

Mid-State Regional Advisory Board March 25, 2025

The Trillium Health Resources Mid-State Regional Advisory Board met Tuesday, March 25, 2025. The meeting was held in person at the Asheboro Office, 938 New Century Drive, Asheboro, NC, and via Web-Ex at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Commissioner David Allen, Kishia Dunlap, Mary Hassell, Leann Henkel, Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid and Ann Shaw

Members Absent:

Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston, Commissioner Carlvena Foster, and Commissioner Dr. Rick Watkins

Staff Present:

Anthony Ward, Anne Kimball, Terrell Alston, and Sherry Bynum

Guest:

Randy Abbott, Trillium Governing Board

I. Call to Order

Chair Commissioner David Allen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

II. Certification of Quorum

Sherry Bynum certified a quorum.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Allen called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mary Hassell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Oath of Office for New Member

Tabled

V. Approval of January 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Allen called for a motion to approve the January 28, 2025 meeting minutes. Mary Hassell made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Mid-State Regional Vice President, Anthony Ward, introduced Randy Abbott. Mr. Abbott is from Guilford County and is on the Trillium Governing Board as an at-large member.

Member & Recipient Services — 877.685.2415

Provider Support Services — 855.250.1539

Administrative & Business Matters — 866.998.2597

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VII. Regional Vice President Report

Anthony Ward, Regional Vice President, provided the following:

A. Federal Funding

Mr. Ward gave an update on the Federal Funding, noting that following the February 2025 approval of a U.S. House of Representatives budget that directs the committee overseeing Medicaid funding to cut spending by \$880 billion over the next decade, there has been much discussion about any possible impact on Medicaid service. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) has announced an estimated \$27 billion reduction to North Carolina's Medicaid program over the next 10 years if the proposed budget is enacted. It is important to note North Carolina's Medicaid Expansion law included a provision that ends participation in expanded Medicaid eligibility if the 90% enhanced federal Medicaid funding rate decreases.

When North Carolina agreed to Medicaid Expansion in 2023, the federal government agreed to a \$1.4 billion 'sign-on' bonus, with \$835 million being directed for behavioral health needs across the state. Most of this amount has been awarded in support of projects but not all of the funding has been received. The federal payments are made quarterly with several additional quarterly payments to be delivered. This funding could be impacted by federal changes. Other non-Medicaid federal funding could be impacted if budget reductions are enacted. Trillium will continue to stay informed as this discussion unfolds at the federal level paying attention to any local impacts and share information as it is available.

B. Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) Updates

Mr. Ward explained that Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 is a federal law that requires health insurers and group health plans to provide mental health and substance use services with no more stringent benefits limitations than those for medical and surgical benefits. To assist providers with these changes, Trillium has developed Clinical Pathways and Standards of Care for adults and child mental health and substance use services for the most prevalent diagnoses. Trillium's Medical leadership staff have hosted multiple webinars to discuss parity along with these clinical pathways and standards of care. Trillium has added the NC DHHS Mental Health Parity Table to the website summarizing the Clinical Coverage Policies changed by NC Medicaid for January 1 dates of services forward. A Quality Assurance Review Tool has been posted to highlight clinical considerations in service delivery and assist providers with clinical administrative determinations. Also, a Frequently Asked Questions document is available on the website maintaining a running list of provider questions.

C. Juvenile Detention Center Substance Use Service Request for Application

Mr. Ward reported that Trillium has announced a Request for Applications (RFA) seeking providers to offer substance use disorder assessment and treatment planning services to youth in the Richmond County Detention Center. The available Mental Health Block Grant funding is designed to provider staff who identify substance use service needs among the youth in custody and identify supports for successful post-custody continuity of care. Applications are currently being reviewed and updates will be provided as funding awards are made.

D. Mobile Crisis Request for Application Update

Mr. Ward reported that the following providers have been selected to provide Mobile Crisis services in the Mid-State Region, in addition to Therapeutic Alternatives, who currently provides the services:

- Integrated Family Services – Guilford County
- Daymark Recovery – Randolph, Montgomery, Richmond, and Anson counties

Mr. Ward will provide contact information for the new providers as requested.

E. Transition Management Services Request for Proposals Update

Mr. Ward reported that in late 2024, Trillium posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) to invite service providers to submit a proposal for the implementation of Transitions Management Services (TMS). TMS is provided to individuals participating in the Transition to Community Living (TCL) initiative. TMS is a rehabilitation services intended to increase and restore an individual's ability to live successfully in the community by maintaining tenancy. The following providers have been selected to add Transition Management Services for Guilford and Randolph counties.

- Sanctuary House – Guilford and Randolph counties
- Stephens Outreach – Guilford and Randolph counties along with other region counties

F. Standard Plan Contract Extension

NC DHHS announced it is leveraging its existing authority to extend the current Standard Plan contracts for an additional year. With this announcement, the next procurement and implementation process will be 2027.

G. Senate Bill 425

Mr. Ward gave an update on Senate Bill 425 since the January Regional Advisory Board meeting:

- On February 6, 2025, a Motion to Dismiss was filed by Trillium and by counsel for the State of NC, Senator Berger, former Speaker Moore and former Secretary Kinsley (Defendants).
- On March 7, 2025, a proposed Scheduling Order was provided to the Court on the Motion to Dismiss. The order outlined the following steps:
 - March 12, 2025 deadline for Guilford County's (Plaintiff) amended Complaint
 - March 24, 2025 deadline for Defendants to serve briefs and materials in support of their Motion to Dismiss
 - April 23, 2025 deadline for Plaintiff to serve briefs and materials in opposition to the Motion to Dismiss
 - May 8, 2025 deadline for Defendants to serve reply briefs and materials

H. Staff Transitions

Mr. Ward gave an update on staff transitions:

- Cindy Ehlers rescinded her retirement notice and began serving as Chief of Strategy and Innovations, effective March 1.
- Christie Edwards was hired as Chief Operating Officer, effective March 1.

