

# **Pulse of the State**

## ***Human Services and Healthcare***

**Kody Kinsley**

***Secretary***

**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

**February 8, 2023**

# Agenda

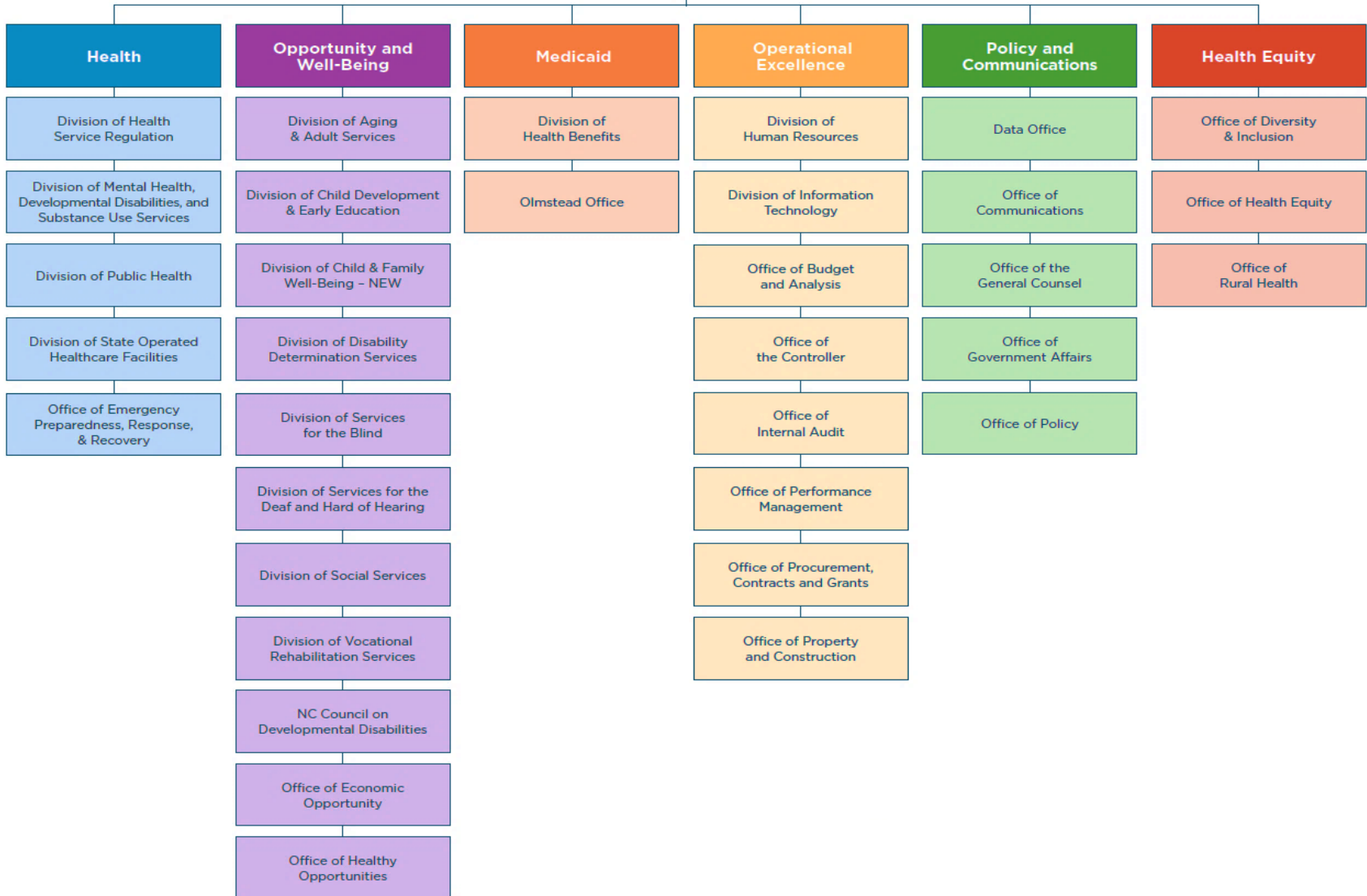
**1. NCDHHS Organizational Overview**

**2. State of the State**

**3. NCDHHS Priorities**

# 1. Building a Stronger, More Integrated NCDHHS

## NC Department of Health and Human Services



# 2. State of the State

## Behavioral Health & Resilience

- Nearly **1 in 5** North Carolinians have a mental illness
- ~ **1.2 million** adults in NC with substance use disorders
- During the pandemic, approximately **1 in 3** North Carolinians reported symptoms of depression and/or anxiety
- Opioid overdose deaths increased **40%** from July 2019 to July 2020
- ~**400,000** youth with any mental illness

