

October 2022

# Health Online

## A Quarterly Disability and Health Newsletter

From NC's Family-to-Family Health  
Information Center

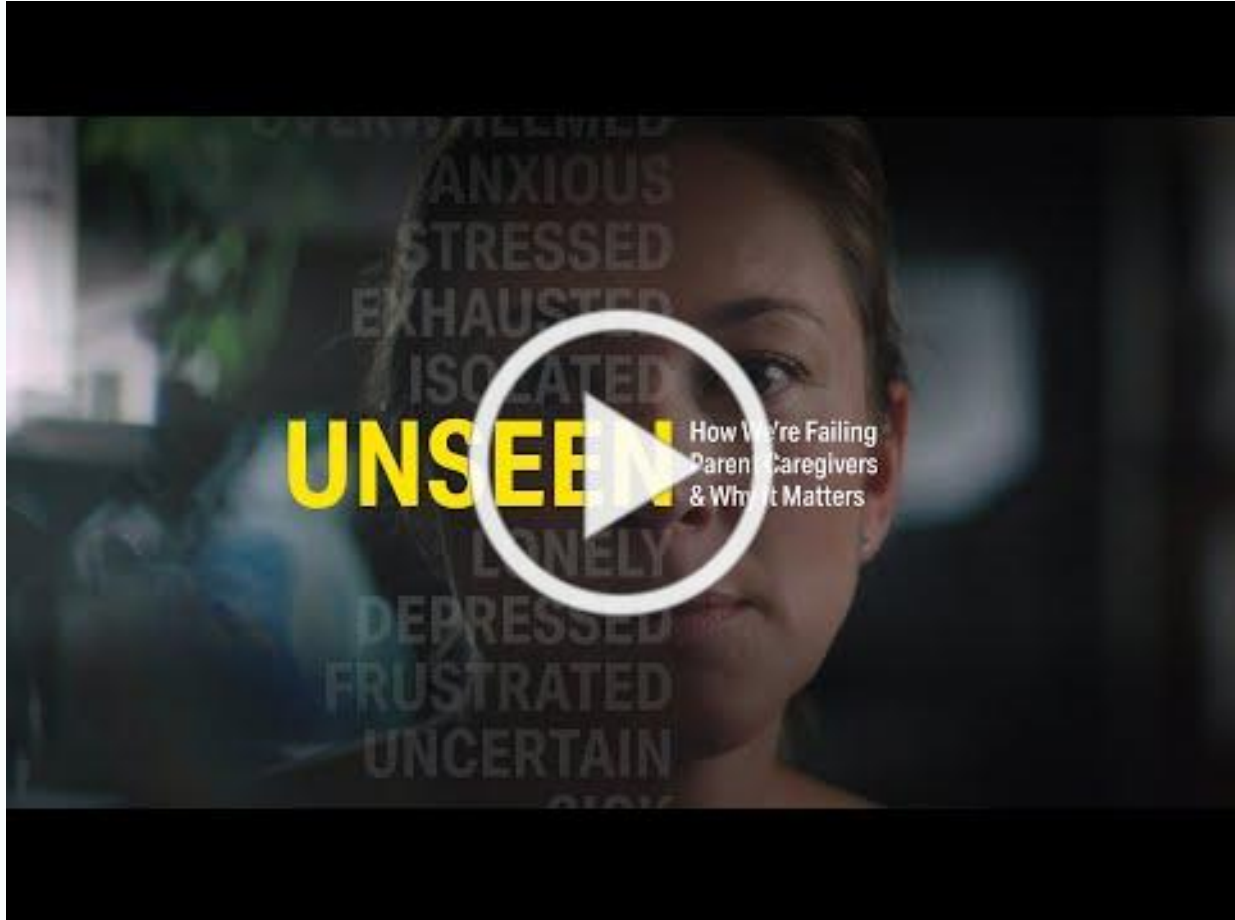


The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) is now also North Carolina's Family-to-Family (F2F) Health Information Center! In addition to helping families navigate the special education system we also specialize in helping families navigate health related systems in NC. Some commonly asked questions are:

- Does my child qualify for Medicaid?
- How do we apply for the Innovations Waiver or CAP/C?
- I have some developmental concerns about my child. Where can I get them evaluated?
- My child was just diagnosed with a disability, and I have no idea where to start. Can you help?
- We just moved to North Carolina. Can you help me understand the systems for children with special needs here?
- We don't seem to qualify for any state services. Is there anything out there that can help us pay for services, school or equipment?

We support providers too! Have a question? Call us at **1-800-962-6817**, click the button below or email **Christy Moore**, Family-to-Family Health Information Center Program Lead at [cmoore@ecacmail.org](mailto:cmoore@ecacmail.org).

