

To: All Providers

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Subject: NCDHHS Announces Medicaid Managed Care Regional Behavioral Health IDD Tailored Plans, Legislation Gives Providers More Time to Connect to NC HealthConnex, Information, Medicaid Transformation Resources

SPECIAL BULLETIN MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION

NCDHHS ANNOUNCES MEDICAID MANAGED CARE REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH I/DD TAILORED PLANS

[NCDHHS Announces Medicaid Managed Care Tailored Plans](#)

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced the selection of seven organizations to serve as Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disability Tailored Plans (Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans). Individuals who need certain services to address a serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, severe substance use disorder, intellectual/developmental disability or traumatic brain injury may be eligible to enroll in a Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plan.

Following a competitive selection process, the following organizations were awarded a contract to serve as regional Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans:

-  Alliance Health
-  Eastpointe
-  Partners Health Management
-  Sandhills Center
-  Trillium Health Resources
-  Vaya Health
-  Cardinal Innovations Healthcare*

* While Cardinal Innovation Healthcare was awarded a contract, it is anticipated they will not operate a Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plan at launch due to the consolidation with Vaya Health.

Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans will provide integrated physical health, behavioral health, long-term care, pharmacy services and will address unmet health-related resource needs for qualifying North Carolinians under one plan. These plans will provide the same services as NC Medicaid Standard Plans with additional specialized services to serve individuals with significant behavioral health conditions, including those utilizing 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services waivers and those utilizing State Funded Services.

“NCDHHS looks forward to working with the awardees to make this innovative design a reality for the thousands of North Carolinians who will benefit from a whole person centered, well-coordinated system of care,” said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. “Today moves us closer to that goal as we begin to implement this important program design.”

At launch, Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans will operate regionally, offering robust care management to approximately 200,000 individuals estimated to enroll. An additional unique feature of Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans is the combination of Medicaid and state funding to support enrolled populations.

The contract award covers counties in each catchment area as of July 26, 2021, as well as realignments approved by Secretary Cohen effective Sept. 1, 2021. Given additional county requests for disengagement, NCDHHS anticipates county alignments for Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans will be significantly different at launch. County realignment and disengagement requests must go through the process identified in law and rule which ultimately require DHHS Secretary’s approval. The list below indicates the anticipated county alignments at go-live.

“We will work closely with LME/MCO’s to assure a smooth transition to Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans while they continue to oversee the crucial services currently provided through the LME/MCO’s” said Deputy Secretary of NC Medicaid, Dave Richard.

Only entities operating as LME/MCOs were eligible to apply to become Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans. The first Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans contract term will last four years. The Department has the authority to award no more than seven and no fewer than five regional Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plan contracts and may not award any statewide contracts.

Under Medicaid Managed Care, Standard Plans and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Tribal Option launched on July 1, 2021, followed by Tailored Plans on July 1, 2022.

For information specific to Behavioral Health and I/DD Tailored Plans, please visit the [Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans page](#).

More information about the transition to NC Medicaid Managed Care can be found on the Medicaid website on [Medicaid Transformation](#) webpage

PROJECTED COUNTY ALIGNMENTS AT TAILORED PLAN LAUNCH FOR JULY 1, 2022

This list reflects projected county assignments based on disengagements requested or approved. County realignment and disengagement requests must go through the process identified in law and rule which ultimately require approval by the NCDHHS Secretary.

- 🌱 **Alliance Health:** Cumberland, Durham, Johnston, Orange, Mecklenburg and Wake.
- 🌱 **Eastpointe:** Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Lenoir, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Wayne and Wilson.
- 🌱 **Partners Health Management:** Burke, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Rutherford, Stanly, Surry, Union and Yadkin.
- 🌱 **Sandhills Center:** Anson, Davidson, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Richmond and Rockingham.
- 🌱 **Trillium Health Resources:** Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Martin, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell and Washington.
- 🌱 **Vaya Health:** Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Caswell, Cherokee, Clay, Franklin, Graham, Granville, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Person, Polk, Rowan, Swain, Transylvania, Vance, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey.

