



Network Communication Bulletin #386

To: All Providers

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Senior VP of Network Management

Date: December 18, 2024

Subject: Request for Applications: Rural Equity and Innovation in Integrated Care; NCTracks Links for Updates; Give Yourself the Gift of Security; 2025 Trillium Family Weekends at Victory Junction; NCTracks Provider Announcements; Registry of Unmet Needs Application; Medicaid Managed Care Provider Updates; December 2024 Provider Training Schedule Available; December: Roadmap2Ready; State Funded Services Rate Increase; Hurricane Helene Resources; Important Information for Relative as Direct Support Employee; IRIS Reminders for Providers; Care Management Trainings Available in My Learning Campus; Proposed Medicaid Policies Open for Public Comment; Medication Management Services - Open Enrollment; Upcoming Re-Entry Simulation; Trillium is a Closed Network for BH/SUD/IDD; Need to Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse?

NEW

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: RURAL EQUITY AND INNOVATION IN INTEGRATED CARE


SOUTHEASTERN AND SOUTH CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA

Rural Equity and Innovation Integrated Care (REI-IC) will increase capacity to meet integrated care needs of southeastern and south central rural NC and address health disparities in this region by paying for equity for Tailored Plan members living in this region. This Request for Application (RFA) will award 1M in funding for 6 providers. The model will evaluate the impact of a value-based care (VBC) approach focused on Tailored Plan members. The model will provide access to primary care treatment through an integrated care delivery framework located in a specialty BH community based organization. The organization will have a primary focus on members with moderate to severe mental health conditions and/or chronic substance use disorders and will include members with dual IDD diagnosis. Members will have access to primary care services in the same setting as behavioral health services.







The primary outcome is to increase access to integrated care in Tier I counties in rural NC. Other objectives of this demonstration pilot also include improving quality of care, timely access to appointments for Tailored plan members, reducing avoidable emergency department and inpatient utilization, and strengthening telehealth systems capacity.

Trillium will award funding for up to 6 providers for this pilot.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

-  Applicant must be enrolled in the Trillium provider network. The applicant must be Non-profit 501(c)3 currently enrolled in Medicaid to provide BH/SUD and IDD services. Applicant must be willing to serve adults and children 16 and up for acute and chronic behavioral health and add primary care. Preference given to agencies that also treat adults with co-occurring IDD needs. Services must be provided both in person and through telehealth approaches. Applicant must be in good standing with Trillium.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY:

-  Eligible applicants must currently have a minimum of 300 Medicaid Tailored Plan members receiving services.
-  Eligible applicant must have current primary BH sites located in Tier I or Tier II counties within the majority of North Carolina's Region 5 including; Pender, New Hanover, Brunswick, Sampson, Bladen, Columbus, Robeson, Scotland, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Richmond, Montgomery, Randolph, Guilford (from Region 2).
-  Eligible applicants must have the ability to demonstrate current telehealth applications and capabilities and effective and efficient use of an internal telehealth network across multiple counties to increase access to behavioral health and add primary care. In addition, the model assures coordination of services to support chronic and acute physical health conditions as part of the member integrated care plan and care team model of delivery.
-  Applicants must provide evidence of established and working DEI policies that ensure that people of all backgrounds are supported equitably according to their uniqueness.
-  Agencies must provide evidence of an established Electronic Health Record of data collection and tracking that can monitor effectiveness, integrate data and track member outcomes.
-  Eligible agencies must offer or be willing to offer Tailored Care Management and Crisis services as part of their service array.

- 🌱 Eligible agencies must ensure language interpretation services, including American Sign Language, are made available and utilized for effective, appropriate communication.
- 🌱 The agency awarded must agree to improve data collection and report quality measures using the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) based on race, ethnicity, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity and health related resource needs.

If your organization meets all the criteria, please click the link and complete the form below and apply for a meeting to discuss your plan for this model with our team no later than January 10, 2025.

