NC InCK

NC INTEGRATED CARE FOR KIDS

Integrated Care Round: Concrete and Economic Supports Part 1

March 9, 2023: 12:00-1:30 PM

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Welcome to NC InCK Integrated Care Rounds!

As we get started, do the following:

1

Think about the families with whom you work:

What are the most common economic supports you help families connect to?

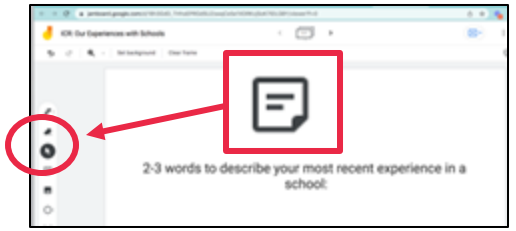
2

Open up the link:

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1UIYRkTdh1gCvl2xvTH0OJbp7pnajo4mzuh2KOudue40/edit?usp=sharing

3

Click the "sticky note" button to make a new note.



Type the support you can provide as a Family Navigator and click "save."



Your sticky note will appear! Resize it/drag it where it can be seen on the slide.

Agenda

1. Prevalence of Economic Hardship
2. Impact of Poverty on Children and Families
3. Defining Economic & Concrete Supports
4. Family Navigator Role in Connecting Families to Economic & Concrete Supports
5. Support Highlight: Filing Taxes
6. A Look Ahead

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Prevalence of Economic Hardship in NC

The 2022 Federal Poverty Level for a family of 4 was $27,750. In North Carolina:

- 1 in 5 children live below the federal poverty level → 10th highest state rate
- 22% of children 5 and younger live below the federal poverty line
- Children of color are 3x more likely than white children to be poor

Families move in and out of poverty over time:

- More than 50% of those who previously left poverty will return to poverty within 5 years

Children make up the largest age group of those experiencing poverty in NC and across the US

Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment in NC

Medicaid eligibility In North Carolina:

- For children 0-5, the Medicaid income limit is 215% of the federal poverty level ($57, 492/year for a family of 4)
- For children 6-18, the Medicaid income limit is 138% of the federal poverty level ($38, 292/ year for family of 4)

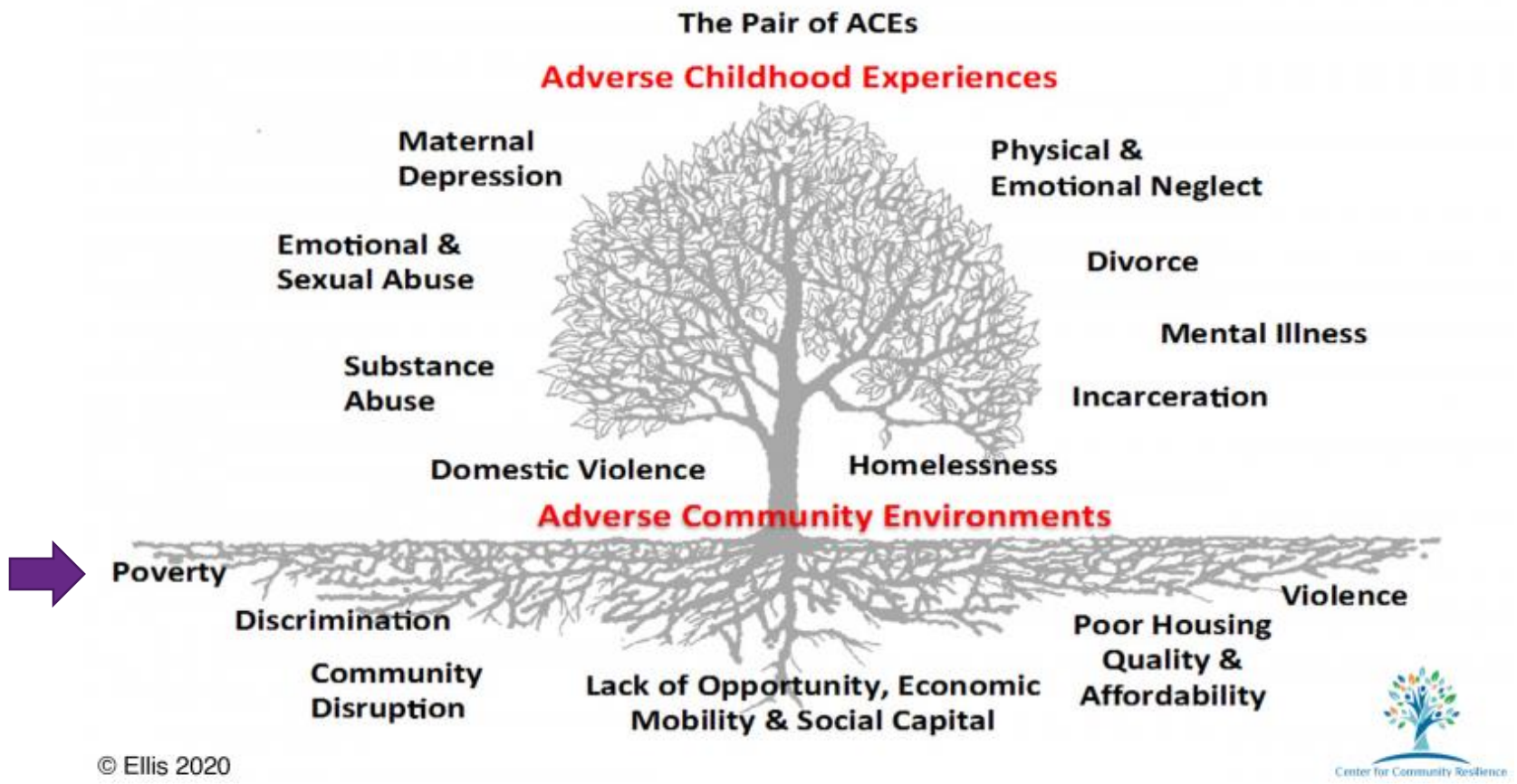
Medicaid enrollment In North Carolina:

- 41.2% of children are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP
- 93.1% of eligible children participate in Medicaid or CHIP

The overwhelming majority of the children and youth elevated for InCK Care Management services qualify for Medicaid based on income and may be experiencing poverty or facing economic hardship.

Poverty's Role in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Poverty is a systemic factor that impacts communities and ACEs. Children experiencing poverty are more likely to experience ACEs.



Negative Outcomes Linked to Childhood Poverty

- Decreased Educational Attainment
- Increased Exposure to Violence
- Developmental Delays
- Chronic Illness
- Hunger and Nutritional Deficits
- Increased likelihood of experiencing abuse and neglect
- Increased Parental Stress
- Increased likelihood of experiencing poverty as an adult

Child Welfare Spotlight

Family economic insecurity is associated with Child Welfare Involvement

- Children in economically insecure households are:
  - 5x more likely to experience maltreatment
  - 7x more likely to experience neglect

- Nearly 85% of families investigated by CPS earn below 200% of the federal poverty line ($43,290 for a family of 3 in 2021)

- Families living below the poverty line are 3x more likely to be substantiated for child maltreatment

Providing **concrete and economic supports** to families can:

- Reduce a family's involvement with the child welfare system
- Reduce the number of children entering foster care
- Reduce federal, state, and county spending
- Lead to positive health, safety, and educational outcomes for children

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What Are Concrete and Economic Supports?

Concrete and economic supports are goods and services that address a family's needs and can serve as protective factors for families, offsetting the impact of poverty.

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Examples of Economic & Concrete Supports

Physical Health
- Medicaid/CHIP

Miscellaneous
- Clothing
- Furniture
- Transportation

Tax-related
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Child Tax Credit

Food and Nutrition
- WIC
- SNAP

Housing
- Rental Assistance
- Utility Assistance
- Legal Support

Early Childhood
- Childcare vouchers
- Early Head Start/ Head Start
- Pre-K
- After School and Camps

Income-related
- Direct Cash Transfer programs
- Work First (NC's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- Unemployment Benefits
- Employment

Our Role in Combatting Poverty

Poverty is a complex and challenging systemic problem with no easy answers. And, **there are existing concrete and economic supports that can offset some of poverty's negative impacts.**

We have a responsibility to children and families to understand how poverty impacts them and to use our model to combat negative impacts while challenging systems that exacerbate poverty.

- InCK's work across our Core Child Service Areas and our Alternative Payment Model aims to increase access to these supports across our InCK counties.

- InCK Family Navigators also play a critical role in connecting InCK-eligible families to these supports.

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What Can A Family Navigator Do?

Concrete Support	Family Navigator Role
Healthcare: Maintaining insurance through Medicaid or CHIP	Make sure families are aware of when Medicaid recertification paperwork is due and help them complete and submit needed paperwork
Childcare: Enrollment in high-quality early childhood education programs	Connect families with childcare and early childhood education programs for which they are eligible
Food and Nutrition Support: Access to food benefits and resources to combat food insecurity	Ensure families are receiving benefits they are eligible for, including WIC, SNAP, and school lunch
Housing and Utility Support: Long-term housing assistance through Housing Choice Voucher or subsidized housing, short-term rental and utility assistance	Connect families to available housing and utility supports

What Can A Family Navigator Do?