## UNSEEN: How We're Failing Parent Caregivers and Why it Matters



An estimated 16.8 million people in the U.S. are caring for a child with disabilities or complex medical needs. The demands of daily life and chronic stress can negatively affect the mental and physical wellbeing of parent caregivers. With limited accommodations and uncertainty about the future, caregivers often face isolation and exhaustion. In *Unseen*, parents are brutally honest about their experience, providing insight such as:

“We’re just hanging on by a thread most of the time. The hardest part is that it’s nobody’s fault. It’s not our fault. It’s not his fault. It’s just part of our life.”

“Our parenting and caregiving will continue indefinitely, and that’s just overwhelming.”

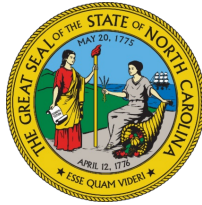
“Most caregivers are not fine, and they are not doing well.”

Video diaries from diverse caregivers featured in the film illustrate the universality of the topics explored, while interviews with mental health and legal experts provide a broader view on the societal impacts.

Join us on **November 17, 2022, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm** to watch the film followed by a panel discussion featuring North Carolina families, medical providers and health policy advocates to get a conversation going about what can be done to meet the needs of caregivers across the state.

Learn more at [caregiverdoc.com](https://www.caregiverdoc.com).

**Click here for more information and to register for the UNSEEN Screening Event**



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

## Medicaid Tailored Plan Rollout is Delayed to April 1, 2023

To ensure beneficiaries can seamlessly receive care on day one, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) will delay the implementation of the NC Medicaid Managed Care Behavioral Health and Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities Tailored Plans (Tailored Plans) until **April 1, 2023**.

See the [NC Medicaid Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plan webpage](#) for more information, including a link to the most recent Tailored Plan Update Webinar that was held on September 30th.



# Preparing for the End of the COVID-19 Federal Public Health Emergency

In January 2020, the federal government declared a public health emergency (PHE) due to COVID-19. For Medicaid, the PHE helped prevent beneficiaries from losing their health coverage during the pandemic, even if someone's eligibility changed. The PHE also helped health care providers keep their practices running so they could deliver care to patients with Medicaid. While we do not know for certain when the PHE will end, NC Medicaid wants to help beneficiaries and providers understand any potential impacts and steps they can take to be ready, like making sure your contact information is up to date. NC Medicaid has created a website to help prepare people who have Medicaid for the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

[Click here for COVID-19 Guidance and Resources on Preparing for the End of the Public Health Emergency](#)



## COVID-19 Information on Vaccines and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 virus, and some children are having long-term side effects of COVID-19. Everyone ages 6 months and older can receive a free COVID-19 vaccine, even if they don't have health insurance and regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. You are considered to be up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines if you have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and received the most recent booster dose recommended for you by the CDC.



## Free Webinar! Dental Home Partnership Strategies for Success

November 15, 2022  
12:00 - 1:30 pm

Does your child with a disability struggle with going to the dentist? Come learn about some ideas that may help!

A dental home is important for any child, however, children or youth with special health care needs may face additional challenges trying to access oral health care. "*Dental Home Partnership Strategies for Success*" will discuss strategies that can be applied in a dental setting to help accommodate the

Read more [HERE](#).

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have **different recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines** (link), including boosters.

For children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) it is especially important to use different layers of protection together with vaccination to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Check out: **COVID-19: Children and Adolescents with Special Health Care Needs** (link).

Need some free home testing kits? Find out how to pick them up or have them sent to your home [HERE](#).

needs of children and youth with disabilities and ways families can partner with dental providers to create a positive oral health experience. Families and professionals are welcome to attend!

Presented by:

**Debbye Krueger, BS, RDH, FAADH**

Program Consultant

Whole Child Health Section, Division of  
Child and Family Well-Being

**Aly Luna**

Family Partner

Whole Child Health Section, Division of  
Child and Family Well-Being

**This webinar will have simultaneous Spanish interpretation.**

**Register Here!&nbsp;**



**NC START**

Systemic • Therapeutic • Assessment • Resources • Treatment



The NC START program provides prevention and intervention services to

individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs ages 6 and up, through crisis response, training, consultation, and education. The goal is to create a support network that is able to respond to crisis needs at the community level. Providing community-based, person-centered supports that enable an individual to remain in their home or community placement is the first priority. Services are provided at no cost.

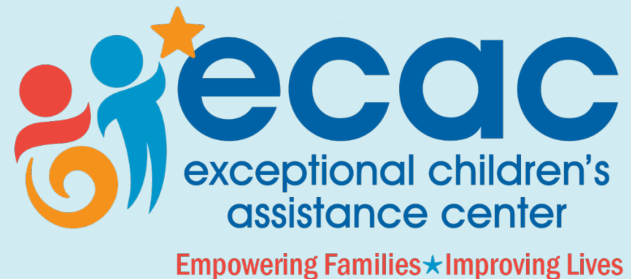
View the "ABCs of NC START" webinar recording that was hosted by ECAC [HERE](#). (Link)

[Learn More About NC START Here](#)

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Give us a call at  
1-800-962-6817

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