Pending: Chatham, Halifax, Stokes and Warren.

LEGISLATION GIVES PROVIDERS MORE TIME TO CONNECT TO NC HEALTHCONNEX

- 🌱 [Bulletin legislation gives more time to connect to NC Health Connex](#)

This bulletin provides important information regarding changes in the [law](#) concerning NC HealthConnex, the state-designated health information exchange.

Governor Roy Cooper signed House Bill 395 (now [NC Session Law 2021-26](#)) into law on May 27, 2021, exempting ambulatory surgical centers from the requirement to submit demographic and clinical data, extending for certain providers and entities the deadlines for mandatory participation in NC HealthConnex, and instituting reforms to protect patients. Connection deadlines are extended as follows:

- 🌱 Extends the connection deadline for NC Medicaid and State-funded health care service (i.e. State Health Plan) providers, and their affiliated entities, until Jan. 1, 2023 (currently Oct. 1, 2021).

- 🌱 Extends the connection deadline for physicians who perform procedures at ambulatory surgical centers, dentists, psychiatrists, and the State Laboratory of Public Health until Jan. 1, 2023 (currently June 1, 2021).
- 🌱 Extends the connection deadline for pharmacies and State health care facilities operated under the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (State psychiatric hospitals, developmental centers, alcohol and drug treatment centers, neuro-medical treatment centers and residential programs) until Jan. 1, 2023 (currently June 1, 2021).

Extending the deadline until Jan. 1, 2023, will allow additional time for health care providers to complete their technical onboarding process without being out of compliance with the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Act. The connection process can take several months. Providers that are not submitting data to NC HealthConnex and have not completed their [HIE Participation Agreement](#) should initiate the connectivity process as soon as possible. There is no guarantee of additional extensions and, as noted below, the General Assembly is requiring compliance reports by March 1, 2022.

Among other changes to the HIE Act, the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (HIEA) Advisory Board is tasked with developing final recommendations regarding appropriate features or actions to support the Statewide HIE Act and to report on the status of entities and providers not connected to the HIE Network as identified under subsection (b) of this section, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on or before March 1, 2022.

Additionally, the NC HIEA has been directed to work with the State Health Plan Division, Department of State Treasurer, NC Medicaid and DHHS to identify providers and entities who have not connected to the HIE in accordance with [G.S. 90-414.4](#) and to contact each entity or provider to ascertain their connection status and to inform them of the connection requirements. By Nov. 1, 2021, the Department of State Treasurer, DHHS and licensing boards shall assist the NC HIEA with contact information and addresses for providers and entities.

For more details see the [NC HIEA June 2021 Update](#), or to review changes in their entirety, see [NC Session Law 2021-26](#).

For information on who is currently connected to NC HealthConnex, visit the [NC HealthConnex Participant Map](#).








For providers who would like to inquire about their organization's connection status, please email HIESupport@sas.com

All other questions can be directed to: hiea@nc.gov

MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION RESOURCES

During Medicaid Transformation, with the launch of the Standard Plans in 2021 and Tailored Plans in 2022, Trillium will continue sharing information with our provider network.

Please see below for current resources:

-  [NCDHHS Facts Sheets](#)
-  [My Learning Campus for Providers](#) - Medicaid Transformation Training available
-  [Learn more about Medicaid Transformation](#)
-  [NCDHHS Health Plan Contacts & Resources](#)
-  [North Carolina AHEC Managed Care Website](#)
-  [NC Medicaid Managed Care Website](#)
-  Requests for presentations or to provide feedback: NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov

Any questions about this Communication Bulletin that does not already have an email listed for questions from that specific section, may be sent to the following email: NetworkManagement@TrilliumNC.org. These questions will be answered in a Q&A format and published on Trillium's website.