Economic Supports	Family Navigator Role
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): A refundable tax credit for low-to – moderate-income working individuals and couples, particularly those with children	We will learn more in depth about this today!
Work First (NC's version of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families): Provides parents with short-term training and services to help them become employed. Provides assistance to grandparents and relatives caring for children.	Connect families with application process at their local Department of Social Services (DSS)
Child Support Payments: Available to parents and caretakers of children and involves money paid by a (non-custodial) parent to meet the needs of their child.	Connect families with online application or refer them to their local Child Support Services office
Unemployment Benefits: Provides temporary financial assistance to unemployed people	Walk families through eligibility criteria and how they can apply

InCK Resources to Support FNs in Connecting Families to Concrete and Economic Supports

- One of our goals in the coming months is to provide you with information and support on how to connect families to all of these supports
- Today, we're going to talk more about supporting families in filing taxes
- There are also many resources we've previously talked about, including...

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Example: Early Childhood Education/Childcare



Connecting young children to high quality educational opportunities is one of the most important actions Family Navigators can take to promote healthy development and learning and provide a concrete support to families!

Steps for FNs:

⓾ Explore what programs the child qualifies for by using the InCK Early Childhood Guide

- Early Head Start and Head Start
- NC Pre-K (for children who will turn 4 years old by August 31st)
- Home Visiting and Parenting Support
- Other Child Care Programs (Center-Based Child Care, Family Child Care Homes)

- For programs that are not free, help the family identify resources to pay for child care (pages 7 and 8 in the guide)
- Support families in completing registration/application process for programs and financial subsidies
- Connect families to Childcare Services Association

More information in the:

- InCK Early Childhood Flyer for Families
- InCK Early Childhood Guide
- Early Childhood Integrated Care Rounds

WIC, SNAP, and School Meals Enrollment

	WIC	SNAP/FNS	School Meals
Who?	Pregnant/postpartum parents and children 0-5	Benefits awarded by household	PreK-12 students enrolled in a participating school (all public schools)
Eligibility	All Medicaid recipients are automatically eligible	Some Medicaid recipients are eligible if income criteria are met	Medicaid-insured students are now being automatically enrolled in free school lunch
Enrollment	Use DHHS direct enrollment form: ncdhhs.gov/ncwicreferral Follow up with family and fax child's medical records to local WIC clinic	Make direct referral to More in My Basket for enrollment support: morefood.org/using-snap/connect-with-snap/	Call the child's school nutrition enrollment specialist with enrollment questions

Remember:

- Only 69% of people eligible for SNAP in NC are enrolled
- Only 56% of people eligible for WIC in NC are enrolled

Enrollment Tips for FNs:

- Actively help the family with completing forms and collecting documentation.
- Follow up with families after applications are submitted to make sure benefits are received and families know how to use them.

From our Echo Series in February!

- Additional Information in InCK Food and Nutrition Guide and Food Integrated Care Rounds

FN Steps to Support Housing Instability

From our ICR in January!

Step 1: Identify and address cross sector needs

Step 2: Connect to Housing Specialist if possible

Step 3: **Contact the Continuum of Care for the county in which the InCK member resides for guidance**

- Many counties have a Coordinated Entry process to access emergency shelter and long-term housing options

Step 4: **Contact the Housing Authority for the county in which the InCK member resides**

Step 5: **Identify affordable housing using NC Housing Search**

Step 6: **Refer to Legal Aid when appropriate**

And remember:

- **Our NC InCK Housing Guide has lots of information on housing resources in each of the 5 InCK counties!**
- **Lean on your IC for support! They can reach out to our Housing Team for ideas and suggestions.**
- **Multiple steps can be taken at once and steps can be taken in a different order depending on situation.**

Utility Assistance

From our ICR in January!

- Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)
- Crisis Intervention Program (CIP)
- Emergency Assistance (Short-Term Financial Assistance for Families in Crisis)/TANF
- Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)
- County-specific programs
- Local agencies and faith-based programs

For more information on assistance programs available in InCK counties, reference page 24 of the NC InCK Housing Guide.

M4F | MEALS FOR FAMILIES

Kate Hanson
Founder and Executive Director

kate@meals4families.org

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A Look Ahead

Every Other Thursday; 10-11am:

NC InCK Office Hours

Always Optional: If you do not have an invite please contact La'Shanda Person (lperson@gvdhd.org)

Thursday, April 13, 2023; 12-1:30pm:

Integrated Care Rounds: NC InCK Referrals

Friday, April 21st; 12-1:00pm:

NC InCK Quarterly Webinar

If you need an invite please contact Alyzia McAlmon (alyzia.mcalmon@duke.edu)

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