

# 2020 Virtual Children, Youth, and Families Regional Policy Institutes

**Western | Eastern | Central | Triangle  
North Carolina**

Organized by  
**Prevent Child Abuse NC**  
**NC Child**  
**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth, and Families**  
**i2i Center for Integrative Health**  
**Foster Family Alliance of NC**  
**MomsRising**

**December 2020**



## *A message from Prevent Child Abuse NC*

In the fall of 2019, members of the Research and Policy Workgroup (a subcommittee of the [NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families](#)) began planning a series of events to be held in the fall of 2020 leading up to the election. The original plan had been to host day-long in-person institutes in different regions across North Carolina, but as planning continued into the spring of 2020, it became evident that the format would need to be virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Partners from a range of disciplines joined the effort to plan what would become the 2020 Regional Policy Institutes, including the [NC Collaborative for Children, Youth, and Families](#), [Prevent Child Abuse NC](#), [i2i Center for Integrative Health](#), [NC Child](#), [MomsRising](#), and the [Foster Family Alliance of NC](#).

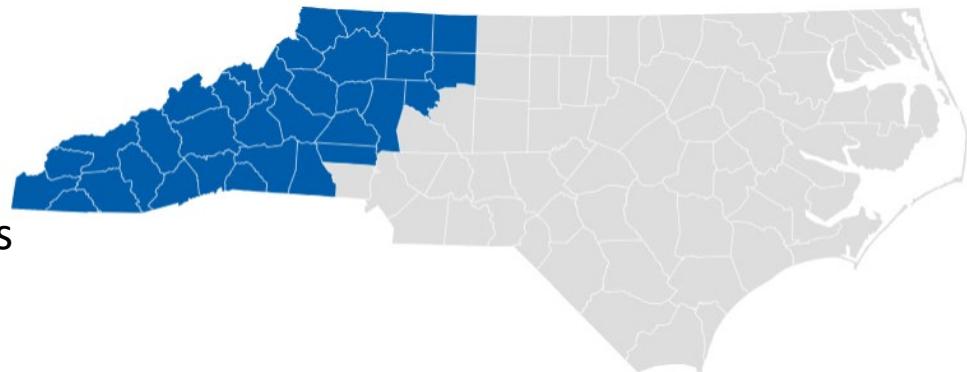
Four Regional Policy Institutes were held in September and October 2020, drawing more than 600 participants statewide. The format was simple – a **welcome from Governor Roy Cooper**, an opening keynote, an Advocacy 101 presentation, a parent/youth voice keynote, and a legislative panel discussion. Each institute was 2.5 hours long with different speakers and presenters, and free for anyone to attend. Social workers, healthcare providers, advocates, parents and more all came together to learn from experts, champions, leaders and policymakers.

The following report represents a snapshot of the responses shared in the surveys that followed each institute. Feedback has been incredibly positive, and the NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families is looking forward to bringing more institutes to advocates across the state in the future.

To learn more about PCANC's policy priorities or to view the recorded institutes, please contact Melea Rose-Waters, Policy Director, Prevent Child Abuse NC at [mrosewaters@preventchildabusenc.org](mailto:mrosewaters@preventchildabusenc.org).

## Event Details

-  September 14, 2020
-  **200** Attendees
-  **90** Survey Respondents
-  **45%** Response Rate



## Speakers:

### Opening Keynote:

Billy Lassiter, *Deputy Secretary, Juvenile Justice*



### Parent and Youth Voice Keynote:

Joseph Michael Bridges, Helen and Trevor Thrash



### Advocacy 101:

Adam Sotak, *NC Child*



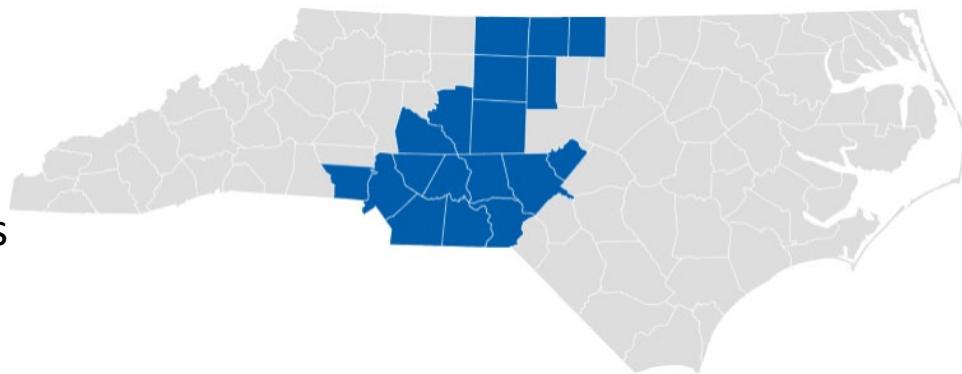
### Legislative Panel:

