

# Current Leadership Opportunities

in North Carolina



***Your experiences and knowledge as a self-advocate, parent or caregiver of a child with a disability and/or special health care needs are not only unique and important, but can also make a difference and positive impact on local, state and national systems.***

## Current Leadership & Engagement Opportunities for Exceptional Families in North Carolina

2/10/2026

**When parents complete surveys, participate in focus groups, offer public comment, or share feedback with decision-makers, they help inform policies, programs, and practices in meaningful ways. Below are current opportunities for NC parents and caregivers to share their voices and help shape change.**

### **Your input matters – and it makes a difference**

#### ***Alliance Health***

**Alliance Health Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC)** is made up of consumers and family members who receive mental health, substance use, intellectual/developmental disability, and traumatic brain injury services. CFAC provides individuals and family members with an opportunity to positively impact the way services are designed, delivered, and monitored. Counties Served: Cumberland, Durham, Harnett, Johnston, Mecklenburg, Orange, Wake. Please email [CFAC@AllianceHealthPlan.org](mailto:CFAC@AllianceHealthPlan.org) if you are interested.

#### ***Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC)***

The Autism Society of North Carolina's county-based **Chapters** are always seeking parents, caregivers, and individuals on the autism spectrum who are interested in getting involved locally. ASNC Chapters serve as the "front porch" to the organization, offering opportunities to support other families, build autism acceptance, and strengthen community connections. ASNC also provides online advocacy tools and resources to help families develop their advocacy skills through the **Make Your Voice Heard** initiative. Additional opportunities to share lived experience and expertise may be available through volunteer roles, including a variety of **Non-Employee Committee Opportunities**, which accepts applications from community members as openings arise.

#### ***Decoding Dyslexia North Carolina***

Decoding Dyslexia North Carolina is a nonprofit, grassroots movement led by families, educators, and professionals working to improve access to evidence-based dyslexia interventions in North Carolina public schools. Their work focuses on raising awareness, empowering families, and informing policymakers about best practices for identifying and supporting students with dyslexia. Decoding Dyslexia NC is currently accepting applications for **Board members**.

### ***Disability Rights North Carolina (DRNC)***

Disability Rights North Carolina invites families and individuals with disabilities to participate in advocacy efforts through its “[Medicaid Matters](#)” campaign. Medicaid is a critical lifeline that supports healthcare, community living, and independence for many North Carolinians with disabilities. DRNC is collecting personal stories from individuals and families who rely on Medicaid to highlight the real-life impact of policy decisions. Sharing lived experience helps shape advocacy efforts and inform decision-makers. Additional leadership opportunities include [applying](#) for DRNC’s Board of Directors as openings become available.

### ***Exceptional Children’s Assistance Center***

ECAC’s Speakers Network is a leadership opportunity provided in partnership with the NC State Improvement Project that elevates Parents as Leaders by sharing their lived experiences with pre-service teachers at colleges and universities. Through targeted Telling Your Story training, parents of students with disabilities are prepared to support stronger family engagement practices in classroom instruction. ECAC matches parents with relevant courses and topics and facilitates collaboration between university faculty and parents to align goals, requests, and resources. To learn more, please contact Karyn Montague at [kmontague@ecacmail.org](mailto:kmontague@ecacmail.org)

### ***Family Support Network of North Carolina (FSNNC)***

Family Support Network of North Carolina offers Parent Mentor Orientation for parents to help other families who have children with special healthcare needs, a NICU experience or disabilities. Parent Mentors provide emotional support, share resources, and help families navigate next steps. Parents interested in volunteering can learn more through FSNNC’s [Parent Mentor Program](#).

### ***First In Families of North Carolina***

First In Families of North Carolina supports individuals with disabilities and their families through community-based supports and family-led decision-making. Families may engage through [Board service](#) and other leadership opportunities as they become available.

### ***Foster Family Alliance of North Carolina***

Foster Family Alliance of North Carolina is a family-led nonprofit organization supporting children and youth in foster care and the families and professionals who care for them. Opportunities include [Board service](#) and sharing lived experience through FFA’s [Story Questionnaire](#) to inform advocacy and systems change.

