



Child Well-Being Transformation Council

Recommendations

June 22, 2020

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Child Well-Being Transformation Council



North Carolina General Assembly

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Recommendation 1—Overview

- Direct DHHS to establish policies and procedures to require coordination between counties beginning no later than 90 days after a child's 17th birthday to ensure services are available upon exiting foster care
- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - DSS directors and deputy directors panel (Dec 2019)
 - Council member discussion (Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 1, Line 14 Section 1

Child Well-Being Transformation Council



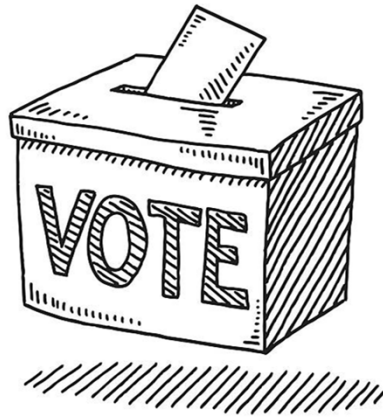
North Carolina General Assembly

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Recommendation 1-Discussion and Vote



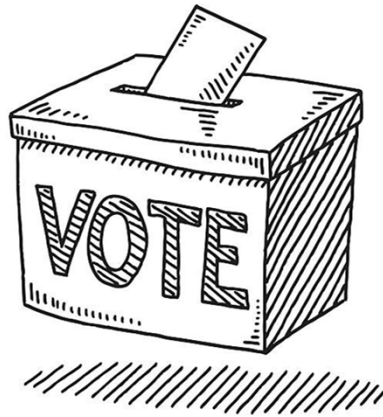
Recommendation 2—Overview

- Direct DHHS to outline the permanency plan process and require permanency plans be initiated no later than 90 days after a child's 17th birthday and finalized no later than 15 days prior to a child transitioning out on their 18th birthday
- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - Judges panel (Dec 2019)
 - Council member discussion (Feb 2020)





Recommendation 2-Discussion and Vote



Recommendation 3—Overview

- Require DHHS to develop and implement a plan to keep foster children in community-based settings and avoid inappropriate residential behavioral health placements
- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - Council member discussions (Dec 2018, Jun 2019, Sept 2019, Dec 2019, Feb 2020)
 - Foster parent, GAL, and judges panels (Dec 2019)
 - DSS panel (Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 2, Line 13, Section 3





Recommendation 3-Discussion and Vote



Recommendation 4—Overview

- Require DHHS to study
 - Statutory requirements of the State's social services system, juvenile justice system, and Medicaid program applicable to foster care youth and identify differences, consistencies, and gaps in such statutory requirements
 - Challenges and solutions in systematic communications between LME/MCOs and stakeholders
 - Options for replacing the current LME/MCO system, including anticipated cost savings or requirements





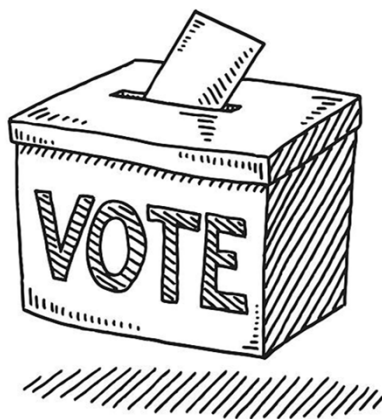
Recommendation 4—Overview

- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - Judge Corpening presentation (Sept 2019)
 - Foster parent and judges panels (Dec 2019)
 - DSS panel (Feb 2020)
 - Council member discussion (Sept 2019, Dec 2019, Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 2, Line 20, Section 4



Recommendation 4-Discussion and Vote





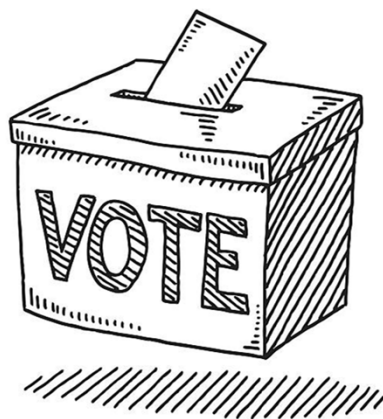
Recommendation 5—Overview

- Direct DHHS to implement a rapid consultation system to provide consultation to counties when making decisions regarding the safety of children using regional staff, thereby promoting consistency among counties
- Relates to:
 - Council meetings:
 - Council member discussions (Dec 2019, Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 2, Line 40, Section 5



