

North Carolina Health and Human Services Commonly Used Acronyms

Acronym	Term	Description
APS	Adult Protective Services	Social services programs designed to protect disabled adults from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.
BOCC	Board of County Commissioners (also BOC)	The governing board for a county.
BOH	Board of Health	The governing board for a local public health agency. The generic term “board of health” may refer to a county board of health, a district board of health, a consolidated human services board (if the consolidated human services agency includes public health), a public health authority board, or the board of a hospital authority authorized by law to act as the local board of health.
CHD	County Health Department	A local health department that serves a single county
CHSA	Consolidated Human Services Agency	An agency that is created when two or more local human services agencies are combined.
CPS	Child Protective Services	Social services programs designed to protect children from abuse, neglect, and dependency.
DSS	Division of Social Services Department of Social Services	At the state level, the Division of Social Services is part of the NC Department of Health and Human Services. It oversees many (but not all) of the social services programs administered at the local level. http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/ At the county level, the acronym typically refers to the county department of social services.
DPH	Division of Public Health	Part of the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The division oversees most public health programs administered at the local level. http://publichealth.nc.gov/

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DAAS	Division of Aging and Adult Services	Part of the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The division oversees some of the social services programs administered at the local level, including adult protective services, public guardianship, and area agencies on aging. http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/
DD	Developmental Disabilities	Severe physical, cognitive, and mental impairments that appear before age twenty-two (unless caused by traumatic head injury), are likely to continue indefinitely, and produce substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following major areas of life activities: self-care, learning, mobility, language, capacity for independent living, self-direction, and economic self-sufficiency. Depending on severity, developmental disabilities may include mental retardation, epilepsy, autism, and cerebral palsy. The term also includes delayed cognitive, physical, or communication and social-emotional development in children.
DHD	District Health Department	A local health department that includes more than one county.
DHHS	<p>US Department of Health and Human Services</p> <p>NC Department of Health and Human Services</p>	<p>At the federal level, this department oversees many of the health and human services programs administered in North Carolina. There are several agencies within the department that are responsible for specific programs and areas, such as CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), CDC (Centers for Disease Control), and ACF (Administration for Children and Families). http://www.hhs.gov/</p> <p>At the state level, this department oversees most of the health and human services programs administered at the local level. There are several divisions within the Department, such as DMA (Division of Medical Assistance), DPH (Division of Public Health), DSS (Division of Social Services, DAAS (Division of Aging and Adult Services), and DMHDDSAS (Division of Mental Health, Development Disability, and Substance Abuse Services). http://www.ncdhhs.gov/</p>

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DMA	Division of Medical Assistance	Part of the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The division oversees the Medicaid and Health Choice programs. http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/
DMHDDSAS	Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services	Part of the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The division oversees the state’s public mental health system. http://www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas/
EH	Environmental Health	Shorthand term used to describe both environmental health services and the personnel that provide them. EH services provided by local health departments are designed to protect the public from certain health environmental hazards. Examples include sanitation inspections of restaurants, lodging establishments, and child care facilities, permitting of on-site wastewater systems (septic systems), and regulation of private drinking water wells. EH specialists are the professionals who perform EH services. They must be registered by the state and must be authorized by the state to perform some of the local services.
HA	Hospital Authority	A public body authorized to construct and operate hospitals and other medical facilities in a defined geographic area. In one NC county (Cabarrus), a HA serves as the local health department.
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 or “HIPAA Privacy Rule”	A federal law that included some requirements related to the privacy of individually identifiable health information. http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/index.html
LME	Local Management Entity	An area mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse authority (area authority), the entity on the local government level responsible for publicly funded MH, DD, and SA services. An area authority is charged with performing local management entity functions, which include planning, developing, implementing, and monitoring services provided through a network of contracted providers of services.

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LME/MCO	Local Management Entity/ Managed Care Organization	A local management entity that is under contract with the NC DHHS to perform managed care organization functions under the combined Medicaid Waiver program authorized under Sections 1915(b) and 1915(c) of the Social Security Act.
LPHA	Local Public Health Agency	A local agency that provides public health services. The term may refer to a county health department, a district health department, a consolidated human services agency that includes public health, a public health authority, or a hospital authority authorized by law to provide the services of a LPHA.
MH	Mental Health	Mental health services provide care and treatment for mental illness. Mental illness covers a group of illnesses, including both emotional and cognitive disorders, characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior associated with stress or impaired functioning, or both. For children, the common term is “emotional disturbance.”
MCO	Managed Care Organization	An organization responsible for managing the cost and quality of health services for a population enrolled with the organization. Area authorities (LMEs) have been approved to perform managed care organization functions for MH/DD/SA services under the State’s 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver.
NCFast	NC Families Accessing Services through Technology	The state’s eligibility and case management system for many social services programs. http://www.ncdhhs.gov/ncfast/index.htm
NCTracks	NC Tracks	The state’s payment and information system for Medicaid and Health Choice. https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/
OSHR	Office of State Human Resources	The state agency responsible for overseeing the state personnel system. Formerly known as the Office of State Personnel, or OSP.
PHA	Public health authority	A type of local health department.

Acronym	Term	Description
SA	Substance Abuse	The use of drugs or alcohol in a dangerous, self-defeating, or destructive way and to a degree that produces impaired personal, social, or occupational functioning. An individual who engages in substance abuse has difficulty controlling his or her use, even though the use may be sporadic.
SPA	State Personnel Act	While employees of local health and human services agencies are not state employees, some are still subject to the State Personnel Act, which is the primary human resources law that applies to state employees.
SSBG	Social Services Block Grant	Federal funding that states may use for a variety of social services programs.
SSI	Supplemental Security Income	Federal program that pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources. http://www.ssa.gov/pgm/ssi.htm
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	A federal program that provides temporary financial assistance, employment services, and other social services for low-income families with dependent children. In NC, the TANF program is called Work First. Prior to 1996, the TANF program was called Aid to Families with Dependent Children (or AFDC). http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/programs/tanf
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights	In the child welfare arena, social services officials may ask a court to terminate a parent's rights with respect to a particular child.
1915(b)/(c)	Managed Care Waiver	Refers to two sections of the Social Security Act that allow states to apply for waivers from federal Medicaid policy. Under North Carolina's "(b) Waiver" the state can (1) require Medicaid beneficiaries who seek MH,DD, SA services to enroll with a managed care organization and (2) limit the providers of Medicaid MH,DD, SA services. The "(c) Waiver" provides home and community-based care to Medicaid beneficiaries who would otherwise be institutionalized. Under the state's Medicaid Managed Care Waiver, area authorities (LME/MCOs) operate as managed care organizations for the delivery of MH/DD/SA services.
IV-D	Federal Child Support Program	A federal program designed to assist families in collecting child support. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css

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IV-E	Federal Foster Care Program	A federal program designed to protect children in the child welfare system. Significant federal funding is available to help support state services for children in foster care. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/title-ive-foster-care