Sen. Terry Van Duyn, *Buncombe County*  
Rep. Sarah Stevens, *Alleghany, Surry, and Wilkes Counties*



## Event Details

-  September 28, 2020
-  **150** Attendees
-  **71** Survey Respondents
-  **47%** Response Rate



## Speakers:

### Opening Keynote:

Lisa Cauley, *Deputy Director of Child Welfare Services, NC DHHS*



### Parent and Youth Voice Keynote:

Gina Brown, *NC Child Welfare Family Advisory Council*



### Advocacy 101:

Melea Rose-Waters, *Prevent Child Abuse NC*



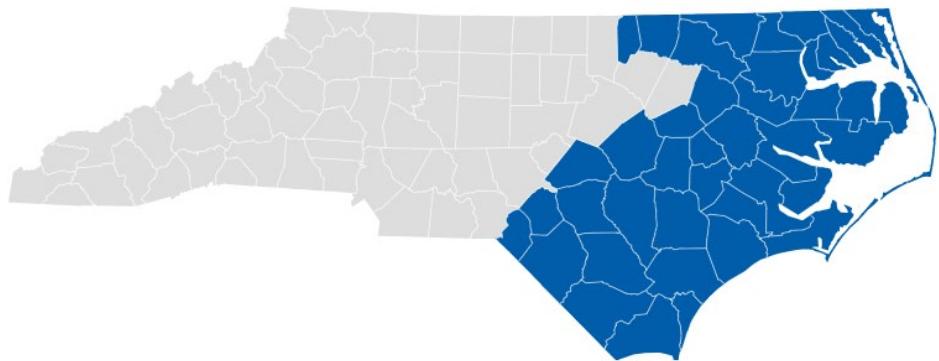
### Legislative Panel:

Rep. Craig Horn, *Union County*  
Sen. Joyce Krawiec, *Davie and Forsyth Counties*



## Event Details

-  October 6, 2020
-  **173** Attendees
-  **82** Survey Respondents
-  **47%** Response Rate



## Speakers:

### Opening Keynote:

Kody Kinsley, *Deputy Secretary, Behavioral Health & Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*



### Parent and Youth Voice Keynote:

Stacy Justiss, *NC Families United*



### Advocacy 101:

Ann Rodriguez, *i2i Center for Integrative Health*



### Legislative Panel:

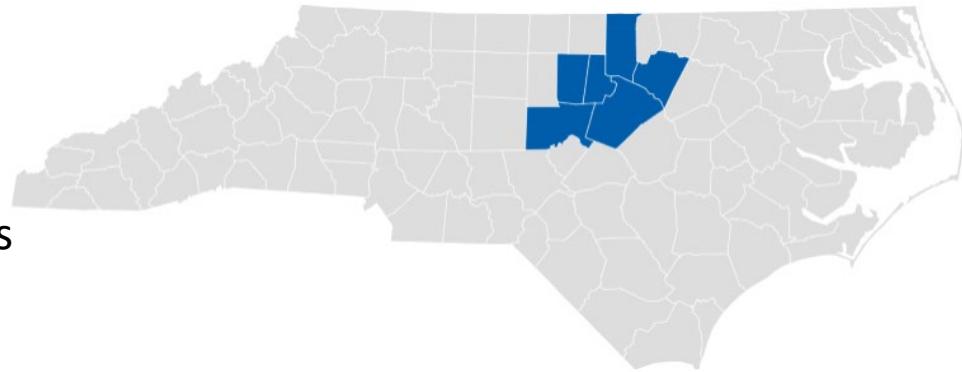
Sen. Don Davis, *Greene and Pitt Counties*

Rep. Donna White, *Johnston County*



## Event Details

-  October 26, 2020
-  **110** Attendees
-  **41** Survey Respondents
-  **37%** Response Rate



