

**August 26, 2021**

**TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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The Trillium Health Resources Governing Board met on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. via WebEx.

**Members Present:** Gary Bass, Sandra Buckman, David Clegg, Mary Ann Furniss, Ann Floyd Huggins, Charles Jordan, Ron Lowe, Jim Madson, Janice Nichols, Dr. Denauvo Robinson, Pat Sykes, Emmie Taylor and Lea Wolf.

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Bland Baker, Cindy Ehlers, Joy Futrell, Dr. Paul Garcia, Fonda Gonzales, Dr. Kimberly Greer, Richard Leissner, Mike Lewis, Michelle Martin, Dave Peterson, Dr. Michael Smith, Cham Trowell, Leza Wainwright, Dennis Williams and Lisa Fuller, Clerk.

**Guests:** Lisa Jackson, liaison with the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Furniss called the August 26, 2021 meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Furniss called for a motion to approve the consent agenda to include the following items:

- June 24, 2021 Governing Board minutes
- June 30, 2021 Emergency Governing Board minutes
- August 12, 2021 Emergency Governing Board minutes
- 2020 – 2021 Utilization Management Plan Annual Evaluation
- 2021 – 2022 Utilization Management and Review Plan

Mr. Madson moved to approve the consent agenda items. The motion, seconded by Mr. Lowe, was unanimously approved.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Ms. Furniss called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Sykes so moved. The motion, seconded by Dr. Robinson, was unanimously approved.

**V. PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR APPROVAL**

Mr. Lowe, Chair of the Nominating Committee, including committee members Mr. Madson and Ms. Wolf, proposed the following slate of officers for the board's approval: Mary Ann Furniss, Chair, and Dr. Denauvo Robinson, Vice Chair. Mr. Lowe stated that nominations would be accepted from the floor, but asked that nominations only be made if the nominee had agreed to serve if elected.

With there being no other nominations from the floor, Commissioner Jordan moved to approve the proposed slate of officers; seconded by Mr. Clegg and unanimously approved.

Ms. Furniss noted that Mr. Madson agreed to serve another year as the Finance Committee Chair.

**VI. BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

There were no comments or concerns expressed by the Board.

**VII. CONVENE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Ms. Furniss entertained a motion to recess the Governing Board meeting and to convene the Finance Committee meeting. Commissioner Sykes so moved. The motions, seconded by Ms. Nichols, was unanimously approved.

**VIII. OATH OF OFFICE**

Ms. Fuller administered the Oath of Office to new members Sandra Buckman, Commissioner Ann Floyd Huggins and Commissioner Pat Sykes.

**IX. BUDGET REVISION IV FISCAL YEAR 2020 - 2021**

Ms. Futrell reported that the fourth budget revision for fiscal year 2020-2021 is an amendment needed to address Medicaid funds and TCLI to close out the fiscal year, resulting in a net increase of \$15,495,884. Trillium spent more than we had budgeted, due to a couple or rate changes and an unanticipated increase in members at the beginning of the year.

The amendment also included grant funds for Transition to Community Living (TCLI), formerly known as the Settlement with the Department of Justice for people with mental health issues. The funds came in at the last minute, and a revision was needed to include the funds in the budget for State money previously spent.

The Board gave the Chair authorization to approve any fiscal year 2020-2021 budget revisions needed subsequent to the Board meeting June 30, 2021.

**X. BUDGET REVISION I FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**

Ms. Futrell reported that this budget revision is a reduction of slightly more than 1.3 million. The primary reason is, Trillium has not yet received its continuation allocation from the State. We need to clear up the reduction in single stream funds. Although the reduction is 5.5 million, we are continuing to receive the yearly one-time allocations and some of those come in under single stream, so brings it to 3 million.

On the revenue side we received a new allocation under adult mental health for \$500,000. This allocation is for The Steven Cohen Center for Mental Health in Onslow County, for the Military Family Clinic to provide outpatient services. This is one-time money, we added it to the budget, bringing the budget for this year to 603,020,684.

Ms. Furniss entertained a motion to approve Budget Revision I for fiscal year 2021-2022. Emmie Taylor so moved. The motion, seconded by Sandra Buckman and unanimously approved.

**XI. Tailored Plan “Deeper Dive” - Medical**

Dr. Michael Smith, CMO, along with Fonda Gonzales, Director of QM and Cham Trowell, Director of UM & TOC gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation to the Board, outlining the changes and transformation for Trillium with the implementation of the Tailored Plan.

Dr. Paul Garcia, Deputy CMO and Dr. Kimberly Greer, I/DD and TBI Clinical Director of NC Medicaid Managed Care Program introduced themselves to the Board.

**XII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Ms. Wainwright discussed the following items from her written report.

Trillium will be a Tailored Plan

This will be a tremendous lift and will be in the best interest of the people we serve. Although DHHS did not give Trillium’s proposal a numeric score, as they did for the Standard Plans. The Department scored the 12 components as either “meet” expectations, “exceeds expectations,” or “partially meets” expectations”. Trillium scored “exceeds expectations” in three categories, the highest of the LME/MCO’s.

