

## Mid-State Regional Advisory Board July 22, 2025

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The Trillium Health Resources Mid-State Regional Advisory Board met Tuesday, July 22, 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, Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, Mary Hassell, Leann Henkel, Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid, Ann Shaw, and Commissioner Dr. Rick Watkins

### **Members Absent:**

Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston and Commissioner Jeffrey Pope

### **Staff Present:**

Anthony Ward, Anne Kimball, and Sherry Bynum

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Commissioner David Allen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Chair Allen stated that the agenda would need to be amended to move Certification of Quorum and Adoption of the Agenda ahead of the Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

#### **II. Certification of Quorum**

Sherry Bynum, Clerk, certified a quorum.

#### **III. Adoption of Agenda**

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

#### **IV. Election of Regional Advisory Board Chairperson**

Anthony Ward, Regional Vice President, stated that the bylaws require that a Chair and Vice-Chair be nominated and elected in accordance with the fiscal year. Mr. Ward called for nominations from the floor for Chair.

*Mary Hassell nominated Commissioner David Allen as Chair of the Mid-State Regional Advisory Board. Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster seconded the nomination. A motion to close the nomination for Chair was made by Commissioner Dr. Rick Watkins and seconded by Mary Hassell. The nomination was unanimously approved.*

#### **V. Election of Regional Advisory Board Vice Chairperson**

Chair Allen asked for nominations from the floor for Vice-Chair. *Leann Henkel nominated Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster as Vice-Chair of the Mid-State Regional Advisory Board. Commissioner Dr. Rick Watkins seconded the nomination. A motion to close the nomination for Vice-Chair was made by Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid and seconded by Dr. Tommy Jarrell. The nomination was unanimously approved.*

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

- △ May 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- △ May 27, 2025 Closed Session Notes

Chair Allen called for a motion to approve the May 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes and the May 27, 2025 Closed Session Notes. *Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mary Hassell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**VII. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**VIII. Regional Vice President Report**

Anthony Ward, Regional Vice President, expressed his appreciation to the Mid-State Regional Advisory Board for their kind and generous comments on his evaluation. Mr. Ward provided the following:

**A. Federal Funding Update**

- H.R. 1, the 2025 Reconciliation Bill, was signed into law on July 4 and includes \$930 billion in federal Medicaid funding reductions over the next 10 years.
- NC Department of Health and Human Services announced they expect reductions to the North Carolina's Medicaid program over the next 10 years.
- The 2025 Reconciliation Bill increases reimbursement rates for providers and lowers the cap on taxes that States levy on providers to help fund Medicaid. Currently North Carolina collects a 6% tax on providers' net revenue from patient. The new law caps the rate at 3.5%.
- Additionally, the tax cap would eliminate all or most of the Healthcare Access and Stabilization Program (HASP) funding, a system of state-directed payments to hospitals. Hospitals are concerned of closures if they lose the HASP funding.

Mid-State Regional Advisory Board members discussed the impact losing the HASP funding would have for rural hospitals and on service availability.

**B. North Carolina Funding**

Mr. Ward gave an update on the North Carolina Funding, noting the following:

- North Carolina entered the new 2025-26 Fiscal Year with no approved State budget after General Assembly members could not come to terms on a full State budget for the fiscal year nor on 'mini' budgets before June 30, 2025.
- Health items not yet resolved include, among others:
  - Amount for Medicaid rebase, with less than the \$700 million NC DHHS requested being considered.
  - Funding for the Healthy Opportunities Pilots (HOP), with funding being included in neither chamber's budget recommendations but being included in the Senate's 'mini' budget.
  - Amount of LME/MCO Single Stream funding reduction with \$18 million or more being discussed, some to be offset by the Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force Reserve Fund or Opioid Settlement funds.
  - Medication Assisted Treatment funding for incarcerated individuals.
- In the absence of an approved State budget for the fiscal year, spending will continue at last year's levels.

**C. Mobile Crisis Service Update**

Therapeutic Alternatives notified Trillium in June of their decision to discontinue Mobile Crisis Services for the Mid-State Region.

For Anson, Montgomery, Randolph, and Richmond counties, mobile crisis services provided by Therapeutic Alternatives have ended. Daymark Recovery Services is providing mobile crisis services for those counties.

For Guilford County, Therapeutic Alternatives has agreed to continue providing services in Guilford County through October 31. Integrated Family Services begun providing mobile crisis services this week.