Recommendation 5-Discussion and Vote





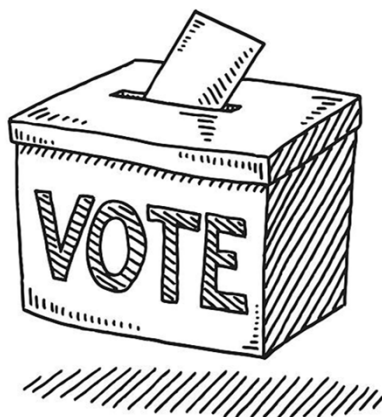
Recommendation 6—Overview

- Direct DHHS to
 - Develop standardized, trauma-informed assessment tools
 - Require their usage be limited to trained clinicians deemed appropriate to assess the applicability of tools in treatment
 - Evaluate the costs and benefits of implementing the assessment tools and ensuring ongoing fidelity of the tools
- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - Judge Corpening presentation (Sept 2019)
 - Judges panel (Dec 2019)
 - Council member discussion (Dec 2019, Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 3, Line 5, Section 6



Recommendation 6-Discussion and Vote





Recommendation 7—Overview

- Direct DHHS to do the following relating to the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) and the Kinship Care program:
 - Establish oversight mechanisms of these programs
 - Increase the use of these programs
 - Explore reducing the ages these programs serve
 - Recommend ways to incentivize the use of these programs
 - Lower GAP eligibility from age 14 to age 12

Bill Draft 1: Page 3, Line 16, Section 7

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Recommendation 7—Overview

- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - Foster parents and Guardian ad Litem panels (Dec 2019)
 - DSS directors and deputy directors panel (Feb 2020)
 - Council member discussion (Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 3, Line 16, Section 7

Child Well-Being Transformation Council



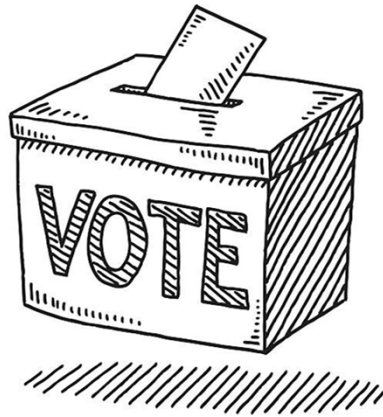
North Carolina General Assembly

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Recommendation 7-Discussion and Vote



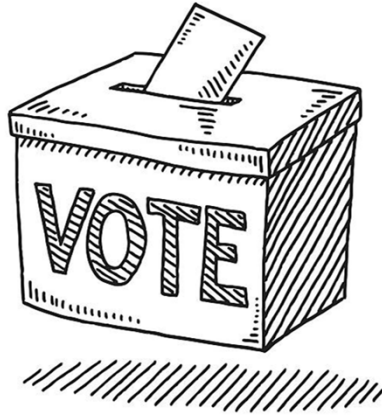
Recommendation 8—Overview

- Requires DHHS and the NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments to develop a plan to allow Councils of Government to provide physical office space for regional social services staff
- Relates to:
 - Council meetings:
 - Council member discussion (Feb 2020)





Recommendation 8-Discussion and Vote



Recommendation 9—Overview

- Require DHHS to report on
 - FFPSA programs approved for federal reimbursement
 - Approved FFPSA programs used in any county or by any entity
 - Amounts of federal funds obtained from using such approved programs
 - Strategies to improve and expand the use of such programs (Rec 14)





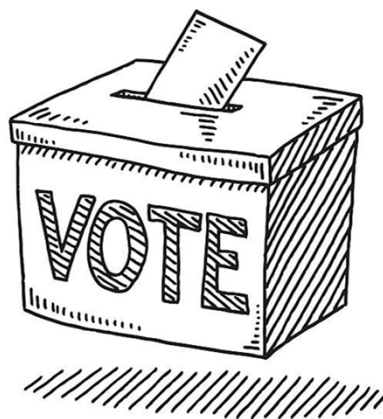
Recommendation 9—Overview

- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - DHHS presentation (Mar 2019)
 - DSS panel (Feb 2020)
 - Council member discussions (Dec 2018, Dec 2019, Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 3, Line 47, Section 9



