

# Finalizing 2024 State Legislative Priorities

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# What do we need from Board today?

- **Approve 2024 State priorities**
  - General guidance
  - Top 3 list
  - Opportunity list
- **Next steps**
  - Staff will work to explore coalitions
  - Discuss with partners
  - Refine the legislative ask

# Approach Legislative Priorities in Three Ways

## General Guidance

- Policy guidance to CMO and contracted lobbyists to:
  - 1) reflect ongoing Board interests, and
  - 2) allow discretion to react quickly to legislative actions

## Top Three Asks

- To speak with a single, clear voice, Board needs to set a short list of top priorities

## Opportunity List

- We can't predict what issues will be "hot" each session. The Board may approve a list of issues that, if an opportunity arises, CMO has discretion to pursue.



# 2024 Context

- Short session
- Legislature and local government
- Limited political “capital”
- Prioritizing is always important, but especially in this setting

# Staff Recommendations

## Champion Housing Programs

- Lead discussions about potential new State policy
- Advocate for new State policy and programs

## Placement of Foster Youth with Acute Needs

- Unclear LME/CMO responsibilities contributing to placement challenges
- Need to “modernize” the legislation

## Modernize CCBI Legislation

- Statutes authorizing the forensic services agency out of date
- Need to “modernize” the legislation

# 1. Champion State Housing Programs

- **Expand State's low-income housing tax credit program**
  - Make criteria more flexible
- **Create gap-financing opportunities**
  - Trust funds
  - Grants
- **Address source-of-income discrimination**
  - Source-of-income as a basis of rental decisions
- **Create statewide clearinghouse of opportunities**

## **2. Placement of Foster Youth with Acute Needs**

- **Lack of community providers and placement options is a Statewide challenge.**
- **Seek amendments to roles in placement of foster youth**
- **Unclear responsibilities has contributed to significant wait times, youth in office buildings**

# 3. Modernize CCBI Legislation

- State legislature created CCBI in 1937
- Need language to reflect current practices, be flexible for future changes
- Examples
  - Agency name
  - Director term
  - Roles of County, DA, and Raleigh
  - Flexibility for evolving services

S. B. 428

CHAPTER 535

AN ACT TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH A BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION FOR WAKE COUNTY.

*The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:*

bureau  
n for

SECTION 1. That in order to provide for the performance of the duties hereinafter designated and defined for the better enforcement of the criminal laws in Wake County, there is hereby created and established a Bureau of Identification for Wake County.



# Logic for Staff Recommendations...

- **Reflect needed changes that would benefit County services**
- **Align with policy issues legislature already discussing**
- **Safe**

# Opportunity List

Advocacy work not guaranteed, but CMO staff have discretion to pursue if opportunity

- K-2<sup>nd</sup> Instructional Assistants
- Teaching Fellows Program
- Property tax relief
- Veterans services policy aligning with County
- Foster care system improvements
- Medicaid coverage for persons in jail (state / federal)
- Orphan road funding
- Social and emotional resources for public schools

# Finalizing 2024 Priorities

- **In October, Board asked staff to invite Commissioners to suggest changes to top 3, or additional items for Opportunity List**
- **None received**
- **Staff request Board direction to proceed with recommended top 3 list and opportunity list**



# **Supplemental Slides**

**(will only reference depending on questions)**

# 1. General Guidance

- **The Board of Commissioners will pursue legislative advocacy that**
  - Preserves the Board's statutory authorities and discretion to set policy priorities for Wake County government.
  - Preserves the County's financial resources and tax base.
  - Maintains and enhances State funding for government services
  - Advances the Board's Strategic Plan initiatives.
  - Facilitates policy improvements that benefit Wake County government and residents
- **County Manager's Office staff have the Board's permission to advocate in support of this general guidance**
- **Applies to state and federal advocacy**

# 1. General Guidance

**Staff and lobbyist assume this covers the following:**

- **Sustain or increase funding for public schools and community colleges**
- **Sustain or increase funding for State-funded services in HHS and other departments**
- **Oppose bills that would shrink tax base or present financial challenges**
- **Oppose bills that reduce the Board's options to manage growth**
- **Oppose unfunded mandates or bills disrupting services**