**D. Healthy Opportunities Pilot Update**

Mr. Ward reported that budget proposals from the NC General Assembly does not include funding for Healthy Opportunities Pilots (HOP) services beyond June 30, 2025. NC DHHS announced an ending of the services beginning July 1. Even though HOP is not offered in the Mid-State Region, discontinuation of the funding likely means statewide expansion of the work is not being considered for the upcoming year.

Services for Interpersonal Violence were extended through December 31 due to the safety concerns associated with an expedited termination of services for this risk factor.

**E. Service Expansion**

As part of the ongoing commitment to improving access to care and supporting individuals involved with the justice system, Trillium is expanding the provider network to include organizations and professionals who are equipped and willing to meet the unique needs of justice-involved adults or justice-involved youth who are members of Trillium's Tailored Plan and Medicaid Direct.

**F. Victor Junction Service Expansion**

On July 29, Trillium will award funding to Victory Junction for Henry's House, a unique respite experience for children with intellectual/developmental disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injury.

**G. Open Enrollment for Forensic Evaluators**

Mr. Ward reported that Trillium is currently recruiting for forensic evaluators. Interested providers are encouraged to apply.

**H. NC Innovations Waiver: Supports Intensity Scale – Audit**

Mr. Ward reported that beginning July 1, NC Medicaid transitioned to a new version of the Supports Intensity Scale-Adult Version (SIS-A) for individual ages 16 and older.

**I. Trillium ReEntry Simulation – Anson County**

Mr. Ward gave a report on the re-entry simulation he participated in today in Anson County.

**J. Trillium Support Children Early Simulation – Guilford County**

Trillium will hold a Supporting Children Early simulation in Guilford County on Tuesday, September 23, in partnership with Guilford County Partnership for Children. Tickets for the event are free, but registration is required.

Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid requested a Supporting Children Early simulation be held in Anson County.

**K. Senate Bill 425**

Mr. Ward gave an update on Senate Bill 425 noting that on June 26 the Defendant's motion to dismiss was granted. Each of the claims contained in Guilford County's (Plaintiff)

amended complaint was dismissed with prejudice and the motion for permanent injunction denied.

**IX. Governing Board Report**

Governing Board member, Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid, highlighted items from the June Governing Board meetings.

- June 10 meeting – was a budget workshop focused on the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Staff provided a budget presentation on the planned \$3.1 billion budget.
- June 26 meeting – was a regular scheduled meeting, which included a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, the Finance Committee meeting, a presentation on compliance with the System and Organization Controls 2 standards, and approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Pay Plan.
- The Governing Board is scheduled to meeting next on Thursday, August 28.

Mid-State Regional Advisory Board members took the opportunity for discussion of budget amendments should cuts be implemented. Board members also discussed the sale of the properties that were funded by counties prior to the Trillium consolidation and if the Governing Board and Trillium have plans to reinvest those funds from the sale of the properties back into those counties.

**X. Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) Report**

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

- Meetings – are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Reports and updates are provided by staff.
- Highlights from the June report –
  - Unanimously accepted the membership application from Deborah Hyatt of Anson County.
  - Received an overview of the ATTEND Behavior app.
  - Approved the Relational Agreements with the Governing Board and between the five (5) Regional CFACs.
  - CFAC members continue to attend internal and external committee meetings and events.
  - The combined membership of all five (5) Trillium CFAC's constitutes the Member Advisory Committee (MAC). On June, the quarterly MAC meeting was held with Trillium's Leadership.

**XI. Regional Advisory Board Comments**

Chair Allen stated the NC County Association of County Commissioners' annual conference is scheduled for August 21-23 at the Greenville Convention Center, in Pitt County.

**XII. Other Material**

- Chief Executive Officer Report
- Financial Report/Budget Ordinance
- Tailored Plan Operations Report PowerPoint

**XIII. Adjournment**

With there being no other business, Chair Allen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. *Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.*

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Asheboro Office, 938 New Century Drive, Asheboro, NC.

David Allen  
Commissioner David Allen, Chair

September 23, 2025  
Date

Sherry Bynum  
Sherry Bynum, Clerk

September 23, 2025  
Date

Packet Material:

- Tuesday, July 22, 2025 agenda
- Draft May 27, 2025 minutes
- Draft May 27, 2025 Closed Session Notes
- Mid-State Regional Vice President Report
- Mid-State Regional Governing Board Report
- Mid-State CFAC Report
- Chief Executive Officer Report
- Financial Report/Budget Ordinance
- Tailored Plan Operations Report PowerPoint