goals
- Begin to sketch out system condition scans for each work group
- Build momentum for change
- Identify additional information needed and who will provide it
- Begin to build trust to support open dialogue on equity



A meeting summary report detailing the process and outcomes of the first Design Team meeting is available [here](#).

*Pathways Parent Survey Now Available in Spanish and English*

To help inform the strategy work, NCECF has worked with EdNC to create and distribute a parent survey, now available in Spanish and English. If you

have parent networks, please consider sending out the survey or including it in your next newsletter or post: <https://www.ednc.org/reach-nc-poll/early-childhood-parent-questions/>

Thanks for helping to gather critical parent and family input to help ensure that more of our children are reading on grade level by the end of third grade!

For more information, contact Mandy Ableidinger ([mableidinger@buildthefoundation.org](mailto:mableidinger@buildthefoundation.org)) at NCECF.

## Supporting Families with Child Care Needs

High-quality child care aids in preventing child abuse and neglect by reducing parental stress and isolation. Finding and affording quality child care can be an enormous struggle, but there are resources available to support families in their child care journey. Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies offer free education and referral services to families looking for child care and child care assistance. CCR&R agencies can provide information about child care options, child care regulation and licensing, indicators of high quality child care and financial assistance options available to make child care more affordable. Trained staff are available to counsel families and provide tailored referrals to child care facilities that meet the particular needs of individual families.

For assistance with child care needs, find the CCR&R agency serving your community, [here](#).

## 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

On June 19, the General Assembly released [The Joint Conference Committee Report on the Base, Capital, and Expansion Budget](#) (SB 257). The NCIOM Essentials for Childhood team has identified the following additional budget items as related to the goals and recommendations of Essentials for Childhood:

### Department of Public Instruction

Early Childhood Education (p. F14): Provides funds, and 2 positions, to support the newly created B-3 Inter-Agency Council to focus on the developmental and educational needs of children from birth to age 8. The revised net appropriation for fund code 1400 is \$7.5 million in each year of the biennium.

### Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Central Management and Support (p. G9):  
NC FAST: Child Welfare and Other Development Provides funding for continued system development including implementing the Child Services project, a child welfare case management system, and a Medicaid Self-Service and Enterprise Program Integrity project to address federal requirements and implement new program integrity functionality. The revised net appropriation for NC FAST Child Welfare and other development projects is \$8.9 million in FY 2017-18 and \$11.1 million in FY 2018-19.

NC FAST Operations and Maintenance: Provides funding for the ongoing operation and maintenance of NC FAST including funding for several projects that are moving from the development phase to full implementation including Child Care Subsidy and energy programs, Child Services, and Medicaid Self Services and Enterprise Program Integrity. The revised net appropriation from all actions in this report for Fund 1122, DIRM - Information System Services, is \$28.2 million in FY 2017-18 and \$33.8 million in FY 2018-19.

Division of Child Development and Early Education (p.G27-31):

NC Pre-K Waitlist Reduction: Reduces the NC Pre-K waitlist providing a total of \$9 million in FY 2017-18 and \$18.3 million in FY 2018-19, with \$6 million in FY 2017-18 and \$12.2 million in FY 2018-19 coming from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF). Increased funding will serve an estimated additional 1,725 children in FY 2017-18 and 3,525 children in FY 2018-19.

Child Care Subsidy Market Rate Increase: Provides additional TANF block grant funds and adjusts Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Block Grant funds for an increase of \$13 million in FY 2017-18 and \$17 million in FY 2018- 19 in block grant funding. The revised net appropriation for Fund 1380, Subsidized Child Care, from all actions in this report is \$52.6 million in FY 2017-18 and \$56 million in FY 2018-19.

Child Care Quality Improvement: Provides CCDF Block Grant funding of \$913,972 to establish 12 FTE. The revised net appropriation remains unchanged at \$0 for Fund 1151, Child Care Regulation, at \$38,697 for Fund 1161, Child Care Capacity Building, and \$52.6 million in FY 2017-18 and \$56 million in FYS 2018-19 for Fund 1380, Subsidized Child Care.

Division of Social Services (p. G38):

Child Welfare Program Improvement Plan: Provides additional resources to implement the Program Improvement Plan as a result of the recent Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The plan will establish professional development opportunities and ongoing training on specific child welfare issues. The revised net appropriation for the Child Welfare Program Improvement Plan is \$8.9 million in FY 2017-18 and \$9.6 million

Division of Public Health (p. G50):

Nurse Family Partnership Program: Provides funds to expand Nurse Family Partnership Program home visiting services. The revised net appropriation for the Nurse Family Partnership Program is \$3.7 million in each year of the biennium.

In addition, the Department is tasked with developing a plan to implement changes necessary to provide Medicaid and NC Health Choice coverage for evidence-based home visits for pregnant women and families with young children statewide or through a pilot program.

The plan is to be submitted to the NCGA by November 1. (SL 2017-57, p.211)

## NCIOM 2017 Annual Meeting: Monday, September 25th

We are also pleased to announce the 2017 North Carolina Institute of Medicine Annual Meeting: Accountable Care Communities for a Healthier North Carolina. [Registration available here.](#)



# ANNUAL MEETING 2017

ACCOUNTABLE CARE COMMUNITIES

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
JENNIFER DECUBELLIS

Deputy County Administrator  
Hennepin County Health and Human Services

**FEATURED SPEAKER**  
MANDY COHEN

Secretary  
NC Department of Health and Human Services

[www.nciom.org](http://www.nciom.org)

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**MONDAY  
SEPTEMBER  
25TH**

**MCKIMMON  
CONFERENCE  
CENTER**

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Raleigh, NC 27606

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## Stay Connected



#Essentialsforchildhood  
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## *North Carolina Essentials for Childhood:*

Ensuring a coordinated, comprehensive system to support child and family well-being in North Carolina.