

Mid-State Regional Advisory Board Minutes July 28, 2026

The Trillium Health Resources Mid-State Regional Advisory Board met Tuesday, July 28, 2026. The meeting was held in person at the Asheboro Office (938 New Century Drive) and via Web-Ex.

Members Present:

Commissioner Carlvena Foster (Chair), Commissioner David Allen, Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston, Kishia Dunlap, Mary Hassell, Leann Henkel, Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid (Vice Chair), Ann Shaw, Commissioner Dr. Rick Watkins

Members Absent:

Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Commissioner Jeffrey Pope

Trillium Staff Present:

Anthony Ward-Regional Vice President, Robert Nelson-Community Liaison Coordinator, Sandra Dunlap-Executive Assistant/Clerk

Guest/s Present:

Randy Abbott-Governing Board Member (Trillium)

I. Call to Order

Former Chair Commissioner David Allen opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

II. Election of Regional Advisory Board Chairperson

Vice President Ward opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.

Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid nominated Commissioner Carlvena Foster as Chairperson. Commissioner Skip Alston motioned to close the floor to nominations, Commissioner Little-Reid seconded; all in favor, the motion carried. Commissioner Foster accepted the nomination, and a vote was taken of those present to accept her as Chairperson. The nomination was unanimously approved.

III. Election of Regional Advisory Board Vice Chairperson

Chair Foster opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson.

Commissioner Alston nominated Priscilla Little-Reid as Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Allen motioned to close the floor to nominations, Kishia Dunlap seconded the motion; all in favor the motion carried. Commissioner Little-Reid accepted the nomination, and a vote was taken of those present to accept her as Vice Chairperson. The nomination was unanimously approved.

IV. Certification of Quorum

Dr. Tommy Jarrell sent his regrets.

Sandra Dunlap-Clerk, certified a quorum.

V. Adoption of July 28, 2026 Agenda

Chair Commissioner Foster entertained a motion to adopt the July 2026 agenda. *Kishia Dunlap motioned to adopt the July agenda, Commissioner Little-Reid seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.*

VI. Approval of May 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Commissioner Foster entertained a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. *Commissioner Allen motioned to approve the minutes as written, Commissioner Little-Reid seconded the motion to approve; all in favor, the motion carried.*

VII. Public Comment

Randy Abbott offered gratitude towards the Regional Advisory Board for welcoming him to attend the meeting.

VIII. Regional Vice President Report

Vice President Ward shared his report.

A. North Carolina Budget Update

North Carolina's \$34.4 billion biennial budget (FY 2025-2027), passed July 2026, includes 8% teacher pay increases and 3% state employee raises. For behavioral health, it fully funds \$1.048 billion Medicaid rebase, allocates \$4 million from the Opioid Abatement Fund to four LME-MCOs, funds a Child First pilot through Trillium Health Resources, and directs wage adjustments for direct care workers. Policy adjustments include setting November 30, 2029, contract end dates, commissioning a \$1 million cost-saving study, and implementing mandatory closed network strategies for select behavioral health services.

B. Rural Health Transformation Program Funding

Trillium Health Resources leads the NC ROOTS Hub, funded through the Rural Health Transformation Program for Regions 2 and 5. The Hub has finalized its contract with NC DHHS, appointed regional commissioners to advisory boards, and launched community assessments and stakeholder engagement planning. Executive leadership reviewed 138 combined applications for 42 advisory board seats; all counties have representation, with 27-28 counties having three or more representatives. Letters of Interest are open for NC Care 360 implementation support, hospital feasibility studies, and Food is Medicine training to inform upcoming RFP processes.

C. Trillium Health Resources Provider Network Management and Claims Submission

Effective October 1, 2026, Trillium will implement a unified claims system consolidating Tailored Plan claims (excluding NEMT, Vision, and Pharmacy) into a single portal. Physical health and LTSS providers currently submitting claims to Carolina Complete Health will transition to submitting directly to Trillium, improving administrative efficiency and transparency. Trillium is actively encouraging providers to sign direct contracts for physical health services. Provider information sessions are ongoing, with FAQs compiled on the website addressing implementation questions.

