Request for Remote Public Input for House Select Committee on COVID-19 Public Comments Report - LINC

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/21/2020 04:26 PM	Education Working Group	Economic support group Nancy Donley	Please keep in place our social distancing and use of masks until testing shows we are ready to phase in resuming business and education
04/21/2020 10:41 PM	Education Working Group	Priscilla Mellon	We need to get our kids back in school. There are children whose lives at home are full of anger, violence, uncertainty a home and the only positive impact they have is school. In addition, what is going to happen next year when these kids were just passed along. They will be half a year behind in school and teachers who can't close the gap created unnecessarily by the governor will lose their jobs. I will gladly let you speak to my son. He's a smart kid, we work with him 6 hours a day on his school work but at the end of the day he will admit he's not learning anything at home. Please protect our children's future
04/22/2020 11:18 AM	Education Working Group	Stephanie Brown	Internet should be treated as a public utility and should be available to ALL in North Carolina.
			We need stronger Internet and broadband THROUGHOUT North Carolina. K-12 and college students in rural areas cannot do their homework. See https://www.wunc.org/post/lack-broadband-internet-obstacle-rural-students
			Please repeal SESSION LAW 2011-84 HOUSE BILL 129 AN ACT TO PROTECT JOBS AND INVESTMENT BY REGULATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE BUSINESS. This "limits the ability of local municipal governments to set up their own high-speed internet service. The law spared cable companies from having to compete with municipal systems that could deliver the same high-speed internet access at a lower price." https://www.newsobserver.com/latest-news/article210366074.html
04/22/2020 11:44 AM	Education Working Group	Ed Hallyburton	Arkansas and West Virginia are leading in ways we are not. It's time for long term care to be a top priority in our state's response to #covid19 and support these heroes who have continued to be on the frontlines every day taking care of the nation's most vulnerable. Please ask Governor Cooper to consider these two items.
			1. File with CMS a request for the state to use Medicaid funds to support direct care workers in these facilities.
			https://armoneyandpolitics.com/direct-care-workers-in-long-term-care-facilities-to-receive-supplemental-payments/? fbclid=lwAR0wriw5HJLD0ruVHL5GVyTCIOCvKGvbSl3WDzJegbJqtoqVtFzA7ZBYLy0
			2. Order tests for all nursing homes in the state, including re-testing of residents and staff where outbreaks have happened.
			https://www.weirtondailytimes.com/news/local-news/2020/04/executive-order-calls-for-all-nursing-home-residents-staff-to-be-tested-for-coronavirus/? fbclid=lwAR07opwSRfaEOgyv-P6sZhlVKKdu9kObslesMvRcGHtiNIL5xzof22JvSpU
			How this affects Education: Most high schools have a Nursing Fundamentals course and

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			CNA certification that students have the opportunity to take. These programs feed the demand for Certified Nursing Assistants in our communities and intersect with the requirement most community colleges have for entry into their nursing programs. As we progress through this pandemic, state COVID-19 death totals show that a third of all deaths are occurring in Skilled Nursing Facilities. CNA staff are being infected at a higher rate than that of residents and it is feared that many of these CNA's will decide to leave this setting. The attrition rate for CNA's in SNF's is high and this will put a greater demand on the system to secure staff for these facilities. Considering these direct patient care providers for hazard pay will incintivize these licensed professionals to stay in this setting there by maintaining the continuity of care needed for these communities. Student interest in these programs is declining due to an average hourly wage of \$12.50 hr. which is a barrier to entry into this profession. While some may think that this is a fair hourly wage many CNA's cite pay as being one of the major reasons they leave work in a SNF or why they choose a different profession completely.
04/00/0000 10:04 DM	Education Worldon	NO Oallah aratica	Ed Hallyburton
04/22/2020 12:34 PM	Education Working Group	NC Collaborative Voluntee Joanne Scaturro	Dear members of the NC Select Committee on COVID-19, The North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth, and Families, through a System of Care framework, provides a forum for collaboration, advocacy and action among families, public and private child and family serving agencies and communities. partners to improve outcomes for all children, youth and families. Our vision is that children, youth and families are healthy, safe and successful at home, in school and in their communities. We would like to thank you for providing this forum for citizens to express their views and make recommendations. We have been in touch with local communities, and would like to ask that you consider addressing the following areas:
			MEDICAID EXPANSION We support Medicaid Expansion. Many of the families we serve are un-insured. Please support the NC DHHS action to apply for the 1115 Medicaid waiver that will allow individuals below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify for Medicaid during the pandemic.
			INTERNET ACCESS Many families are reporting that they do not have access to the internet; therefore, they are not receiving updates about how to access COVID 19 resources and information. This not only prevents access to telemed, but even when the service is available, providers are not comfortable with relaxed HIPPA laws, and this is creating barriers and access to families and children that must have clinical services through telemed.
			FUNDING FOR CHILD ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES During and after the pandemic, child abuse and domestic violence issues are increasing. Please consider funding for domestic violence and child abuse services. As an example,

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			family partners are setting up "code words" with vulnerable family members to use that will alert the family partners that they are in an emergency. Without funding for our family partners and service providers in the communities that already have a relationship with families, many children will be in danger.
			The pandemic has created issues cross-systems. There are difficulties with implementing IEP's for children with disabilities; home health care workers serving children are not making home visits due to COVID-19 concerns; families need more resources for housing and food because of job losses; health care disparities are evident in low income areas; there is support needed for homeless families that did not file taxes; access to services is low across the board; and health care needs are not being met. We would be happy to assist in any way we can to bring relief to families and children in this time of need. Please contact us with any questions or concerns. We appreciate the work you are doing to keep us all safe Sincerely, Stacy Justiss, Family Co-chair, Research and Policy Workgroup for the North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families Joanne Scaturro, Agency Co-chair, Research and Policy Workgroup for the North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families Ashley Bass-Mitchell, Agency Co-chair, North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families Chandrika Brown, Family Co-chair, North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families
04/22/2020 01:06 PM	Education Working Group	Jennifer Rudolph	I am writing to ask that you review this new report out by a bi-partisan group of experts called the "RoadMap to Pandemic Resilience". It is an excellent framework to gradually reopening the economy, avoiding a roller coaster option where we have to open and close multiple times. It allows for flexibility and creativity on a community by community basis, and offers easy to understand visuals, videos, and concepts for the general public to get behind. Offering examples of what a sensible plan can look like will be key to building people's trust in emerging from this shutdown. North Carolina has been a leader in making early, safe decisions which have served us all well. Let's also be a leader in how to re-open with resilience and everyone's best interests in mind. Link: https://ethics.harvard.edu/covid-roadmap Thank you.
04/22/2020 01:27 PM	Education Working Group	Mx Jeanne Duwve	As an Elementary teacher and an immunocompromised constituent, I encourage delaying opening up schools. Many teachers are elderly or have other health issues. Small children do not have negative symptoms from Covid-19, but they can spread the illness. They will be infecting staff as well as peers, who will then take the illness home to families and communities.
			Please delay the opening of schools.