[See Details and Apply Here](#)

NCTRACKS LINKS FOR UPDATES

NEW MEDICAID BULLETIN ARTICLES AS OF DEC. 17

The NC Division of Health Benefits (DHB) has recently published new Medicaid Bulletin articles:

- 🌱 [Federal Regulation Guidelines for Ordering, Prescribing or Referring Providers](#)
This is an update to the September 2016 Medicaid Ordering, Prescribing or Referring Special Bulletin.
- 🌱 [Hurricane Helene Policy Flexibilities to Support Providers and Members – Dec. 12, 2024](#)
This bulletin has updated end dates & additional flexibilities for Behavioral Health, Care Management, Innovations, and Long-Term Services & Supports.
- 🌱 [Dec. 2024 Pharmacy Newsletter Now Available Here](#)

REMINDERS

GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF SECURITY

Cyber criminals utilize the prime time of the holiday season to collect personal and financial information to compromise data, insert malicious software, steal identities, and take money. Be alert for online shopping scams, which historically spike this time of the year. Remain especially cautious of fraudulent sites posing as reputable businesses, unsolicited emails purporting to be from charities, and unencrypted financial transactions.

There are four easy actions you can take to protect yourself online not just during the holidays but all year round:

- 🌱 [Use strong passwords and a password manager](#)
- 🌱 [Turn on multifactor authentication \(MFA\)](#)
- 🌱 [Recognize and avoid phishing attempts, scams or tricks](#)
- 🌱 [Update software regularly](#)

Additionally, when shopping online this season, remember to:

- 🌱 **Shop from Trusted Websites:** Before providing personal or financial information, verify that you're using a reputable, established vendor. Look for URLs that start with <https://> and have a padlock symbol, indicating a secure connection.
- 🌱 **Be Cautious of Deals:** If a deal seems too good to be true, it may be a scam. When possible, use a credit card or digital payment method rather than a debit card, as these often have better fraud protections.

To learn more about what you can do to improve your online safety during the holiday season, visit [America's Cyber Defense Agency](#) and email us at this address AwarenessCampaigns@mail.cisa.dhs.gov if you're interested in partnering with CISA's [Secure Our World](#) program.

2025 TRILLIUM FAMILY WEEKENDS AT VICTORY JUNCTION

April 4-6, 2025 | Application Deadline: Friday March 21, 2025

April 11-13, 2025 | Application Deadline: Friday March 28, 2025

Get ready—the newest session for Trillium Family Weekend at Victory Junction is here! We hope our members and families will take advantage of the camp's inclusive environment and diverse amenities.

The weekend is a unique experience for families to connect. Campers of every ability can feel fully empowered. Victory Junction adapts activities for every need. The camp's amazing staff are familiar with hosting Trillium families. They even accommodate special diets. There is no cost to attend.

Open to all Trillium members and their families or natural supports, regardless of age or diagnosis.

Come experience the magic of camp with us! Spots are limited! Complete the [Spring 2025 Interest Form](#) to begin your application. Check the [Spring Flyer](#) or visit the [Victory Junction Family Weekends Webpage](#) to learn more!

NCTRACKS PROVIDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

A message from NCTracks on behalf of NC Medicaid: NCTracks is committed to communicating with providers on a regular basis regarding topics of interest related to provider use of NCTracks. This includes announcements posted to the NCTracks Provider Portal as well as provider newsletters distributed through the email listserv.

For published information on covered services and other topics of interest, refer to the Quick Links below:

- [NCDHHS Receives 1115 Medicaid Waiver Approval](#)
- [Federal Provider Enrollment Application Fee Increase for Year 2025](#)
- [Collaborative Care Management Funding Opportunity](#)
- [New Medicaid Bulletin Articles as of Dec. 10](#)
- [Billing Procedure Update for Adult Care Home Personal Care Services \(ACH/PCS\) Claims](#)

REGISTRY OF UNMET NEEDS APPLICATION

Effective December 1, 2024 members who think they may qualify for NC Innovations services should use the updated link to submit a Registry of Unmet Needs application (also known as the waitlist for Innovations waiver services) and supporting documentation: [Registry of Unmet Needs Application](#)

Visit www.TrilliumHealthResources.org to learn more about Innovations Waiver services.

