

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Trillium delivers 1,000 gun locks to 28 DSS offices**

One Community staff also help share about health literacy and awareness

**WILMINGTON, N.C.** – Trillium Health Resources is delivering 1,000 gun locks to all Departments of Social Services (DSS) within our 28 county region. They will be distributed to families who own firearms along with education about gun safety.

According to North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), 116 North Carolina children died of a firearm related injury in 2021<sup>1</sup>. Firearms are the leading cause of injury for children in North Carolina. Trillium is working to lower this statistic through this initiative.

“Staff in our DSS offices are crucial points of contact for many families. We thank them for this partnership to educate our communities on safe gun ownership to reduce tragic injuries to children. We also know that by restricting access to firearms we can lessen instances of successful suicide attempts<sup>2</sup>,” stated Sean Kenny, Head of Social Services Engagement at Trillium.

Trillium’s One Community program started during the coronavirus pandemic to inform people of resources available for mental health services. One Community staff now concentrate on member outreach through health literacy and awareness.

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<sup>1</sup> Keeping Families and Communities Safe, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/media/18351/open#:~:text=116%20North%20Carolina%20children%20died,injury%20death%20and%20are%20increasing>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs REACH: <https://www.va.gov/reach/lethal-means/>

“One Community at Trillium validates that our communities are only as strong as our people,” shared Patte Whitfield, One Community Director. “We participate in local events, sharing that support is always available. We also help explain about conditions and services to improve health literacy in our region. Everyone deserves the chance to live life to their fullest potential.”

Trillium looks forward to serving our 28 counties as a Tailored Plan starting April 1, 2023. To learn more, [please visit our website](#).

### **ABOUT TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES**

Trillium Health Resources is a leading specialty care manager (LME/MCO) for individuals with substance use, mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities in 28 counties in eastern North Carolina. Trillium's mission is to transform the lives of people in need by providing them with ready access to quality care. We take a person-centered approach to health and wellbeing, coordinating care across multiple systems to achieve improved health outcomes, quality of care and efficient use of resources. Trillium is investing in innovation to meet the unique needs of the individuals and communities we serve, and remains focused on delivering the right services, in the right amount, at the right time. For more information, visit [www.TrilliumHealthResources.org](http://www.TrilliumHealthResources.org).

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