## Speakers:

### Opening Keynote:

Lacy Flintall, *Youth Transition Program Director, NC Families United*



### Parent and Youth Voice Keynote:

Sheila Arias, *MamasConPoder*



### Advocacy 101:

Beth Messersmith, *MomsRising*



### Legislative Panel:

Sen. Valerie Foushee, *Chatham and Orange Counties*



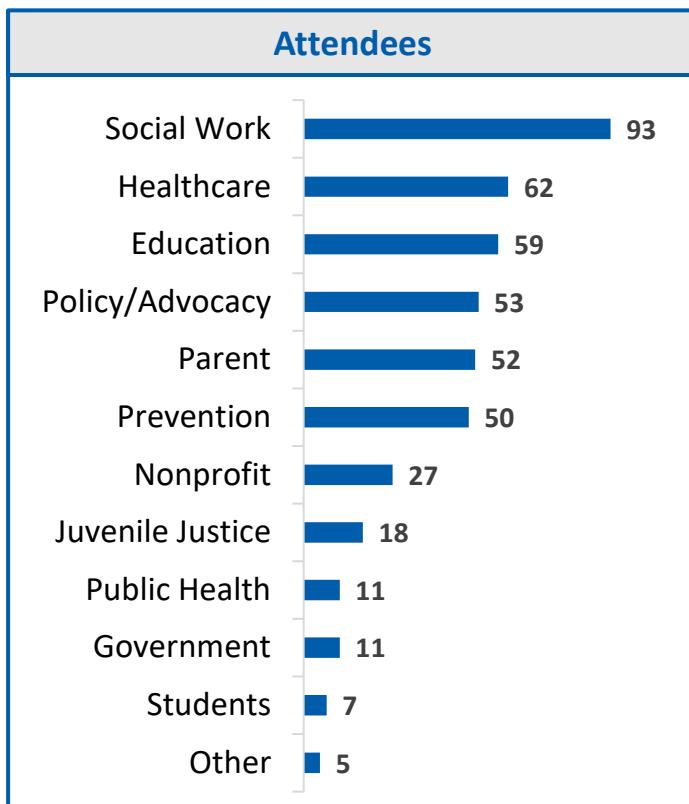
Sen. Natalie Murdock, *Durham County*  
Rep. Verla Insko, *Orange County*



Results in this report were collected via SurveyMonkey within a week of each Institute. The evaluation survey asked participants about their professional field, the knowledge that they gained, and their perceptions of the content and facilitation.

Overview	
	<b>633</b> Attendees
	<b>527</b> Unique Attendees
	<b>293</b> Survey Respondents
	<b>46%</b> Response Rate

*“As a parent, I love hearing from other parents about their experiences.”*



*“I thought it was incredibly well-organized, had excellent presenters, and the content presented was accessible to a broad range of people with varying levels of knowledge and experience with policy advocacy.”*

Knowledge & Self-Efficacy Gained	% Agreed or Strongly Agreed
The Regional Institute increased my <b>knowledge of the ways to effectively advocate</b> for children, youth, and families.	<b>91%</b>
The Regional Institute increased my <b>awareness of resources in my area to help advocate</b> for children, youth, and families	<b>78%</b>
The Regional Institute increased my <b>confidence in my ability to advocate</b> for children, youth, and families	<b>85%</b>

*“This webinar helped me to realize even more the importance of advocating for young people. I am more excited to take what I have learned and continue to advocate for the youth in my community.”*

**4.4** ★

 Average  
 Satisfaction

 Overall, respondents were **satisfied** with the institutes.

Session Satisfaction	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied
Opening Keynote	<b>93%</b>
Advocacy 101	<b>93%</b>
Youth and Parent Voice Keynote	<b>92%</b>
Legislative Panel	<b>84%</b>

*"Thank you for doing this! I do feel better informed and want to think about how the public library can have a positive effect with our communities to help everyone be the best they can be no matter where they are coming from."*

*"It made me feel confident in my advocacy skills again and renewed my interest in calling legislators."*

Content Satisfaction	% Agreed or Strongly Agreed
The content was well-paced	<b>95%</b>
The content met my needs	<b>88%</b>
The content was useful	<b>92%</b>

## Liked Most

### Regional Format

*"(The institute) provided a wonderful overview of topics impacting the region my staff work in."*

### Parent and Youth Voices

Respondents appreciated hearing directly from parents and youth.

### Information & Perspectives Provided

Respondents appreciated the keynotes and commented on the usefulness of what they learned including that they, *"provided a good overview of state-level policies and the family systems model of service provision."*

### Virtual Format

Multiple respondents appreciated the virtual format. One said, *"I likely would not have been able to attend had it not been virtual [even] if there wasn't a pandemic."*