VIII. Governing Board Report

Governing Board member, Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid, highlighted items from the Governing Board report, noting that since the last Mid-State Regional Advisory Board meeting, the Governing Board has met twice, January 30 and March 13.

- January 30 Governing Board meeting – was the organizational meeting of the newly appointed Governing Board, which included election of officers. Dr. Denauvo Robinson was elected as Chair and Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid was elected as Vice-Chair. Councilman Walter Ferguson was elected Chair of the Finance Committee and Mr. Wally Overman was elected Vice Chair. The Governing Board bylaws were reviewed and adopted.
- March 13 Governing Board meeting – a presentation by NC DHHS Division of Mental Health Director Kelly Crosbie on State funded services and investments. The Governing Board convened for a business meeting at 4:00 p.m. The meeting included a presentation

on kratom and a discussion on a possible Board resolution requesting the NC General Assembly consider limitations on its sale and distribution.

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 24 for a full day training by NC Medicaid staff at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Board meeting at 4:00 p.m.
- Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid also stated that Leann Henkel was selected as Chair of the Human Rights Committee.

IX. Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) Report

Leann Henkel, CFAC Chairperson, provided a Mid-State Consumer and Family Advisory (CFAC) report, highlighting:

- Meetings – are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Reports are provided by staff.
- Membership – currently have 11 members. Recruiting efforts continue in Anson and Montgomery County.
- Activities –
 - All 5 Trillium CFAC's participated in a meeting with Trillium's Leadership.
 - February's CFAC meeting introduced Members to Trillium Ultimate Living Assistant (TULA). A hands-on demonstration of TULA is planned for the April meeting.
 - Trillium CEO, Joy Futrell, participated in the Mid-State CFAC meeting.
 - CFAC members continue to attend internal and external committee meetings.

X. Regional Advisory Board Comments

None

XI. Draft Regional Advisory Board Bylaws

Chair Allen highlighted the draft Mid-State Regional Advisory Board Bylaws. He noted that since the Governing Board had adopted their Bylaws, the Regional Advisory Boards are able to align with them. He highlighted specific items:

- Article I: Organization and Offices
 - Section 2. Offices – the Greensboro office is the principal office location of the Mid-State Region.
- Article II: Boards and Members, Section 1
 - 1.1. Governing Board and Regional Advisory Boards – the Regional Advisory Boards shall ensure involvement of local stakeholders, promote local collaboration, and monitor services at the local level provided within Trillium's catchment area.
 - 1.2 Governing Board Composition – consist of 18 members, comprised of 15 voting members.
 - 1.3 Regional Advisory Board Composition – two (2) representatives from each county, which shall be a county commissioner and an individual who has the qualifications outlined in N.C.G.S. 122C-118.1(b)(5)-(11) or (13). Additionally, the Chair or designee of the Consumer and Family Advisory Committee for each defined region.
 - 1.4 Regions – divided into five (5) regions.
 - 1.7 Terms – Regional Advisory Board members shall serve as determined by their appointing authority.
 - 1.9 Removal – Members may be removed with or without cause by the appointing authority. A vacancy may be declared of the appointed member who does not attend three (3) consecutive scheduled meetings without justifiable excuse or who ceases to meet the qualifications of their seat. If a member's seat vacant, the Regional Advisory Board will seek to have the vacant seat filled by the appointing authority.
- Article III: Meetings, Section 1
 - 1.3 Attendance – if a Member is unable to attend a schedule meeting, the Member must request to be excused from attendance by the Chair, Clerk to the Regional Advisory Board, or the Regional Vice President. A Member who has more than three (3) unexcused absences in any single fiscal years shall be removed from the Regional Advisory Board.

- 1.4 Responsibilities – receive updates on the implementation of the Tailored Plan and managing whole person health.
- 1.5 Special Meetings – special meetings for a specific purpose may be called at any time by the Chair or at the request of at least five (5) Members.
- Article III: Meetings, Section 2
 - 2.1 Quorum and Voting – a majority of the Members must be present in order to constitute a quorum and to transact official business of the Regional Advisory Board.
- Article IV: Officers, Section 1
 - 1.1 Chair and Vice Chair – it was noted that election of a chair and vice chair would be held at the July meeting.
- Article V: General
 - Section 1. Amendment of the Bylaws – the Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by an affirmative two-thirds vote of the Regional Advisory Board, subject to the approval of the Governing Board.

After Member discussion, Chair Allen called for a motion to adopt the Bylaws. Mary Hassell made a motion to adopt the Bylaws as presented. Ann Shaw seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

XII. Other Material

- Chief Executive Officer Report
- Financial Report
- Tailored Plan Operations Report
- Tailored Plan Operations Report PowerPoint

XIII. Adjournment

With there being no other business, Chair Allen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Tommy Jarrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Hassell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Asheboro Office, 938 New Century Drive, Asheboro, NC.


David Allen, Chairperson

5-27-25
Date


Sherry Bynum, Clerk

5-27-25
Date

Packet Material:

- Tuesday, March 25, 2025 agenda
- Draft January 28, 2025 minutes
- Mid-State Regional Vice President Report
- Mid-State Regional Governing Board Report
- Mid-State CFAC Report
- Draft Regional Advisory Board Bylaws
- Chief Executive Officer Report
- Financial Report
- Tailored Plan Operations Report
- Tailored Plan Operations Report PowerPoint