MEDICAID MANAGED CARE PROVIDER UPDATES

OUT OF STATE PHARMACY LISTS NOW POSTED & UPDATED DAILY ON NCTRACKS

As a service to both NC Medicaid beneficiaries and providers, NCTracks has created a webpage listing of all enrolled out of state (OOS) pharmacies, categorized by state. To download the list for a particular state, click the corresponding link within the table. This data will be updated daily.

The link can be found on the public facing [NCTracks Recipient Portal](#) under Quick Links. Logging into NCTracks is not required to access the Recipient Portal where the Out of State Enrolled Pharmacies List is found.

NOTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

Consistent with state and federal law, NCDHHS requires notification of any change of ownership (CHOW) for providers enrolled as a NC Medicaid provider. The enrolled provider must notify the Department at least 30 days prior to the effective date of any CHOW.

Providers will need to complete the [Provider Change of Ownership Disclosure Form](#). The form is located on the [NCTracks Providers webpage](#) under Quick Links.

NC MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND BENEFICIARY ADVISORY COUNCIL – SEEKING INPUT TO IMPROVE NC MEDICAID






In April 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its final rule, “Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services.” The new rule requires State Medicaid agencies to create a Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) and Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) by July 2025. The MAC will replace the current Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC). The MAC/BAC are designed to center the lived experiences of beneficiaries, their families and caregivers.

[Applications](#) for the MAC and BAC are now being accepted. For questions or additional information, please email Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov.

 [Full Article Available Here](#)

DECEMBER 2024 PROVIDER TRAINING SCHEDULE AVAILABLE

Registration is open for the [December 2024 training courses](#) listed below. NCTracks zoom courses can be attended remotely from any location. Courses offered this month include:

-  Ordering, Prescribing and Referring (OPR) Provider Enrollment
-  Submitting a Prior Approval Private Duty Nursing (2 Dates Available)
-  Provider Recredentialing and Reverification
-  Provider Web Portal Applications
-  Using the Provider Message Center Inbox

See the document linked below for more information on the course schedule and access to Zoom links:

 [December 2024 Provider Training Schedule](#)

 [NCTracks](#)

DECEMBER: ROADMAP2READY

Part of being prepared is to have a plan for any kind of emergency. Not only is it a requirement for licensed facilities but these allow your business, staff and clients to be better prepared and give input on how to improve.

To finish out the year, here are the links of the past Roadmap2Ready and the topics they covered in 2024. If you would like to submit a topic to cover next year, please email Audrey.Hart@TrilliumNC.org.

April: [Submitting your emergency plans to Trillium](#) and Non-Profit Security Grant opportunity with NC Emergency Management (topic found on page 9).

May: [Importance of updating your organizations contact information](#) with 911 (topic found on page 7).

June and July: [Recruiting providers to assist with shelters in times of emergency](#) (topic found on page 6).

August: [Conducting a Hazard & Vulnerability Analysis for your organization](#) (topic found on page 3).

September: [Preparedness Month- Steps to becoming prepared](#) (topic found on page 4).

October: [Fire Prevention—Creating](#) a fire plan for your organization based on OSHA requirements (topic found on page 5).





November: [Winter Weather Planning and safe house heating practices](#) (topic found on page 4).

We hope you have a safe, warm and joyous winter. We will be back in January with more topics on how to improve your organizations and personal emergency plans.

HURRICANE HELENE RESOURCES







The [Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(D-SNAP\)](#) is a temporary disaster food assistance program for individuals impacted by natural disasters like Hurricane Helene.

