

Talking to Policy Makers

ANN RODRIGUEZ

STACY MORGAN

MEET  THE NEED NC

Changing the I/DD landscape across the state

Do You Consider Yourself an
Advocate?

Life Experience=

Invaluable Expertise and Perspective=



What is a Policy?

- ▶ The federal Centers for Disease Control gives this definition of policy:
- ▶ Policy is **a law, regulation, procedure, administrative action, incentive, or voluntary practice of governments and other institutions**. Policy decisions are frequently reflected in resource allocations. Health can be influenced by policies in many different sectors.
- ▶ That means that a policy can be:
 - A law passed by the US Congress or the NC General Assembly.
 - A rule or policy (these are regulations) put in place by the NC Department of Health and Human Services or the Department of Public Instruction or other state agencies.
 - A practice that the federal or state government allows.
 - An ordinance passed by the county commissioners or city councils.

Who are Policy Makers?

- Members of US Congress
- Members of NC General Assembly
- State Agency representatives
- County Commissioners
- County and Local Officials of governments, school systems, etc.

Do we have policy makers in the audience?



NC DHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley



NC Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt



NC General Assembly House Speaker Tim Moore



NC President Pro Tempore of the Senate Phil Berger

Have You Ever Met a Policy Maker?

A Senator, Congressman or Representative?

Someone who works for NC DHHS or NC DPI?

A County Commissioner or County Manager?

A School Superintendent or Mayor of a town?

This is a picture of Kayla McKeon talking to US House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan. McKeon is a lobbyist.

