

# **New Committee Launches To Focus On Adequate Support For Those With Intellectual And Developmental Disabilities**

*By Jacqueline Wyatt for NCASA*

The Legislative Research Commission's new Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities held its first meeting on Tuesday. Co-chaired by Senator Michael Lee (R-New Hanover) and Representative John Bradford (R-Mecklenburg), the committee launched with a [charge](#) to "study and recommend changes in policy for consideration by the General Assembly regarding the quality and availability of evidence-based services to support individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities ("IDD") in retaining employment." Education stands among the forefront of their conversation, goals, and future issues for consideration.

On Tuesday, committee members heard an in-depth overview of IDD Population and Programs at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Mark T. Benton, Deputy Secretary for Health Services, DHHS, and Susan Perry-Manning, Deputy Secretary for Human Services (DHHS) presented definitions of IDD, target populations and program eligibility at DHHS, services, Medicaid, and how these partnerships affect LEAs and their students. Click [here](#) to view their presentation materials.

Next, staff from the Department of Public Instruction briefly presented their role in serving children in North Carolina with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Bill Hussey, Director of the Exceptional Children Division, began by providing the committee with DPI's definition of IDDs specifically in education, stating that intellectual disabilities are considered "significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning that adversely affects a child's educational performance existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period." He then spoke on the existing programs and support at DPI, funding, and the educational costs for IDD students.

The committee also heard about higher education options for students with ID/IDD from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the North Carolina Community College System. A main theme in the day's topics was how each organization works together in order to provide the best experiences possible for students and families across NC with IDDs. All presentation materials can be found [here](#).