D. Upcoming Medicaid Adjustments resulting from H.R. 1

North Carolina is implementing federal H.R. 1 Medicaid changes: non-citizen coverage ends October 1, 2026; six-month eligibility redeterminations for expansion adults begin December 31, 2026; and work/community engagement requirements (80 hours/month) take effect January 1, 2027, exempting pregnant individuals, primary caregivers under age 14, and medically frail persons. To offset reduced federal funding, NC enacted maximum cost-sharing and copayments for all enrollees, adjusted provider rates, and modified non-essential programs.

E. Trillium Health Resources Staff Changes

Trillium Health Resources underwent significant leadership transitions in mid-2026. CEO Joy Futrell announced her retirement effective December 31, 2026, after 36 years; General Counsel Senitria Goodman assumes the CEO role September 1, 2026. CFO Kellie Baker departed June 30, 2026; VP Finance Amy Davis serves as interim CFO. Dr. LaDonna Battle resigned July 10, 2026, as Chief Clinical Operations Officer; Sabrina Russell-Holloman temporarily leads Tailored Care Management. Senior Regional VP Dave Peterson retired June 30, 2026; Victoria Jackson, Sean Kenny, and Catrina McKinnon filled regional leadership positions effective July 1, 2026.

IX. Governing Board Report

Commissioner Allen provided a Governing Board Report.

- Trillium Health Resources' Governing Board met twice in June 2026.
- On June 9, staff presented a draft FY2027 budget of \$4.6 billion, a \$1.4 billion increase from FY2026, driven primarily by higher Medicaid per-member payments, increased service utilization, and \$63 million in NC ROOTS Hub awards.
- On June 25, the Board held a public hearing, adopted the budget and ordinance, and selected Senitria Goodman as CEO effective September 1, 2026, ahead of Joy Futrell's December 31, 2026 retirement.
- The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2026.

X. CFAC Report

Leann Henkel provided a Mid-State CFAC report.

- Mid-State CFAC meets on the third Tuesday monthly, except July and December.
- From April-June 2026, the committee received Mobile Crisis updates from Daymark, a Women's and Children's Substance Use Facility update from Volunteers of America, and Trillium's FY2027 budget presentation.
- The CFAC Chair sits on Trillium's Governing Board; the Vice Chair attends State CFAC and State-to-Local meetings.
- Members identify gaps monthly for State CFAC trend analysis and actively participate on Trillium internal committees including Innovations Waiver Stakeholders, Provider Council, and Quality Improvement. Mid-State CFAC is part of Trillium's Member Advisory Committee, which met June 3.

XI. Regional Advisory Board Comments/Concerns

Mary Hassell asked about Regional Advisory Board member meeting participation requirements. Vice President Ward reviewed the unexcused absence protocol listed in the Regional Advisory Board bylaws. The advisory board members discussed drafting a letter encouraging attendance.

Chair Commissioner Foster entertained a motion to send a letter to advisory board members. *Mary Hassell made a motion to send a letter comprised of the bylaw Article III 1.3, to advisory board members, Leann Henkel seconded the motion; all in favor, the motion carried.*

Commissioner Little-Reid asked about the referral process for the Women and Children Substance Use Program. Vice President Ward shared that the center is being renovated for opening and when it opens the priority will be for Guilford County residents but may open to other counties if Medicaid funding accompanies.

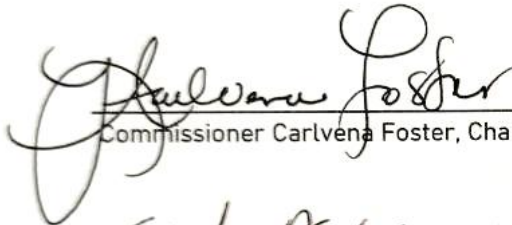
XII. Meeting Materials

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

XIII. Adjournment

With there being no other business, Chair Commissioner Foster entertained a motion to adjourn. *Commissioner Little-Reid* made a motion to adjourn, Kishia Dunlap seconded; all in favor, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2026, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Asheboro Office, 938 New Century Drive, Asheboro, NC.



Commissioner Carlvena Foster, Chair

9/22/26
Date



Sandra Dunlap, Clerk

8/27/26
Date

Packet Material:

- July 28, 2026 agenda
- Draft May 26, 2026 Minutes
- Mid-State Regional Vice President Report
- Governing Board Report
- Mid-State CFAC Report
- Chief Executive Officer Report
- Financial Report
- Tailored Plan Operations Report