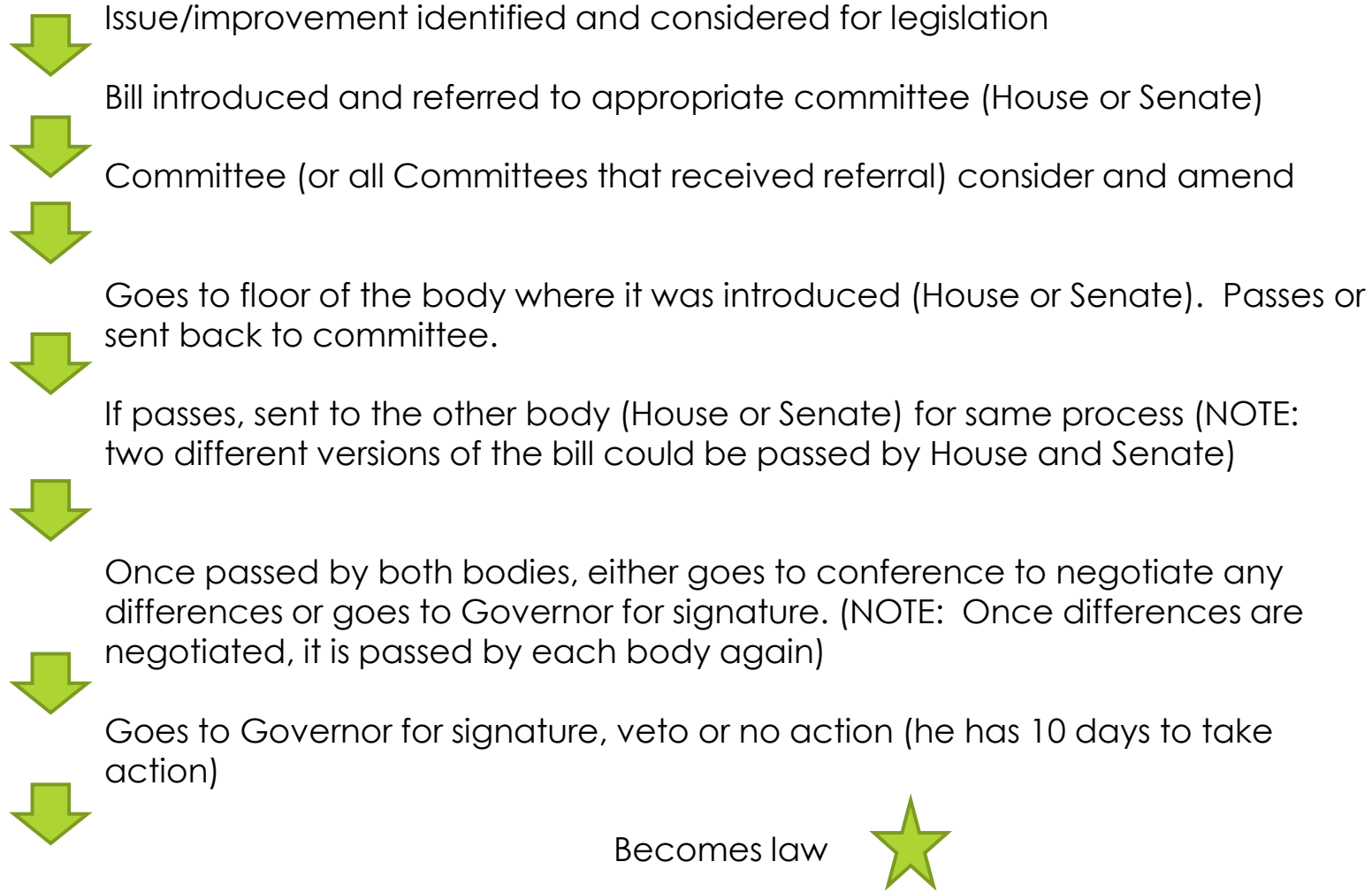


Advocacy and Storytelling: How do they Fit Together?:

- ▶ **Advocacy is to defend or promote a cause.**
- ▶ **Advocacy is active, not passive.**
- ▶ **Advocacy goes beyond changing or shaping legislation or policy.**
- ▶ **Advocacy is used for the larger goal of systems change.**

- ▶ **Storytelling lets the policy maker know you have invaluable expertise and perspective.**
- ▶ **Storytelling can bring out empathy and better understanding of the issue.**
- ▶ **Storytelling helps a policy maker remember your call to action.**

Basic Bill Process:



Opportunity for IMPACT

VERY STRONG

7

VERY STRONG

STRONG

MODERATE TO LOW

STRONG

MODERATE

LOW

START ADVOCACY ON RULES/POLICY



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bill Text Search... 2021-2022 Session

- HOUSE
- SENATE
- AUDIO
- CALENDARS
- COMMITTEES
- BILLS & LAWS
- DIVISIONS
- REDISTRICTING
- ABOUT

Home / Calendars / Legislative Calendar

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

For: Current calendar

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

9:00 AM	House: Pensions and Retirement H1056: Ret. & Treasury Admin. Changes Act of 2022.-AB H1058: Ret. & Treasury Tech. Corrections Act of 2022.-AB H1099: Judicial Retirement/Survivor Benefits Parity.-AB (Chair anticipates to be added)	415 LOB	ENDED
9:00 AM	Senate: Agriculture, Energy, and Environment -- UPDATED H219: Amend Water/Sewer Rate Adjustment Mechanisms.	544 LOB	ENDED
10:00 AM	Senate: Health Care -- UPDATED Agenda: The committee will consider the nomination of Acting Secretary Kody Kinsley to the Department of Health and Human Services.	Auditorium LB	STREAM
11:00 AM	Senate: Rules and Operations of the Senate S774: DOT Legislative Changes.-AB S711: NC Compassionate Care Act.	1027/1128 LB	STREAM

Home / House

NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



North Carolina House of Representatives, North Carolina General Assembly
Raleigh, North Carolina



Tim Moore
Speaker of the House

The House of Representatives consists of 120 members who serve a term of two years. The presiding officer is the Speaker of the House who is elected by the members for a two-year term. The Speaker's duties include maintaining order in the House and appointing members to committees.

