

Vicki B. Stocking

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Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 8:01 AM
To: Vicki B. Stocking
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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Dear Friends,

Thanks for checking in with us during the hustle and bustle of the new year! We hope that you're coming out of the holiday season with renewed energy and intention for the year ahead. What are your priorities in 2025?

There's been a lot to celebrate among our team since we last touched base. Naomi rounded out November with a destination wedding in Puerto Rico, and Vichi and Seth celebrated their birthdays in December and January respectively. Last month, Graham and Vichi also attended Community Accountability Board member Johnathon Brunson's Verbal Sparring event on prison reform. This educational performance is delivered in the style of battle rap, with two opponents using a blend of poetry, wit, and bravado to debate their stance in front of an audience.

We're excited to share the progress we've been making toward our goals for the year! In this edition, you'll find updates about our Medicaid Learning Collaborative and the Young Civic Leaders initiative. Keep reading to learn more about upcoming events and opportunities for you to get involved with supporting our work building capacity in rural Eastern N.C.

Onward!

The Latest from ROI

Applications Open for Medicaid Learning Collaborative

The application window is currently open for our Medicaid Learning Collaborative 2025-26 Cohort. N.C. public and charter school leaders, we're excited to see you take advantage of this opportunity to receive free technical assistance valued at \$100k+ to help your school district hire full-time mental health professionals to support students and staff. Applicants must apply by February 28, 2025 and will receive a decision via email on March 17, 2025. We've already received 28 applications; don't miss out on your opportunity to get in on the action! Apply at the link below.

Apply to 2025-26

Medicaid Learning Collaborative 2025-26 Cohort

Rural Opportunity Institute (ROI), a North Carolina-based nonprofit, has partnered with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to help your school district hire full-time mental health professionals to support students and staff. Get access to technical assistance valued at \$100k+ **at no cost to your school district.**

Join fellow N.C. changemakers in K-12 education!

Members of this cohort receive direct support with launching Medicaid-funded mental health services, including:

- **Increase Financial Resources:** Access new funding streams to hire more mental health professionals.
- **Expert Guidance:** Join a learning community with monthly sessions led by national experts.
- **Tailored Approach:** Receive weekly follow-ups from our team to ensure the program fits your school's needs.

Apply Now:

Fill out the form [linked here](#), also available via the QR code to the left.

Application deadline is February 28, 2025

“ROI's support has been invaluable. Our suspension rates...”



Rural Opportunity Initiative



Recruiting for Young Civic Leaders Initiative

We are aiming to expand the Young Civic Leaders Initiative by 3x this year, and we need your support to make it happen! This summer internship program creates opportunities for youth employment and career mentorship in eastern North Carolina, while filling gaps to support community needs. We're calling on non-profit, public, and private sector employers who are eager to invest in our youth; fill out the interest form linked below if you'd like to host a YCL intern this summer. Know a budding leader in your community? Help us get connected by filling out the youth nomination form.

[Submit a](#)

Tomorrow, February 4th: Medicaid Learning Collaborative Q&A Session

Interested in the Medicaid Learning Collaborative but unsure if you're ready to apply yet? **Join us virtually for a program Q&A Session on February 4, 2025 11am-12pm.** You'll hear from our Medicaid Consultant, Sarah Broome, about program details and eligibility requirements. ROI's Innovation Program Manager, La'Shanda Person, will answer your questions and share details about an upcoming in-person session opportunity for current and future cohort members. **Sign up for the virtual Q&A Session at the Eventbrite link below.**

[Register to Attend Q&A](#)

"[Our] team has learned so much more about Medicaid reimbursement through our participation, and has been able to make changes to maximize efforts. The Medicaid Learning Collaborative has been impactful and helpful every step of the way."

- 2024-2025 MLC Cohort member, Meagan Crews, Director of Mental Health at Jackson County Public Schools (JCPS)

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Medicaid Learning Collaborative 2025-26 Cohort Q&A



Presenter:
Sarah
Broome, ROI
Medicaid
Consultant

Learn how ROI
can help your
N.C. public or
charter school
expand mental
health services

Join us on Zoom
(link will be provided
via registration)
Feb 4, 2025
11:00AM-12:00PM
See our [FAQ Guide](#)



Click [here](#) or
scan QR code to
apply to the
cohort



Register for Q&A
Session [here](#) or
scan QR code

Opportunities

Rural Forward's 10th Anniversary Celebration

Attend Rural Forward's Tenth Anniversary Celebration in Rocky Mount, NC. Rural Forward (now part of MDC) has been an important partner of ROI's for the last 6 years, including helping us form our Community Accountability Board. We're grateful for all of their support over the years, and we hope you're as excited as we are to celebrate their work!

[Register for the Celebration](#)

RSVP For February Policy Listening Session

For anyone local to Nash, Edgecombe, and Wilson counties here in North Carolina: Join us virtually **on Thursday, February 13th from 12-1pm EST** to discuss important policy matters that affect our community. This session is open to all who are interested in sharing their thoughts and ideas. Let's come together to listen, learn, and collaborate on ways to make a positive impact. Don't miss this opportunity to have your voice heard!

RSVP for the 2/13

Rural Opportunity Institute supports youth, organizations and communities to interrupt the cycle of generational trauma and design innovative solutions for healing and resilience.

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