

NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Child Development  
and Early Education

## Division News and Updates

Rebecca Hammond and Sharoneta Garner

**Virtual Educational Meeting**

June 3, 2025







# Hurricane Helene Disaster Recovery



# Child Care in WNC After Helene

Report Date	Total # of Licensed Child Care Facilities*		Open		Closed (Operational)		Unable to Establish Contact		Confirmed Damage Preventing Re-Opening	
Oct 4	836		377		148		300		11	
Report Date	Total # of Licensed Child Care Facilities*	Open	Open – Temporarily relocated	Closed (but Operational)	Unable to Establish Contact	Closed for Repairs through 11/30/2024	Closed for Repairs through 12/31/2024	Damage Will not Re-Open	Closed Permanently not due to Helene	
Dec 10	820	798	7	3	0	0	7	1	4	

\*Includes Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey Counties Only

# Child Care in WNC After Helene, continued

Report Date	Total # Of Licensed Child Care Facilities*	Open	Open – Temporarily Relocated	Closed (But Operational)	Unable To Establish Contact	Closed For Repairs Through 3/31/2025	Closed for Repairs	Damage Will not Re-Open	Closed Permanently not due to Helene
<b>Mar 12</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>

Report Date	Total # of Licensed Child Care Facilities*	Open	Open – Temporarily Relocated	Closed (But Operational)	Unable to Establish Contact	Closed for Repairs through 05/31/2025	Closed for Repairs	Damage Will not Re-Open	Closed Permanently not due to Helene
<b>May 30</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>

# Establishing and Newly Licensed Facilities After Helene as of 5-30-25

Establishing Centers	Establishing FCCHS	Pending Ownership Changes	New Centers With Active Licenses	New FCCHs With Active Licenses	Ownership Changes Since Helene	Terminations Of New Facilities Licensed Since Helene
12	7	6	10	2	4	3

## Disaster Impact Report Portal

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- **Method for regulated child care programs to report impacts of declared disasters to DCDEE**
- **Information access point for DCDEE to make funding determinations (if or when funding comes available)**
- **Method to distribute funds to regulated child care programs in response to disasters (once funding has been received and funding determinations have been made)**
- **Data and evidence availability to state and federal government officials of the need for assistance or the need of a policy to address an issue**



# Announcements



# \$27 Million Preschool Development B-5 Grant (PDG)

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- North Carolina is one of 11 states awarded a PDG Renewal Grant.
- Key Personnel
  - Nicole Boone – PDG B-5 Project Team Lead
  - Katherine Falen– PDG Grants Manager
- \$9 million per year for three years: September 30, 2024, through September 29, 2027
- Builds on state's past success
- Supports implementation of the revised Quality Rating and Improvement System







Visit [www.takecarenc.com](http://www.takecarenc.com) to watch the documentary, sign up to receive more information, and access a Community Screenings Toolkit!



## **Legislative and Rule Updates**

# Legislative Updates (cont.)

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- **New Legislature convened January 8, 2025 for “Long” Session**
- **DHHS/DCDEE Legislative Priorities include, but not limited to:**
  - Alternative Market Rate Study Rates
  - Stabilization Grants
  - Certified Developmental Day Centers
  - QRIS Implementation
  - Disaster Recovery





# Child Care Rule Updates

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- **Amended 10A NCAC 09 .0713 Staff/Child Ratios for Centers** - [Training module available in Moodle](#)
  - Effective November 1, 2024
  - aligns ratios and capacity for centers located in a residence with nonresidential child care centers for children ages 3 years and older
  - staff/child ratios for centers located in a residence are increased from 1/12 to 1/15 for children ages three and older
  - change applies only to centers located in a residence with a licensed capacity of 13 to 15 children
- **Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Modernization Rules**
  - In March the Child Care Commission held a public hearing for proposed the QRIS modernization rules followed by a special closed session meeting to discuss all public comment
  - Voted to adopt rules on April 22



# Child Care Rule Updates (cont.)

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- **Periodic Review of Rules**