House Members

Member List
Leadership
Representation by County
Contact Info
Member Info

House Calendars

Current Calendar
Calendars (2018-current)
Calendar Archive
Calendars via Email

House Principal Clerk

House Chamber

Rules
Seating Chart
Audio
Audio Archives
Livestream Policies and Procedures



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bill # (Ex: H1 or S1) 2021-2022 Session

- HOUSE
- SENATE
- AUDIO
- CALENDARS
- COMMITTEES
- GOV OPS
- BILLS & LAWS
- DIVISIONS
- REDISTRICTING
- ABOUT

Home / House / Member List / Representative Brian Farkas

REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN FARKAS (DEM)

- Biography
- Introduced Bills
- Votes
- Committees

2021-2022 Session



Democrat - District 9
 Pitt

Legislative Office:
 16 West Jones Street, Rm. 1023
 Raleigh, NC 27601-1096
 919-733-5757

Mailing Address:
 16 West Jones Street, Rm. 1023
 Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

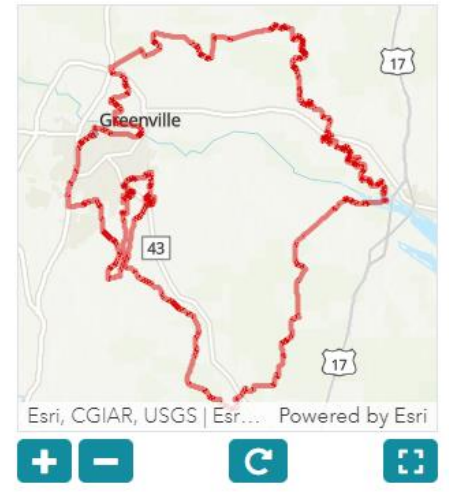
Terms in House: 1 (0 in Senate)

Occupation: Director of Development and Client Relations, JKF Architecture

Main Phone: 919-733-5757

Member's Email: Brian.Farkas@ncleg.gov

Legislative Assistant: Graeme Strickland



Where are opportunities to impact rules and policy?

- ▶ Rules overseen by the Office of Administrative Hearings
 - ▶ NC DHHS
 - ▶ NC Commission on MH/DD/SAS
 - ▶ Medical Care Advisory Committee
 - ▶ State Board of Education
 - ▶ Clinical Coverage Policies for Medicaid (8P is the Innovations Waiver)
 - ▶ Policy Initiatives
 - ▶ Medicaid Transformation

A Rules Resource:

The NCGA website has [a link](#) to the North Carolina statutes and that will take you to the rules. Chapter 122C has all of the rules for MH/IDD/SUD services.

Advocating with a Clear Call to Action:

- ▶ Determine your Call to Action as an individual or organization. (NOTE: you can impact issues that seem operational by *translating* it to your perspective!)
- ▶ Create your messaging (it can include concise storytelling and should always include a Call to Action and a thank you)
- ▶ Identify key legislators and policy leaders.
- ▶ Convey your message through meetings, emails, phone calls.

There are many ways to keep updated about legislative, rules and policy changes:

- ▶ Put yourself on mailing lists, e.g. legislative committee subscriptions, notifications on rules
- ▶ Find go-to resources for updates and information, e.g. associations, community organizations
- ▶ Take advantage of free opportunities like webinars, downloads of white papers

Why Now?

Major Changes to the Structure of the Public Service System for Individuals with Intellectual – Developmental Disabilities are Underway!

This is an OPPORTUNITY to ADVOCATE!

- ▶ Medicaid Transformation
 - Integrated Care
 - Care Management
 - 1915i Services
- ▶ Workforce Shortage

Medicaid Transformation—BH/IDD Tailored Plans Begin on December 1:

Integrated Care

BH/IDD Tailored Plans will be responsible for I/DD services AND mental health, substance use and physical health services AND medications AND non-medical drivers of health like transportation, food security, housing and interpersonal safety

Care Management

Every person who is a member of a BH/IDD Tailored Plan will choose or be assigned a care manager. This will be a different service than what you have had under the LME/MCOs. There will be more frequent contact with you based on your level of need. Choose your care management agency and primary care physician by October 14th.