Recommendation 9-Discussion and Vote





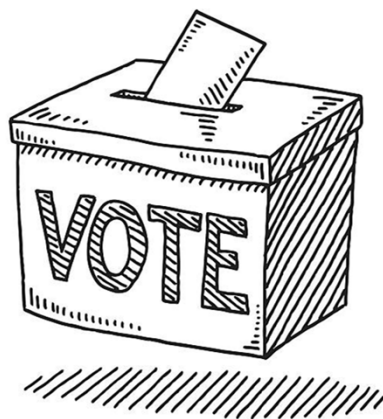
Recommendation 10—Overview

- Direct the Social Services Commission to review DHHS's Division of Social Services's existing publications, policies, and procedures that satisfy the definition of a rule, report its findings to the Office of Administrative Hearings, and submit for adoption under the rule-making process any identified as satisfying the definition of a rule
- Relates to:
 - Council meetings:
 - Council member discussion (Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 4, Line 9, Section 10



Recommendation 10-Discussion and Vote





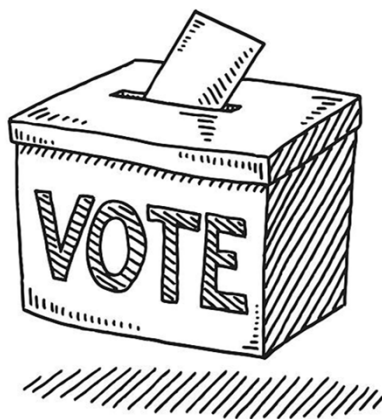
Recommendations 11—Overview

- Implement the SSWG's recommendations to require
 - DHHS, DPI, DPS, AOC, and DIT to study social services confidentiality laws and request recommendations for revisions to improve inter-county collaboration and service delivery
- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - DIT, DHHS, and Casebook presentations (Sept 2019)
 - UNC School of Government's SSWG presentation (Mar 2019)
 - GAL panel (Dec 2019)
 - Council member discussions (Dec 2018, Jun 2019, Sept 2019, Dec 2019, Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 4, Line 44, Section 11



Recommendation 11-Discussion and Vote





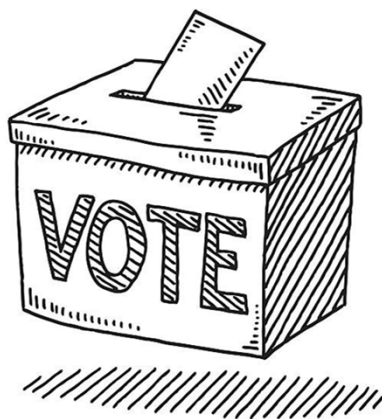
Recommendation 12—Overview

- Modify state statute to eliminate the following inactive boards and commissions in the children, youth, and family arena:
 - “More at Four” Pre-K Task Force
 - North Carolina Education Cabinet
 - Permanency Innovation Initiative Oversight Committee
- Relates to:
 - Council meetings:
 - Council member discussions (Dec 2018, Jun 2019, Sept 2019, Dec 2019, Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 5, Line 19, Sections 12-13



Recommendation 12-Discussion and Vote





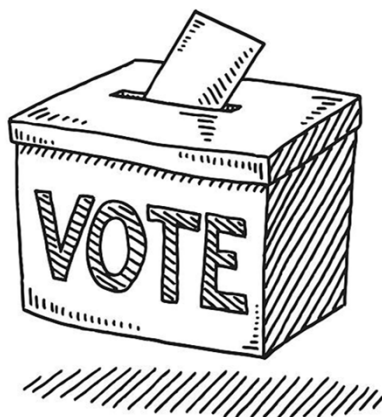
Recommendation 13—Overview

- Modify state law to continue the Social Services Working Group (SSWG) and add the responsibility of oversight of DHHS's implementation of regional supervision and collaboration
- Relates to:
 - Council meetings:
 - UNC School of Government's SSWG presentation (Mar 2019)
 - Council member discussions (Mar 2019, June 2019, Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 1: Page 5, Line 42, Section 14



Recommendation 13-Discussion and Vote





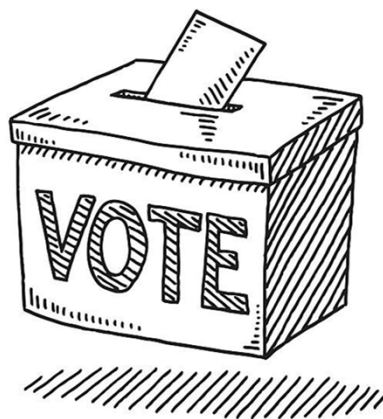
Recommendation 14—Overview

- Implement the SSWG's recommendation of regional supervision of county DSSs, which would
 - Establish 7 regions for regional supervision of child welfare and social services
 - Provide oversight and support within those regions with 11 regional staff
- Relates to:
 - Council meetings:
 - UNC School of Government's SSWG presentation (Mar 2019)
 - Council member discussions (Dec 2018, Jun 2019, Sept 2019, Dec 2019, Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 2: Page 1, Line 7, Sections 1-2