- [NC Administrative Procedures Act](#) requires review of all existing rules in the NC Administrative Code every 10 years
- Multi-step process beginning with the Child Care Commission making initial determination recommendations of “necessary” or “unnecessary” for each rule
- [Initial Determinations Report](#) approved by Child Care Commission in September 2024 is posted for Public Comment (will be extended due to Helene impacts)
- Child Care Commission reviewed and responded to public comments and submitted a report, comments, and rule classifications to the Rules Review Commission
- Following Rules Review Commission and Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee review and approval of Final Determinations Report, a readoption schedule for all rules determined necessary will be established
- A public comment period and public hearing will be held for all readopted rules and rules may be amended during the readoption process





# **Quality Rating and Improvement System Modernization**





# **Pathways to the Stars: Where Quality and Choice Meet**





# NC QRIS Modernization Workflow

## PLANNING AND RESEARCH (February 2023 – Present)

CHILD CARE COMMISSION BEGINS TASK OF QRIS MODERNIZATION  
ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION'S QRIS SUB-COMMITTEE  
CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS  
IDENTIFICATION OF SYSTEM PRIORITIES  
DETERMINE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF QRIS IN NC  
PLANNING MEETINGS WITH REVIEW COMMITTEE  
RESEARCH REGARDING NATIONAL TRENDS IN QRIS  
REVIEW OF ACCREDITATION AS QRIS COMPONENT  
GATHERING OF RESOURCES FOR ALL QRIS TOPICS  
DATA COLLECTION REGARDING ECE SYSTEM  
RESPONSIVE PLANNING FOR WORKFORCE CRISIS  
COLLABORATION WITH ALL ECE PARTNERS  
IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSITION PLANS  
CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FOR QRIS

## ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS (ONGOING)

PUBLICIZED ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
STATEWIDE LISTENING SESSIONS  
WEBINARS  
QR CODE SURVEY  
QRIS EMAIL ACCOUNT  
ONGOING FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITIES  
CHILD CARE COMMISSION MEETINGS  
QRIS EMAIL ACCOUNT

*Stakeholders included parents, teachers, owners, administrators, ECE partner agencies such as CCR&R's, and regulatory agency staff.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS & STATUS

REVIEW OF ALL STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK AND RESEARCH  
EXTENSIVE PLANNING MEETINGS WITH QRIS SUB-COMMITTEE  
DEVELOPMENT OF FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QRIS  
QRIS LEGISLATIVE REPORT SUBMITTED March 2024  
NC SESSION LAW 2024-34 EFFECTIVE July 2024  
QRIS WORK CONTINUES THROUGH RULEMAKING PROCEDURES  
IMPLEMENTATION ANTICIPATED IN LATE 2025