### ***Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs)***

Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs) are community-based advisory groups. Each county should have a LICC. Local service providers and parents work together to make sure that all families know about early intervention services. Parents are encouraged to participate and share their experiences to help shape early intervention services. To find your LICC, contact NC ICC Coordinator at **919-707-5523**.

## ***NC Child***

NC Child is looking for families to “Share Your Medicaid Story”. Medicaid isn’t just a matter of public policy. It’s about people. Medicaid is there for families welcoming children into the world. Medicaid is there for children who are medically fragile or have special health care needs. Medicaid is there for children who need special education resources so they can achieve. If Medicaid has had an impact on your life or on the life of a loved one, please share your story with us:

<https://form.jotform.com/251836611376157>

## ***NC Department of Public Instruction – Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children (CESEC)***

The Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children serves as an advisory council to the NC State Board of Education. **Public comment** is an essential part of CESEC’s role in identifying unmet needs of students with disabilities. Parents and stakeholders may submit written comments at any time or provide oral public comment during CESEC’s quarterly meetings. Written comments must be received at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

## ***North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)***

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) works with others to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families get the services and supports they need to live independently, make choices, and be part of their community. Applications for **Council Membership** are accepted year-round, and family members are encouraged to apply. NCCDD also welcomes your stories! **Your story matters!** When you share your story, you help people understand what life is like for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). You also help them learn what is important to you and the I/DD community. Sharing your story can help teach leaders and lawmakers in North Carolina how to make life better for people with I/DD. NCCDD’s The Jean Wolff-Rossi Fund for Participant Involvement (Rossi Fund) is designed to empower people with I/DD and their family members with opportunities, experiences, resources and information so they can actively participate in decisions that often impact them.

Individuals with I/DD and their family members can receive reimbursement for specific expenses for seminars and conferences that aim to improve their knowledge, networking and skill levels for advocacy. **Learn more and apply for Rossi Fund**

## ***North Carolina DHHS State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee***

The State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC) serves as the representative voice of consumers and families with mental health, substance use, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and traumatic brain injury. It advises the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services, other NCDHHS agencies, and the General Assembly. SCFAC gives consumers a way to have input on the planning and management of the public system. Learn more here: **State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee Membership Nomination Guide & Application**

## ***North Carolina State Collaborative for Children, Youth, and Families***

The North Carolina State Collaborative for Children, Youth, and Families, through a System of Care framework, provides a forum for the discussion of issues regarding how agencies, youth and families can work together to produce better outcomes for children, youth and families. The forum is a “place” where decision makers from agencies can come to work collaboratively to better meet the needs of children, youth and families.

**There is Room at the Table for You!** For more information contact: [nccyfmain@gmail.com](mailto:nccyfmain@gmail.com)

## ***Partners Health Management***

Partners’ Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) is a group of individuals or the family members of individuals who receive services through a Partners Health Management Health Plan. The committee gives a voice to people who receive services for mental health, substance use disorders, intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), or traumatic brain injuries by providing important input into Partners’ business processes. Counties Served: Burke, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Davidson, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Rutherford, Stanly, Surry, Union, Yadkin. Partners Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) is always looking for members. [Join CFAC](#) and lend your voice to help the committee carry out its mission and speak up for those we serve. A member/family meeting stipend is available.

## ***Trillium Health Resources***

Trillium’s Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) is an advisory group devoted to enhancing care for individuals with mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and substance use disorders. Counties Served: Anson, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Martin, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wilson. If you are interested in becoming a CFAC member, please call Trillium at 1-866-998-2597 or send an email to [info@TrilliumNC.org](mailto:info@TrilliumNC.org)

## ***VAYA Health Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC)***

VAYA’s [Consumer and Family Advisory Committee \(CFAC\)](#) is a strong voice at Vaya and in the community. The committee includes people who receive mental health, substance use, intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD), and traumatic brain injury (TBI) services, as well as their relatives or guardians. Counties Served: Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Caswell, Chatham, Cherokee, Clay, Franklin, Graham, Granville, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Person, Polk, Rockingham, Rowan, Stokes, Swain, Transylvania, Vance, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey

**This list will be updated as new opportunities become available. To suggest an addition or update, please contact Andrea Young at [ayoung@ecacmail.org](mailto:ayoung@ecacmail.org)**