

Mid-State Regional Advisory Board November 25, 2025

The Trillium Health Resources Mid-State Regional Advisory Board met Tuesday, November 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, 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 and Sherry Bynum

Guest Present:

Randy Abbott

I. Call to Order

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

II. Certification of Quorum

Sherry Bynum, Clerk, certified a quorum.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Allen called for a motion to adopt the agenda. *Kishia Dunlap made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Dr. Rick Watkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

IV. Approval of Minutes

Chair Allen called for a motion to approve the September 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes. *Mary Hassell made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

V. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VI. Regional Vice President Report

Anthony Ward, Regional Vice President, provided the following:

A. North Carolina Medicaid Rebase Update

Mr. Ward gave an update on North Carolina Medicaid Rebase.

- Based on the \$600 million in Medicaid rebase and Medicaid Oversight Fund included by the NC General Assembly in July 2025 through H125, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) shared a plan to decrease provider reimbursement rates by 3% across the board, with 8% or 10% reductions for selected providers/services and elimination of certain services all together, effective October 1, 2025.

Trillium and the other Tailored Plans announced a delay in implementing the reimbursement rate reductions until November 1, with an October 1 effective date, if needed. Mr. Ward reported that since no agreement was reached November 1, Trillium implemented the Medicaid rate reductions. October claims are being processed to align with the updated fee schedule.

Mr. Ward discussed two recent developments:

- In early November, NC Governor Josh Stein used his constitutional authority to call for a special legislative session, urging the General Assembly to use a November 17 session to address Medicaid funding. The General Assembly indicated that, while the Governor has the ability to call the legislature back to session for "extraordinary occasions", they did not believe the lack of Medicaid funding rises to that level. They announced a plan to address the Medicaid funding issue next year.

Parents of more than 20 children with Autism Spectrum Disorder filed suit against NC DHHS for the 10% Medicaid reimbursement reduction for Research-based Behavioral Health Therapy/Applied Behavior Analysis. The suite argued the 10% reduction for this service unfairly singled out children with disabilities. During a hearing on November 10, a Superior Court judge granted an injunction ordering NC DHHS to hold the planned cuts for this service. The injunction granted is a temporary injunction only for the identified service to allow additional time for the case to be heard. The other reductions remain as announced, to date.

B. Children's and Families Specialty Plan Update

Mr. Ward discussed the Children's and Families Specialty Plan (CFSP). Children in foster care will transition from the Tailored Plan to Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina under the name Healthy Blue Care Together. It is set for launch on December 1, 2025. Potential CFSP beneficiaries include NC Medicaid-enrolled children, youth and young adults currently and formerly served by NC Child Welfare.

C. Transition to Community Living Housing Update

Mr. Ward gave an update on the Transition to Community Living (TCL) program, noting that the program began in North Carolina in 2012 as a settlement with the US Department of Justice to provide mental health services in community settings. It includes an implementation plan led by NC DHHS to increase access to services and supports designed to meet the settlements goals.

Due to the absence of a NC State budget for FY26, the TCL program is operating under FY24 funding levels. There is a funding shortfall that will impact housing subsidies through the end of the current state fiscal year.

To address this shortfall, a TCL housing mitigation plan has been established, which began in October. This plan includes:

- Continuing housing efforts for individuals already in the setup/pre-leasing/leasing phases.

- Pausing new entries into the TCL housing pipeline for most populations, except for individuals being discharged from State Psychiatric Hospitals, who will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Restricting waivers for units above 120% Fair Market Rate or for units with more than one bedroom unless medically necessary
- Exempting placements through federal voucher programs and the targeting/key program (through December 31, 2025) from these restrictions.

NC DHHS remains fully committed to ensuring that individuals currently in TCL housing are able to stay housed and provide TCL housing to the maximum number of people that the current budget can support. If a new state budget including additional TCL funding is enacted, NC DHHS will reassess the TCL housing mitigation process and communicate any updates regarding expanded support and flexibility.

D. Changes in Timelines for Treatment Authorization Requests

Mr. Ward reported that beginning January 1, 2026, the timelines for processing standard Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs) will decrease from 14 days to 7 days. Submission of all required clinical documents at the time of the request allows decisions to be made with the shortest timeframe. Providers have been notified of the change.

E. Tailored Plan Operations Report

Mr. Ward called attention to the Tailored Plan Operations Report, noting that a new section has been added to the report, Health Plan Eligible Members.

VII. Governing Board Report

Governing Board member, Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid, highlighted items from the October Governing Board meeting.

- The meeting included a discussion of the process the Governing Board would use to fill At-Large seats. The process includes an application, which was posted on the Trillium website for two weeks. A committee of the Board, including the Board Chair Dr. Denauvo Robinson, along with Laticia Hill-Godette and Bo Dean, was appointed to vet the applications and hold screening interviews. The results of the process will be shared with the Governing Board for action at their December meeting.
- The Finance Committee reviewed financial operations of Trillium through August 31, 2025.
- The Governing Board is scheduled to meet next on Thursday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m. for their regular meeting.

VIII. 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 third Tuesday of each month.
- Reports and updates are provided by staff.
- Highlights from the October and November report –
 - Christy Edwards, Chief Operating Officer, was the speaker for the October meeting.
 - Oxford House was the topic of discussion at the November meeting.
 - Mid-State CFAC Chair attended the October Governing Board meeting.
 - Mid-State Vice-Chair attends the monthly State CFAC meetings as well as the monthly State to Local CFAC meetings.
 - 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). The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for December 3.

IX. Regional Advisory Board Comments

No comments

X. Governing Board Appointment

Chair Allen discussed the Mid-State Regional Advisory Board appointment to the Trillium Governing Board for a three (3) year term. He stated that at the initial appointment of the newly restructured Governing Board, Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid was appointed to a one-year term which ends January 31, 2026. As the appointing authority, the option is to reappoint Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid for one additional term of three years or to appoint a new member for a new term of three years.

Chair Allen called for nominations from the floor. *Mary Hassell nominated Chair Allen for appointment to the Governing Board. Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

As there were no other nominations from the floor, *Commissioner Dr. Rick Watkins made a motion to close the nominations. Kishia Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Chair Allen thanked the Mid-State Regional Advisory Board members for the opportunity to serve on the Trillium Governing Board. He thanked Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid for her service to the Governing Board.

XI. New Business

Chair Allen presented the Mid-State Regional Advisory Board meeting schedule for calendar year 2026 for review and approval. *A motion was made by Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid to approve the meeting schedule for calendar year 2026. Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

XII. Other Material

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

XIII. Adjournment

Randy Abbott, Governing Board At-Large member, expressed his appreciation to Trillium for being a sponsor at the Black Poster Project, a memorial honoring lives lost to overdose, hosted by Alcohol/Drug Council of NC.

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. Mary Hassell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.*

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2026, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Asheboro Office, 938 New Century Drive, Asheboro, NC.

David Allen
Commissioner David Allen, Chair

3-24-24
Date

Sherry Bynum
Sherry Bynum, Clerk

3-24-24
Date

Packet Material:

- September 23, 2025 agenda
- Draft September 23, 2025 minutes
- Mid-State Regional Vice President Report
- Mid-State Regional Governing Board Report
- Mid-State CFAC Report
- Chief Executive Officer Report
- Financial Report
- Tailored Plan Operations Report
- Tailored Plan Operations Report PowerPoint