1915i Services

1915i services is a new structure that replaces the (b)(3) services. A big difference is that anyone on Medicaid can be eligible for 1915i services 1915i is expected to include services that include responsibilities you are familiar with: supported employment, community transition, respite, community living and supports.

Medicaid Transformation—Identify Your Call to Action—Translating these Changes

Integrated Care

What are your priorities in integrated care?

How could integrated care improve and strengthen your services and supports?

Care Management

What do you need from a care manager to have a strong relationship?

How can your families and natural supports be involved and assist with success?

1915i Services

What do you need most while you wait for an Innovations Waiver slot?

What do you need to be a part of your week to help you feel a part of your community and to feel you have had a meaningful day?

Expect Glitches and Identify System Issues that Need Rework

NC DHHS Medicaid Transformation Email for Feedback:

Medicaid.Transformation@dhhs.nc.gov

NC Enrollment Broker: ncmedicaidplans.gov

Phone: **1-833-870-5500** (TTY: 711 or RelayNC.com)

Hours of operation: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday

Chat Tool at website

NC Medicaid Ombudsman: <https://ncmedicaidombudsman.org/>

Phone: **877-201-3750**

Live agents: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except [State holidays](#).

Workforce Shortage

- The pandemic has shone a bright light on the workforce shortage.
- There was already a shortage of Direct Support Professionals (DSP).
- NC General Assembly did provide some short-term funding to address the DSP shortage.

Call to Action---Translating this Policy Issue:

- How is the DSP shortage impacting you?
- What do you need to get the most out of services and supports?

Resources for You as an ADVOCATE:

- ▶ Use QR Code on Meet the Need NC flyer to get on the mailing list!
- ▶ [NC General Assembly Website](#)
- ▶ [NC Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)
- ▶ [NC Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- ▶ [NC Department of Public Instruction](#)
- ▶ [Exceptional Children's Assistance Center](#)
- ▶ Associations and Organizations:
 - ▶ [The Arc of NC](#)
 - ▶ [Autism Society of NC](#)
 - ▶ [i2i center for Integrative Health](#)
 - ▶ MHTA/LAND (facebook)



MEET THE NEED NC

Changing the I/DD landscape across the state

MEET THE NEED NC

Changing the I/DD Landscape Across the State

Systemic change for I/DD community services and supports requires a common agenda.

Where Are We Now

regarding Unmet Needs for North Carolina's I/DD community?

- It is difficult for individuals and their families to find and understand information about I/DD services.
- Families and individuals who wait for the Medicaid Innovations Waiver, many for over a decade, suffer in many ways with minimal support.
- The ability for those with I/DD to live more independently in communities is impacted by the direct support professional workforce crisis, affordable housing, and many other factors.
- The Registry of Unmet Needs* is 15,000+ waiting and growing.
- There are many who should be on the Registry of Unmet Needs who are not.
- Those with lived experience are key to our educational efforts.
- Medicaid Transformation: Tailored Plans and 1915(i) go into effect on December 1, 2022.

The terms Registry of Unmet Needs (RUN) or Registry refer to the waitlist of the Medicaid Innovations Waiver.



HOW WE WILL GET THERE

- Collect information
- Inform and educate target communities
- Increase funding for additional I/DD services and supports
- Meet the needs of those on the Registry of Unmet Needs



REGISTER TODAY!

20 NC Statewide
22 **POLICY INSTITUTES**

OCTOBER 19 & OCTOBER 26
9AM TO 12PM

JOIN US FOR A **FREE POLICY EVENT**





Questions and Discussion

To reach us:

Ann Rodriguez

Executive Director, i2i Center for Integrative Health

ann@i2icenter.org

919-744-7937

Stacy Morgan

Executive Director, Mental Health Transformation Alliance

sjustiss.mhta@outlook.com

276.274.7068