## Child & Family Well-Being

- Nearly **1 in 5 NC** children lack consistent access to enough food to be healthy and active
- ~**70%** increase in the rate of children discharged from EDs with a behavioral health condition during the pandemic
- More than **10,000 NC** children are in foster care with an average stay of 15 months
- In 2020, infant deaths accounted for **63%** of all child deaths in NC.

## Strong & Inclusive Workforce

- NC early childhood education staff decreased by ~**10%** between March 2020 and November 2021
- NCDHHS has a **26%** overall vacancy rate in facilities with key positions higher
  - *Healthcare Techs* – **32%**
  - *Psychologist* – **40%**
  - *Social Worker* – **42%**
  - *Registered Nurse* – **48%**
- Nursing home workforce in NC declined by **12.5%** since January 2020, more than **15,000** employees have left facilities

# 3. NCDHHS Priorities

*These priorities and our work across the department are grounded in **whole-person health**, driven by **equity**, and responsive to the lessons learned responding to the greatest health crisis in more than a generation.*

## Behavioral Health & Resilience



We need to offer services further upstream to build resiliency, invest in coordinated systems of care that **make mental health services easy to access** when and where they are needed and to **reduce the stigma** around accessing these services.

## Child & Family Well-Being



We will work to ensure that North Carolina's children grow up safe, healthy and thriving in nurturing and resilient families and communities. **Investing in families and children's healthy development builds more resilient families, better educational outcomes and, in the long term, a stronger society.**

## Strong & Inclusive Workforce



We will work to strengthen the **workforce that supports early learning, health and wellness by delivering services** to North Carolina. And we will take action to be an equitable workplace that lives its values and ensure that all people have the opportunity to be fully included members of their communities.

# 3. Behavioral Health & Resilience



## **Increasing access to crisis services**

When people are experiencing or at risk for a behavioral health crisis, the right services need to be easily available when and where people need them.



## **Addressing the intersection between behavioral health and our criminal justice system**

Increasing alternatives to incarceration, availability of treatment to incarcerated people, and behavioral health support as people reenter the community from jails and prisons.



## **Addressing substance use disorders**

Increasing access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services is crucial. Both substance and opiate overdoses increased during the pandemic.



## **Improving our data infrastructure**

NCDHHS and our partners need timely and granular data to drive our behavioral health policy and operational decision making.

# 3. Child & Family Well-Being



## Child behavioral health

Bring together programs and data to support children's behavioral health needs in their communities



## Child welfare

Strengthen the services and supports available across NC for our most vulnerable children and families



## Nutritional insecurity for children & families

Increase access to healthy, nutritious food through innovative strategies



## Maternal & infant health

Equitably improve women's health and birth outcomes

# 3. Strong & Inclusive Workforce



## Caregivers for the youngest population

Reinforce the pipeline for early childhood educators by increasing compensation, ensuring pay parity, and sustaining training.



## Caregivers for older adults

Invest in our direct care workforce - including raising pay.



## Caregivers for individuals with disabilities or in recovery

Support people with disabilities and those in recovery to live their lives as fully included members of the community.



## Caregivers for communities – local public health

Strengthen North Carolina's Public Health workforce and infrastructure.



## Caregivers for communities – community health workers

Establish infrastructure and sustainability model for Community Health Workers.



## Caregivers for children & youth open to child welfare services

Improve the child welfare workforce to better support children and families.



# 3. Medicaid Expansion

**North Carolina can increase federal funding into health care by \$8 billion annually with a \$1.8 billion one-time bonus by expanding Medicaid and implementing the Hospital Access Stabilization Program.**

- Expands coverage to more than **600,000** North Carolinians at **zero** cost to the State
- Every month we delay, we miss out on **\$521 million** federal dollars
- If we expanded Medicaid, there would be an estimated **\$430 - \$480 million per year** in additional funding for **behavioral health services**.
- Additional paid coverage for care would expand the number of treatment providers in North Carolina, meaning better access to services in areas that are now underserved, particularly rural areas.

# Actions for Impact

## How You can Make a Difference

