OVERVIEW: Section 9I.12 of S.L. 2021-180 directs the Division of Social Services (DSS) and the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) to collaborate and establish a two-year child welfare and behavioral health pilot program to increase access to comprehensive health care services for children in foster care. Davie, Forsyth, Rockingham, and Stokes counties must participate in the pilot project. DSS and DMH/DD/SAS must establish a trauma-informed integrated health foster care model to facilitate partnerships between local county departments of social services and local management entities/managed care organizations. This section directs DSS and DMH/DD/SAS to submit a progress report on the pilot program by April 1, 2022, and a final report by October 1, 2023, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services.

This section became effective July 1, 2021.