



Elections Open the Door for Changes in NC

Dateline: November 15, 2018

The November elections brought changes to the make-up of the 2019 General Assembly and specifically to the health and human services committees. It is too early to say how that will impact future discussions on the public BH/IDD system and the public health and human service system as a whole. Current legislators are not quite done with business, as there is a special session on the calendar for November 27th and Legislative Oversight and other committees are still meeting with the current legislator make-up. Additionally, it is likely that the House and Senate will follow their past actions and begin the budget process before January. When the long session begins in January, all newly elected and re-elected legislators will begin their work. At that time, we will see new committee assignments and changes in office space, get a better sense of areas of interest for new legislators and, hopefully, begin to cultivate new champions for the MH/IDD/SUD public system.

The elections changed the party make-up of the 50 seats in the NC Senate from 35 Republicans and 15 Democrats to 29 Republicans and 21 Democrats. There was also a change in the make-up of the 120 seats in the NC House from 75 Republicans and 45 Democrats to 66 Republicans and 54 Democrats. Since the 2016 elections, the Republicans have held a “super-majority” in both houses that has allowed them to override vetoes by Governor Cooper of bills they passed. In North Carolina, a super-majority requires three-fifths of the members of each chamber to vote to override the veto. That is 72 of the 120 members in the NC House and 30 of the 50 members in the NC Senate. The absence of a super-majority does not rule out the possibility of a veto override, but it will no longer occur based on a party line.

HHS Leadership Changes

The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services Current Membership with noted status change by legislator (6 total not returning):

Co-Chairs:	Rep. Josh Dobson (returning)
Rep. Donny Lambeth (returning)	Sen. Louis Pate (returning)
Members:	
Rep. Carla Cunningham (returning)	Rep. William Brisson (returning)
<i>Rep. Beverly Earle (not returning)</i>	<i>Rep. Nelson Dollar (not returning)</i>
<i>Rep. Bert Jones (not returning)</i>	Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield (returning)
Rep. Greg Murphy (returning)	<i>Rep. Chris Malone (not returning)</i>
Sen. Dan Bishop (returning)	Rep. Donna McDowell White (returning)
Sen. Valerie Foushee (returning)	Sen. Jim Davis (returning)
Sen. Joyce Krawiec (returning)	Sen. Ralph Hise (returning)
<i>Sen. Jeff Tarte (not returning)</i>	Sen. Gladys Robinson (returning)
Sen. Mike Woodard (returning)	<i>Sen. Tommy Tucker (not returning)</i>

The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and Health Choice Current Membership with noted status change by legislator (3 total not returning):

Co-Chairs:	<i>Rep. Nelson Dollar (not returning)</i>
Rep. Donny Lambeth (returning)	Sen. Ralph Hise (returning)
Members:	
Rep. Josh Dobson (returning)	Rep. William Brisson (returning)
<i>Rep. Bert Jones (not returning)</i>	Rep. Verla Insko (returning)
Sen. Dan Bishop (returning)	Rep. Greg Murphy (returning)
Sen. Joyce Krawiec (returning)	Sen. Valerie Foushee (returning)
Sen. Gladys Robinson (returning)	Sen. Louis Pate (returning)
	<i>Sen. Tommy Tucker (not returning)</i>

Joint Appropriations on Health and Human Services Current Membership with noted status change by legislator (3 not returning on House side and 1 not returning on Senate side):

House	Senate
Chairs:	Chairs:
Rep. William Brisson (returning)	Sen. Ralph Hise (returning)
Rep. Josh Dobson (returning)	Sen. Joyce Krawiec (returning)
<i>Rep. Chris Malone (not returning)</i>	Sen. Louis Pate (returning)
Rep. Greg Murphy (returning)	
Members:	Members:
Rep. MaryAnn Black (returning)	Sen. Dan Bishop (returning)
<i>Rep. Beverly Boswell (not returning)</i>	Sen. Paul Lowe (returning)
Rep. Carla Cunningham (returning)	Sen. Floyd McKissick (returning)
<i>Rep. Beverly Earle (not returning)</i>	Sen. Gladys Robinson (returning)
Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield (returning)	<i>Sen. Tommy Tucker (not returning)</i>
Rep. Verla Insko (returning)	
Rep. Larry Potts (returning)	
Rep. John Sauls (returning)	
Rep. Donna McDowell White (returning)	

Losing Champions in HHS

BH/IDD: Rep. Nelson Dollar tirelessly fought for the public BH/IDD system for many years. Dollar was instrumental in passing legislative pieces on the Medicaid 1915(b)(c) waiver for MH/IDD/SUD that solidified the continuation of the waiver. He worked to ensure that the Medicaid Transformation maintained values and structure that honored the mission of the public system. He was also the Senior Chair of House Appropriations. He will not be returning to the House.

Foster Care: Sen. Tamara Barringer became known for her work to improve the foster care and child welfare systems. Barringer was a lead in passing the Foster Care Family Act and a Co-Chair of the Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group. Barringer will not be returning to the Senate.