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March 25, 2025

**TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES  
NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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The Trillium Health Resources North Central Regional Advisory Board met on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. at 1436 Highland Dr., Washington, NC 27889.

**Members Present:** Sameka Bennerman, David Clegg, Robbie Davis, Luana Gibbs, Nina Griswell, Viola Harris, Deborah Herring, Jeff Hill, Jerry Jones, Miranda Keel, Jerry Langley, Thomas Midgette, JaNell Octigan, Wally Overman, Pat Prescott, Rob Ross, Amanda Smith and Lorraine Washington.

**Members Absent:** Rob Boyette, Tia Foula, Tracey Johnson and Melvin McLawhorn.

**Staff Present:** Terrell Alston, Dave Peterson and Lisa Fuller, Clerk.

**Guests:** None

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Langley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2025 MINUTES**

Chairman Langley called for a motion to approve the January 28, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Jones so moved. The motion, seconded by Ms. Bennerman was unanimously approved.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Langley entertained a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Washington so moved. The motion, seconded by Ms. Octigan was unanimously approved.

**V. TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES UPDATES**

The Trillium CEO updates have been tabled due to illness.

**VI. BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

- Ms. Washington reported on CFAC Legislative Day March 11<sup>th</sup> held in Raleigh. The event was attended by 55 CFAC members, the largest group to ever attend, including 4 Legislative members.
- Chairman Langley thanked Board members who attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners - 2025 NC Summit on Reducing Overdose held in Raleigh. Trillium was one of the sponsors of the event.

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- Commissioner Ross of Dare County expressed concern over the decline in math and reading test scores for students in grades 3 through 8. He inquired if other members of the Board are having similar experiences in their counties with student achievement post-COVID. Members shared their concerns with student achievement and the testing systems.
- Mr. Hill announced Wilson County will have their Mobile Crisis unit operational by the end of next month. The unit will include a healthcare navigator, phlebotomist for STI testing and blood drawing, and a social worker for mental health provision and referrals. They are paring the unit with the community paramedic program for primary health care.
- Chairman Langley reminded members of the i2i 2025 Spring Conference June 9-11 in Raleigh, NC.

## **VII. DRAFT BYLAWS**

Mr. Peterson shared the amended draft of the Trillium Health Resources Regional Advisory Board Bylaws. Board members were asked to review and make changes as needed prior to the next meeting.

## **VIII. GOVERNING BOARD REPORT**

Mr. Overman shared the following information and updates from the Governing Board meeting held on March 13, 2025.

- Kelly Crosbie, Director, NC DMHDDSUS announced increased funding and expanded services for individuals in Justice Programs from \$29 million to \$70 million. She also discussed the Crisis to Care Program, that responds to mental health crises. Individuals in crises can call 988 to receive support.
- During public comments, Wes Rider expressed concerns that recovery services need improvement, and the Trillium website needs more information on mental health recovery. Mr. Rider expressed his concerns regarding The Healing Place in Wilmington, as a good place for mental health recovery.
- Jason Swartz, Trillium Sr. Pharmacy Director, shared a PowerPoint presentation by Sheila Davis, Director of Dare County HHS on Kratom. A motion was made and passed unanimously to write a resolution urging the NC General Assembly to place controls and regulations on Kratom.
- Joy Futrell, Trillium CEO announced the opening of a new 16 bed mental health and substance use disorder treatment center to open in Onslow County in April. The facility will be operated by Easter Seals/PORT.

### Tailored Plan Activities

- Non-emergency medical transportation continues to be a top concern for members.
- Over \$94 million has been paid in pharmacy services through mid-February.
- This fiscal year over \$1.23 billion has been paid to providers to support member needs.

### Other Activities

- Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP) has been launched in 15 of our counties as of May 15<sup>th</sup>. There are 2,553 members currently enrolled, 6,132 referrals and 6,064 approved authorization requests have been made for services. Food boxes and housing continue to be the most requested services.

### Personnel Changes

- Trillium currently employs over 1,600 staff.
- Cindy Ehlers rescinded her retirement notice, and effective March 1<sup>st</sup> she began serving as Chief of Strategy and Innovation.

- Christy Edwards will serve as the Trillium Chief Operating Officer.
- A motion was made and passed to send the Regional Advisory Board approved meeting minutes to the Governing Board Clerk, Lisa Jarman, to be included in the Governing Board review and minutes. CFAC will not send separate minutes, as their minutes will be part of the Regional Board minutes. The Health Equity and Provider Council will send their meeting minutes separately.
- Financials - As of January 31, 2025, Trillium revenue was \$1.674 billion, expenditures \$1.675, with a net operating deficit of \$1.689 million. The deficit is due to the per member, per month allocations, which have not yet been received from the State.

## **IX. REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Mr. Peterson shared the following:

- Greenville will soon have a behavioral health facility scheduled to open this summer. The facility will have 144 beds for behavioral health, including beds for children, geriatric and specialized treatment. The facility is located within a mile of ECU Hospital.
- On April 1<sup>st</sup> Mental Health Parity requires a health plan to ensure that mental health and substance use disorders have no more stringent limitations than medical/physical conditions.
- Starting December 1, 2025, children in the Child and Family Specialty Plan will no longer be serviced by Trillium. They will be serviced by Healthy Blue (Blue Cross Blue Shield). On October 15<sup>th</sup> Trillium will begin transitioning and sharing information with Healthy Blue as directed by the State Department.
- Trillium received grants from the State to open two crisis and behavioral health based urgent care facilities in Pitt County. The provider overseeing the behavioral health facility is Easter Seals PORT, and the crisis facility provider is Integrated Family Services.
- The new Governing Board structure includes five at-large members. Two of the at-large members that represent counties in the North Central Region will meet with Mr. Peterson to receive the Regional Advisory Board orientation, in addition to the orientations from DHHS and DHB.
- The Guilford County lawsuit is still under review by the State.
- Trillium Legal Counsel continues efforts to recoup funds from Legacy Eastpointe individuals identified in the OIA findings.
- Greene County is scheduled to receive an inclusive playground. Currently there are 34 counties that now have inclusive playgrounds throughout the Trillium catchment area.
- Health Departments in some of the rural areas have begun managing the Mobile Clinics with success. This may be a discussion to have with some of the counties that are having difficulties reaching members.

## **X. CFAC REPORT**

Ms. Washington highlighted items from the March 17<sup>th</sup> CFAC meeting.

- CFAC members received updates from Suzanne Thompson, DHHS, as well as reports from Trillium staff, Terrell Alston, ARVP, Tiffanie Herring, Community Liaison and Dave Peterson, RVP.
- Lisa Poteat, Interim Executive Director, The Arc of North Carolina was invited to discuss housing concerns. Ms. Poteat addressed concerns CFAC members from Greene County are having with the lack of supervision, transportation and support for members with I/DD living at the Greene County Apartments. Mr. Peterson reached out to Amy Modlin, Trillium Director of Housing to start a discussion with Ms. Poteat to work on a resolution.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no other business, Chairman Langley called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Midgette so moved. The motion, seconded by Ms. Washington was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

  
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Lisa Fuller, Clerk

  
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Deborah Herring, Vice Chair