Additional Resources for Food Support:

-  [NC Food and Nutrition Services](#)
-  [NC WIC Program](#)
-  [NC WIC Flexibilities in Response to Hurricane Helene](#)
-  [Local Food Resources \(2-1-1\)](#)

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

[NCDHHS](#) has deployed crisis counselors in shelters and communities to support mental health recovery from Hurricane Helene. The following are resources currently available to support those in Western North Carolina:

-  [Julian F. Keith Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center](#)
-  [Weathering the Storm: Mental Health and Disability-related Resources](#)
-  [Somethings: Mental Health Services for Teens](#)
-  [Children with Special Health Care Needs Help Line](#)
-  [Hope for NC Helpline: support for first responders and volunteers](#)
-  [988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RELATIVE AS DIRECT SUPPORT EMPLOYEE

Effective December 1, 2024, providers and/or employer of record (EOR) should use the following link to request initial or renewal of Relative as Direct Support Employee (RDSE), formerly known as Relative as Provider (RAP): [Innovations Waiver - Relative/Guardian as Direct Service Employee](#).

IRIS REMINDERS FOR PROVIDERS

IRIS ALERTS:

The Live IRIS site is located at <https://iris.ncdhhs.gov>. In addition, the IRIS Training site can be accessed at <https://iristraining.ncdhhs.gov>.

IRIS REPORTING TIMELINES

- 🌱 Level 2 incidents: An IRIS report must be submitted within 72 hours of learning of the incident.
- 🌱 Level 3 incidents: Verbal or written (email) notification to Trillium within 24 hours of learning of the incident. An IRIS report must be submitted within 72 hours of learning of the incident; however, for incidents involving allegations against staff, the IRIS report must be submitted within 24 hours of learning of the incident (to meet HCPR reporting timelines).

TRILLIUM'S REPORTING EXPECTATIONS

- 🌱 All reports must be submitted on time (zero late submissions). If a report is submitted outside the 72-hour required timeframe, please provide a statement in the IRIS report regarding the submission of the incident outside reporting timeframe.
- 🌱 All required fields (DOB, gender, incident details, cause of incident, incident prevention, authorities contacted, etc.) must be completed in IRIS in order for Trillium to process and close the report.
- 🌱 Please ensure member's LME-MCO record number, Medicaid ID and/or CNDS ID is completed on the Consumer's Treatment tab.
- 🌱 On the Provider Information tab, please ensure the Provider Agency name is entered in full and how it appears on the contract/license etc.
- 🌱 When a report contains allegations of abuse/neglect/exploitation against staff, the internal investigation report is required to be uploaded to the IRIS report within 5 working days.
- 🌱 Response to Trillium's questions must be provided within 24 hours of receiving an email or phone call regarding an incident. Please note, failure to respond to follow up questions or complete required elements may result in referral to Compliance.

REMINDERS

- 🌱 If a staff person is in a car accident while providing services to a member, an incident report is required to be submitted in IRIS. Even if a member does not require medical treatment, it is expected that the incident will be reported to law

enforcement and medical treatment will be offered. These incidents meet a level II incident criteria and can be submitted as “Consumer Injury-Auto Accident.”

- 🌱 On the Provider Information tab, please ensure the correct plan/service that the member is enrolled in is selected. This will ensure the IRIS report is directed to the proper Health Plan or LME-MCO for review.
- 🌱 When selecting the “Host” LME-MCO and the “Home” LME-MCO on the Provider Information tab in IRIS, please remember that the “Host” LME-MCO is the county where services are being provided and the “Home” LME-MCO is the county of residence where the member’s Medicaid is linked to.
- 🌱 For Allegations of Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation against Staff, please ensure that both of the questions listed on the Incident Information tab, “**Does this incident include an allegation against Staff and/or Facility?**” and “**Will this allegation require a submission of a Consumer Incident Report?**” are both checked **YES**. Then complete the abuse tab and all **three** tabs under the HCPR tab.
- 🌱 For Member Deaths, please upload the death certificate and/or Medical Examiner report upon receipt and update the death information tabs accordingly.
- 🌱 Medical illness is not reportable unless it results in injury or death or is believed to be caused by abuse/neglect or medication error.
- 🌱 For Member Injury, please elaborate on the type of treatment (i.e., stitches, cast, prescription medication) that the member receives for the injury (treatment does not include diagnostic tests such as blood work, x-ray, MRI, EKG, etc.).

Please visit Trillium’s [My Learning Campus](#) to access Incident Reporting Training for your agency staff.