# What is proposed to change?

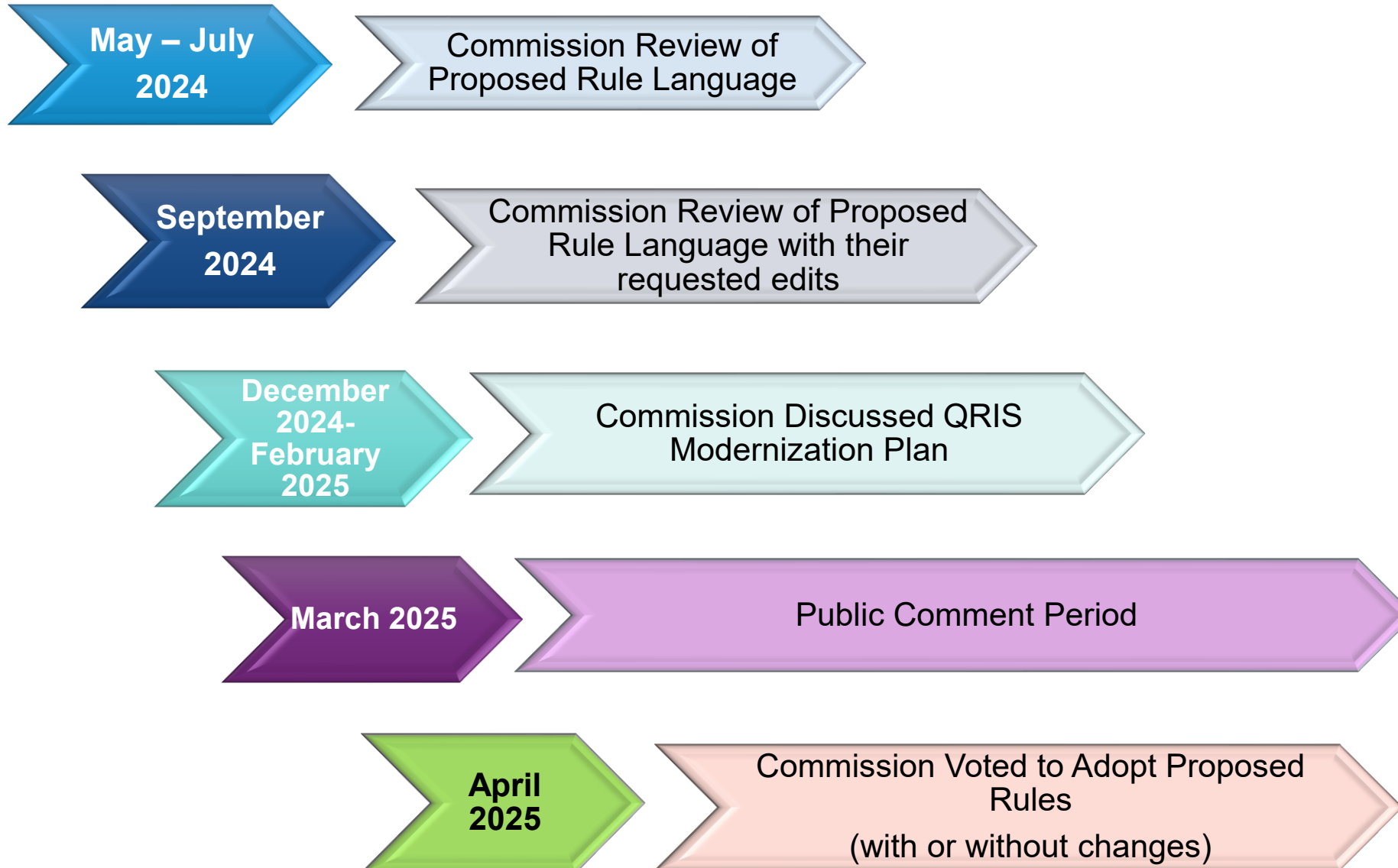
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- **Shifting to a Star Level System, instead of a points-based system**
- **Addition of two licensure pathways to earn a 2-5 Star Rated License**
- **Use of ERS-3 and SACERS-U for program assessment, instead of ERS-R**
- **Addition of Family & Community Engagement Standards**
- **Addition of Continuous Quality Improvement Standards**
- **Choices in education standards to include the CDA, early childhood education certificates, work experience, training and competency evaluations**
- **Coaching/mentoring opportunities**
- **Acknowledgment of quality initiatives, in addition to QRIS standards**





# QRIS Modernization Rulemaking Timeline



# QRIS System Overview

	<b>Pathway #1: Program Assessment</b> 	<b>Pathway #2: Classroom &amp; Instructional Quality</b> 	<b>Pathway #3: Accreditation &amp; Head Start</b> 	
<b>2 Star</b>	All 2 Star Standards	All 2 Star Standards	NAFCC NECPA AMS IMC	NAEYC NAC COGNIA Head Start
<b>3 Star</b>	All 3 Star Standards	All 3 Star Standards		
<b>4 Star</b>	All 4 Star Standards	All 4 Star Standards	<b>AND</b> 4 Star Education Standards	
<b>5 Star</b>	All 5 Star Standards	All 5 Star Standards	<b>AND</b> 5 Star Education Standards	

# Communication regarding QRIS news

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- **Raise NC newsletters have a weekly QRIS topic**
  - Started with ERS-3 information in September and have continued into 2025
- **Information on QRIS Modernization can be found at:**
  - QRIS Modernization webpage listed below  
<https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Provider/Licensing/Star-Rated-License/QRIS-Modernization>
- **Additional communication efforts Preparing for transition**
  - Survey sent to all licensed child care facilities







