



**RESOLUTION
OF SUPPORT FOR ADEQUATE FUNDING TO MEET THE MENTAL HEALTH,
INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER SERVICE NEEDS FOR CITIZENS OF JACKSON COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Jackson County is a member of Vaya Health, the area authority for twenty-three (23) western North Carolina counties that make up Vaya's Catchment Area;

WHEREAS, Jackson County knows that citizens dealing with mental illness and substance use disorders can achieve recovery with the right services and supports, and that citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live productive lives in our communities with appropriate services and supports; and

WHEREAS, the need for services and supports for these individuals is increasing due to North Carolina's growing population and the opioid epidemic in North Carolina and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Vaya Health achieved savings through prudent and successful management of the Medicaid 1915(b)/(c) Waiver; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the intent of the NC General Assembly and the NC Department of Health and Human Services, the governing Board of Vaya Health developed and is implementing a robust community reinvestment plan to use savings that is benefiting the citizens of our Catchment Area;

WHEREAS, Vaya's reinvestment plan included purchase and distribution of more than 2600 opioid reversal kits; expansion of the Youth Villages Intercept® program that helps prevent out-of-home placement for children; increased funding for YV Lifeset® services for children aging out of foster care; development and ongoing support for two Behavioral Health Urgent Care Centers; development of substance use recovery housing; improving integrated care through workforce development training, including training for direct support professionals who serve persons with IDD; support for community programs that create affordable housing options, prevent eviction and help individuals with disabilities access housing and other forms of federal aid; and installation of MindKare® Kiosks across the Catchment Area to help reduce stigma and provide a convenient way for citizens to learn about services, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly significantly reduced State funding for mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use disorder services for the past two years; and

WHEREAS, these budget reductions can no longer be absorbed by Vaya Health without jeopardizing services to citizens of the Vaya Health Catchment Area, negatively impacting the lives of people in need of services as well as potentially impacting the local economy through job loss;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of County Commissioners for Jackson County, do hereby request that the North Carolina General Assembly:

- Maintain full State funding for mental health, developmental disabilities and substance use services without further reductions; and
- Commit to increasing State funding for mental health, developmental disabilities and substance use services in order to serve the growing numbers of indigent, uninsured and under-insured population; and
- Allow Vaya Health to continue to use its savings to reinvest in enhanced services in our communities rather than having to use that funding to replace State budget reductions.

ADOPTED this 5th day of June, 2017.

Attest:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

By: _____
Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman

• MENTAL HEALTH
• DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
• SUBSTANCE ABUSE

NORTH CAROLINA
**COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS**

RESTORE STATE FUNDS FOR MH/I-DD/SUD SERVICES

The Senate budget is a tragedy for individuals with mental illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities and substance abuse disorders. Using the Medicaid savings to replace State funding is a cut to the MH/I-DD/SUD system—there is no other way to look at it:

1. IT TAKES DOLLARS OUT OF THE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM.
2. IT IS A RECURRING CUT.
3. IT IS BASED ON THE FALSE ASSUMPTION THAT MEDICAID SAVINGS WILL CONTINUE TO ACCRUE AT CURRENT RATES.
4. IT ASSUMES THAT MEDICAID SAVINGS WILL BE THERE FOR YEARS TO COME TO PAY FOR SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T EVEN HAVE MEDICAID. THIS IS ANOTHER FALSE ASSUMPTION.

The real issue is NOT Medicaid or Medicaid savings! This is about our legislature's responsibility to the citizens of North Carolina who do not qualify for Medicaid, who cannot afford private insurance, or whose private insurance doesn't pay for critical behavioral health and intellectual-developmental disability treatment.

To date, individuals who are indigent and experience serious mental illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities or substance use disorders have lost the potential of using \$262 million in TREATMENT AND HABILITATION SERVICES, mostly in their communities.

If the Senate budget passes, MH/I-DD/SUD will suffer an ADDITIONAL loss of \$172 million in State funding, and \$68 million of that loss will recur in the budget after the biennium and going forward.

The budget document states that this year's allocation is an increase but that is comparing it to a State budget that already had \$152 million cut from it. Make no mistake, THIS IS A CUT TO FUNDING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES!

The LME/MCOs are PUBLIC managers. Whether it takes 2 months or 2 years, Medicaid savings have been and WILL be spent on the service system. The legislature, in its own words, has already "clawed back" \$262 million in state dollars that then were NOT spent on the service system. DOES IT REALLY MAKE SENSE TO TAKE MORE? IS THIS THE RIGHT THING TO DO? IS THIS FAIR TO THE CITIZENS OF NORTH CAROLINA?

LME-MCOs have worked with DHHS and others to develop parameters to ensure that they are spending Medicaid savings in appropriate and timely ways, and we expect to see these in special provisions this session. We see this as a productive way to improve our use of savings. Backfilling holes artificially created by the legislature is not.

The message is simple: RESTORE STATE FUNDS FOR MH/I-DD/SUD SERVICES!

For more information contact:

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