For any incident-related questions, please contact:

- 🌱 Julie McCall (Julie.Mccall@TrilliumNC.org) for **IRIS counties**: Bladen, Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, Onslow, Jones, Carteret, Pamlico, Craven, Pitt, Beaufort, Hyde, Dare, Tyrrell, Washington, Martin, Bertie, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Currituck, Camden, Gates, Hertford, Northampton, Halifax, Nash.
- 🌱 Christy Way (Christy.Way@TrilliumNC.org) for **IRIS counties**: Anson, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Richmond
- 🌱 Debbie Powell (Debbie.Powell@TrilliumNC.org) for **IRIS counties**: Guilford
- 🌱 John English (John.English@TrilliumNC.org) for **IRIS counties**: Edgecombe, Wilson, Robeson, Scotland, Greene

🌱 Veronica Murphy (Veronica.Murphy@TrilliumNC.org) for IRIS counties: Duplin, Lenoir, Sampson, Warren, and Wayne

CARE MANAGEMENT TRAININGS IN MY LEARNING CAMPUS

The Trillium Training Department would like to encourage staff, providers and members to learn more about diabetes and healthy eating by participating in these training sessions on the [Members My Learning Campus](#):

🌱 [What is Diabetes?](#)

🌱 [Healthy Eating](#)

🌱 [Healthy Eating Tips](#)

PROPOSED MEDICAID POLICIES OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

All policies currently open for public comment can be found on the [North Carolina Medicaid Division of Health Benefits](#).

Providers can submit comments to Medicaid.public.comment@dhhs.nc.gov

Proposed Policy	Date Posted	Comment Period Ends
10A, Outpatient Specialized Therapies	11/04/2024	12/19/2024
10B, Independent Practitioners (IP)	11/04/2024	12/19/2024
PA Criteria Lyfgenia	11/04/2024	12/19/2024

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES: OPEN ENROLLMENT

Trillium has identified the need for additional Psychiatric Medication Management Services. These services focus on reducing psychiatric and behavioral symptoms to improve functioning in familial, social, educational, or occupational life domains. Providers must be enrolled in NC Tracks and meet all of the requirements in [Clinical Coverage Policy 8C](#).

Qualified practitioners include:

- 🌱 Psychiatrist/ MD/ DO
- 🌱 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
- 🌱 Physician Assistant (PA)
- 🌱 Nurse Practitioner (NP)

[Questions Link](#)

[Application Link](#)

RE-ENTRY SIMULATION

Trillium Health Resources has been sponsoring Re-entry Simulations. You will learn about the many barriers individuals go through when they are released from jail.

Participants experience the difficulties of finding a job, keeping a stable home, going to treatment regularly, and following release rules.

UPCOMING RE-ENTRY SIMULATION EVENT:

- 🌱 [Pasquotank County, NC – January 29, 2025](#)

TRILLIUM IS A CLOSED NETWORK FOR BH/SUD/IDD

As a reminder, Trillium operates a closed network for all behavioral health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disabilities services. (*N.C. Gen. Stat. 108D-23*).

At this time, Trillium is not accepting requests to add new providers to the Trillium behavioral health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disabilities provider network outside of a published recruitment opportunity.

Trillium continually assesses the needs of members and adjusts the network to ensure members have access to needed services. [Current service needs](#) are posted on our website. Non-contracted providers can submit an [Interest Submission Form](#) to express future interest in contracting for behavioral health, substance use, and intellectual/developmental disabilities services.

Trillium will review interest submissions on a monthly basis.

In-network Trillium providers requesting contract changes should email NetworkServicesSupport@TrilliumNC.org or use the applicable forms on our [Provider Documents & Forms](#) webpage.

For more information, providers can review our [Network Participation webpage](#).

NEED TO REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE?

EthicsPoint is a secure and confidential system available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for anyone to report suspected violations of potential fraud, waste and abuse, or confidentiality issues. You can access EthicsPoint through website submission at [EthicsPoint - Trillium Health Resources](#) or by calling toll-free: 1-855-659-7660.