Recommendation 14-Discussion and Vote





Recommendation 15—Overview

- Direct DPI and DHHS, in consultation with LME/MCOs, to
 - develop and implement a plan to increase awareness of additional in-school Medicaid-eligible services beyond Individualized Education Program (IEP) services and
 - assess the feasibility of enhanced rates to incentive such services

Bill Draft 3: Page 1, Line 13, Section 1

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Recommendation 15—Overview

- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - Judges and foster parents panels (Dec 2019)
 - DSS directors and deputy directors and school counselors, social workers, and psychologists panels (Feb 2020)
 - Council member discussion (June 2019, Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 3: Page 1, Line 13, Section 1

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Recommendation 15-Discussion and Vote



Recommendation 16—Overview

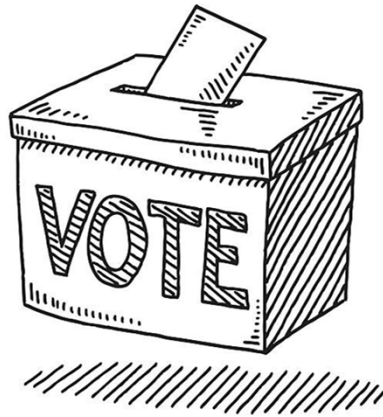
- Require the Program Evaluation Division to evaluate the success of the Integrated Care for Kids (InCK) pilot program in 2024, including:
 - Demonstrated empirical benefits achieved
 - Use of telehealth
 - Feasibility of expanding the pilot program
 - Anticipated cost savings and requirements for expanding the pilot program
- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - Council member discussion (Feb 2020)

Bill Draft 3: Page 1, Line 28, Section 2





Recommendation 16-Discussion and Vote



Recommendation 17—Overview

- Expresses support for the SSWG's recommendations to share information between DHHS, DPS, county DSSs, the GAL program, and LME/MCOs, specifically that
 - the Judicial branch's new IT platform should provide directors and attorneys involved with a case with access to limited information about children and adults who intersected with any county's social services system



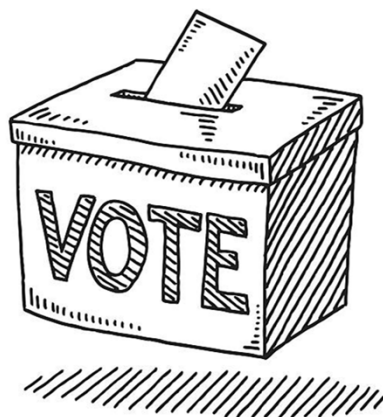


Recommendation 17—Overview

- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - UNC School of Government’s SSWG presentation (Mar 2019)
 - DIT, DHHS, and Casebook presentations (Sept 2019)
 - GAL panel (Dec 2019)
 - Council member discussions (Dec 2018, Jun 2019, Sept 2019, Dec 2019, Feb 2020)



Recommendation 17-Discussion and Vote



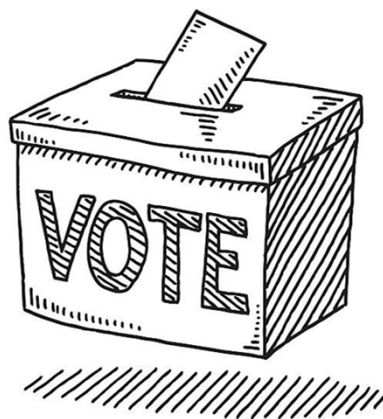


Recommendation 18—Overview

- Express support for the SSWG's recommendation for DHHS to prepare comprehensive guidance and training regarding information sharing and confidentiality for all social services programs (Recommendation 11)
- Relates to:
 - Council member survey
 - Council meetings:
 - UNC School of Government's SSWG presentation (Mar 2019)
 - DIT, DHHS, and Casebook presentations (Sept 2019)
 - GAL panel (Dec 2019)
 - Council member discussions (Dec 2018, Jun 2019, Sept 2019, Dec 2019, Feb 2020)



Recommendation 18-Discussion and Vote





Potential Recommendations

19. Extend parental Medicaid eligibility after a child is removed from the home when reunification is the goal
20. Require DHHS to study which DSS services or programs should remain county-administered and which should be shifted to regional or state administration
21. Require DPI, in consultation with DHHS, to study the benefits of requiring children under 7 be enrolled in school and making those over age 16 be subject to the State's attendance law