Tuesday, August 10, 2021, DHHS kicked off deep dive meetings for the Tailored Plan. Meetings have been scheduled through the end of August and expect meetings to continue going forward to the July 1, 2022 implementation date. Readiness review activities will begin on November 10, 2021, with the submission of materials for a desk review. Hopefully on-site reviews will happen in the Spring of 2022.

DHHS has indicated that there are going to be some changes/amendments to the response to the RFA (starting contract) for the Tailored Plan. This is based on lessons learned during the implementation of the Standard Plans and discussions during DHHS “deep dive” meetings and some evolution of their thinking on Tailored Care Management. More discussion planned at the DHHS October meeting.

The RFA contained 54 deliverables that must be submitted to DHHS, with a submission date beginning 10 days post award and continuing through 30 days prior to go-live. Sixteen of the deliverables have been submitted on time. Our Implementation Team is working with our consultants from Alvarez and Marsal, the same group used to help write the RFA. Cindy Ehlers is leading the Implementation Team on behalf of the Executive Team.

Certain Medicaid populations that were carved out of managed care in the original legislation; were not to be included under managed care for at least five years, post implementation of the Standard Plans. This includes people who are fully dual eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Some people who have a spenddown for their Medicaid and a few other categories of Medicaid eligibility. Also, those who are on the Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults or the Community Alternatives Program for Children. DHHS just received approval from the General Assembly, to have a limited behavioral health benefit for those Medicaid recipients managed by the Tailored Plans.

County Movement

As of today, all of the counties that were in the Cardinal catchment area except two, have decided where they want to go. Chatham and Stokes counties have not made a decision. Of the counties that have decided not to continue as part of the Cardinal-Vaya merger are; Warren County who chose East Point, and Forsyth and Davie counties chose Partners. Rockingham and Davidson counties chose Sandhills and Halifax County chose Trillium. Outside of the Cardinal-Vaya merger, Bladen County has decided to leave East

Point and join Trillium. DHHS has not decided when Bladen and Halifax counties will move. Trillium has been very clear with department management that, we are ready, and we very much would like to have them join Trillium sooner rather than later. The sooner the county movement is complete, we will have the second half of the year to concentrate on Tailored Plan implementation. The map shows the current Trillium catchment area to include Bladen and Halifax counties, with the bright yellow areas highlighting the two undecided counties Chatham and Stokes.

#### General Assembly

The house has now passed their version of the budget. Both the house and the Senate have appointed conferees to work out the differences. The House budget spends about \$8 million more than the Senate. Both budgets have special appropriations and special grants included in them. That seems to have become a sticking point. At this point, no one seems to be able to speculate when will see a final budget.

#### Single Stream Funding

As Ms. Futrell mentioned, unless the General Assembly puts more money in single stream and the Senate did propose to do that, the House budget did not, Trillium will lose \$5.5 million in single stream. This was a change in the Division of Mental Health, in the developmental disability and substance abuse services formula. Not one with which we disagree, it made perfect sense, nevertheless Trillium will need to manage with the reduction in funding.

As of the end of fiscal year 2021, LME/MCO's spent more than was required to spend by law. Trillium spent 171.5% of our service level requirement, a significant increase in State dollar service expenditures since the benchmark year.

#### Pharmacy Benefit Manager

Envolve has been selected to serve as our Pharmacy Benefit Manager. Although Envolve is a subsidiary of Centene, which is one of the "parents" of our Standard Plan partner, Carolina Complete Health, we chose Envolve through a competitive RFP separate from selecting CCH as our Standard Plan partner.

#### The Station Club

The station club is an adult day vocational program in Morehead City. Formerly operated by The Neuse Center, when Neuse delivered services. It was divested to Carobell, as part of the mental health reform of the mid 2000's. Prior to the pandemic, Carobell had some issues recruiting and retaining staff, and has decided to discontinue services and close the program, effective September 17, 2021. Currently there are approximately 33 members in the program in need of meaningful day activities.

We are pleased that Easter Seals/United Cerebral Palsy of North Carolina and Virginia (ES/UCP) has agreed to open an EMPOWER Adult Wellness and Recreation program at the former Station Club site. They are committed to ensuring that there is no gap in services, the new program will simultaneously start with the closure of Carobell.

EMPOWER currently operates three programs for Trillium, in Ahoskie, Elizabeth City and Wilmington and they are well received by families and members.

#### Comments

This is our first Board meeting since the implementation of the Standard Plans. In General, when you think about how massive a change this is, I am heartened that we are almost two months in, and for the most part things are going really well, that is encouraging. Trillium stands prepared to help our members who need help navigating the system.



**XIII. CFAC REPORT**

Ms. Furniss Southern Region CFAC designee, Mr. Lowe, Northern Region CFAC chair, and Ms. Buckman, Central Region CFAC chair gave reports on behalf of their respective committees.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

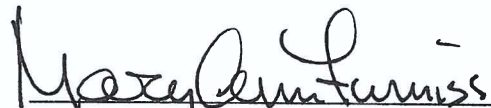
I would like to thank and commend the Trillium management and staff for the excellent work on the RFA. I know it was a lot of hard work, we have one of the best LME/MCO's, and I am proud to be associated with Trillium.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no other business, Ms. Furniss called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Madson so moved. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

  
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Lisa Fuller, Clerk to the Board

  
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Mary Ann Furniss, Governing Board Chair