## DCDEE Regulatory Regions

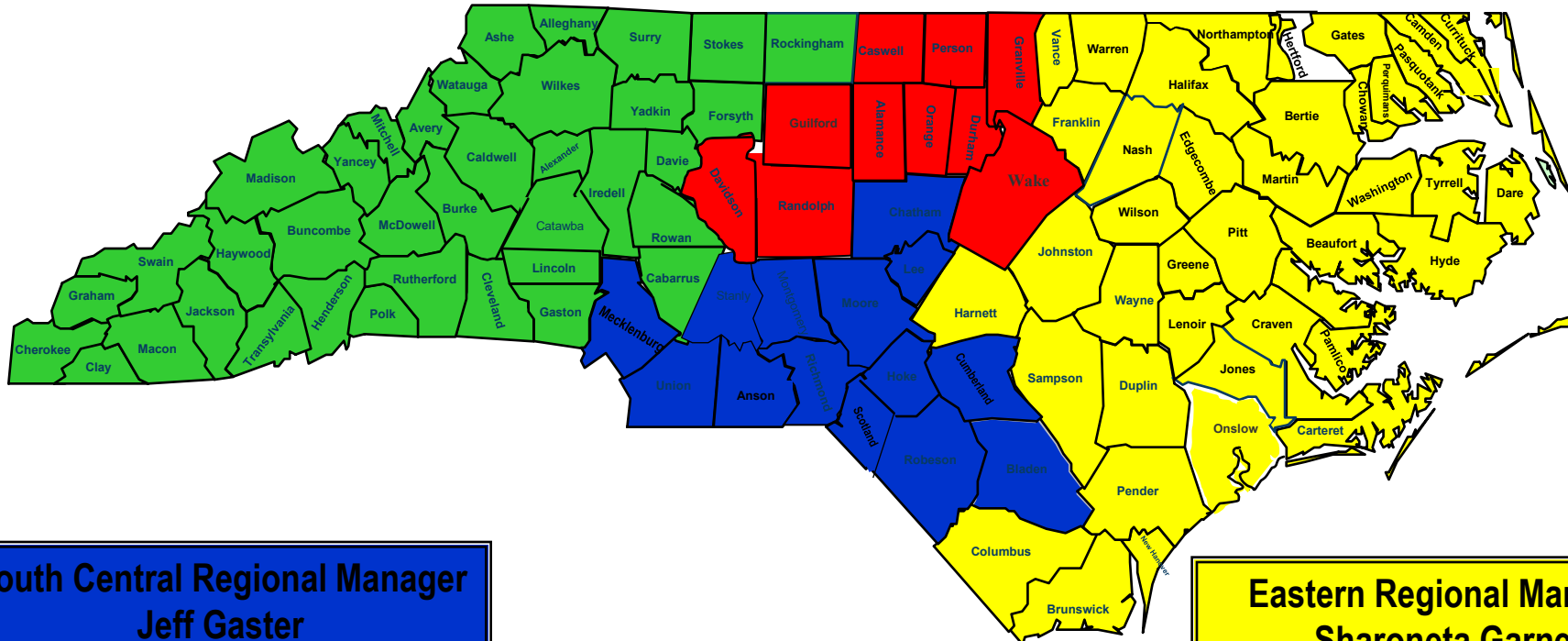
## Regulatory Services Section Regional Licensing Territories

**Western Regional Manager**  
**Rebecca Hammond**

Pam Hauser	Tammy McGalliard
Bonnie Mathis	Erin Pickard

**North Central Regional Manager**  
**Kimberly Williams-Binkley**

Meg Riddle	Kay Adkins
Holli Hemby	Michele Remington



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Susan Fuller	Teraesa Leak
Jennifer Linhardt	Lynette Robbins



**Invest in Early Care and Learning**

**RaiseNC.nc.gov**





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***[ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov](https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov)***

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