



Clinical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Transforming Lives. Building Community Well-Being.

Date February 9, 2024

Meeting Called By	Dr. Michael Smith, Chief Medical Officer
Type of Meeting	Web-Ex Meeting 1:00pm – 2:30pm

EXTERNAL ATTENDEES - VOTING MEMBERS/NON-VOTING MEMBERS

	Present	NAME	Present	NAME	Present
Hillary Faulk-Vaughn, Chair PAMH Clinical Director Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Robby Adams, MD Vice-Chair Medical Director, Various Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Diana Antonacci Psychiatrist - Retired Non-Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Terri Duncan, PhD Director of Bladen County DHHS Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gary Bass Pride in NC, CEO Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Glenn Buck PORT Health, CCO Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Natasha Holley Integrated Family Services Clinical Director Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Griffin Sutton, PhD Tidal Neuropsychology Director Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sharlena Thomas RHA Behavioral Health Services State Clinical Director Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Estes Coastal Horizons COO Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Ritesh Patel, PharmD PORT Health - Independent Contractor Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Ian Bryan, MD ENC Pediatrics Owner/Director Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Michael Lang, PhD Chair of Psychiatry at ECU Health Brody School of Medicine Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Hany Kaoud, MD PORT Health Medical Director Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Carol Gibbs Therapeutic Alternatives (Psychiatrist) Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Johnnie Hamilton Clinical Director Dixon Social Interactive Services, Inc. Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Martin ABC Pediatrics Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Robert McHale Medical Director for Monarch Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laura McRae TFC Senior Director Pinnacle Family Services Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Beth Pekarek Medical Director for Daymark (Eastern) Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erin Warlick Clinical Director Advantage Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deontra Winston Clinical Director Southwestern Integrated Care Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Katie Wright Program Director Carolina Outreach, LLC Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amy Moore Dixon Social Interactive Services, Inc. (Alternate for Dr. Hamilton) Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

INTERNAL TRILLIUM ATTENDEES, PRESENTERS, GUESTS - NON-VOTING MEMBERS

NAME	Present	NAME	Present	NAME	Present
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Dr. Michael Smith Chief Medical Officer Trillium - Non-voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Arthur Flores Deputy Chief Medical Officer Trillium - Non-voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Kimberly Greer Staff Psychologist Trillium - Non-voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Paul Garcia Staff Physician (Alternate for Dr. Smith) Trillium - Non-voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Khristine Brewington VP Network Management Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Julie Kokocha Director of Network Accountability (Alternate for Khristine) Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jason Swartz Pharmacy Director Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LaDonna Battle Executive Vice President of Care Mgmt. & Population Health Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amanda Morgan QM Coordinator Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benita Hathaway VP Population Health & Care Mgmt. Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trudy Paramore Admin Asst – Medical Affairs Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cham Trowell UM & Transition of Care Coordinator Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Anthony G. Carraway Medical Director Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Isa Cheren Medical Director Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Taylor Goodnough Medical Director Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Venkatalakshmi Doniparthi Medical Director Trillium – Non-voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

AGENDA

1. Agenda topic: Welcome and Call to Order Presenter(s): Dr. Michael Smith

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Smith called the Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting to order. • Hillary welcomed all new members from Legacy Eastpointe and Sandhills. • Each member introduced themselves sharing their title and affiliation. • Dr. Smith thanked everyone for coming together. Consolidations of this magnitude normally take a year and the state gave us 45 days. Staff were consolidated on February 1, 2024 and we're nine days in and moving right along. • The CAC typically meets on the first Friday of the even numbered months. We are always well prepared in getting the invite and documentation out for meetings, but this month due to consolidation we had to make adjustments at the last minute. Dr. Smith appreciated everyone that attended the meeting. Trillium's legacy CAC is used as our provider/practitioner participation group for NCQA so there are a lot issues we have to bring before the CAC to gain provider/practitioner input. We have been pursuing our interim NCOA Health Plan Accreditation and were informed on Tuesday that we passed.
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Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no questions or concerns identified for follow-up or items recommended for corrective action. 	
Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no items identified for follow-up 		

2. Agenda topic: Agenda Review and Approval

Presenter(s): Dr. Michael Smith

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Smith stated the agenda that was included in the documents for this meeting is this committee's typical agenda. Follow-up items are addressed and public comments shared with the group are included. Quality Improvement Activities (QIAs) are reviewed, Trillium updates are shared, CAC business items are discussed to include Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) and additional topics are included as needed. Currently there are four NCQA standards that this committee assists in meeting. As we pursue further accreditation we plan to apply for our LTSS distinction and seriously considering a Health Equity Accreditation. This is a large committee and other members may be joining us. Trillium recognizes that members volunteer and we try to be very respectful of everyone's time. We are fine with keeping the committee the size it is. If anyone feels that they've served for a while and would like to take a break we understand, but we are not trying to send anyone away. We value all the input we can get. We have subcommittees of the CAC, Drug Utilization Review/Pharmacy & Therapeutics subcommittee. The CAC functions as a subcommittee to our Quality Improvement Committee (QIC). If there are areas in this committee where members feel we need representation or are not adequately represented please bring suggestions for delegates forward for consideration on this committee. We need additional representatives for physical health as we move into Taylor Plan (TP) go live. Dr. Smith asked if there was anyone else on the committee besides Dr. Bryan and Michael Martin (not in attendance today) representing pediatrics/physical health? There were no other representatives for pediatrics/physical health. Ryan shared that Coastal Horizons has integrated physical health and he can look into recruiting one of the physical health providers if needed. Sharlena with HRA added Discussion of Potential Utilization of the ASAM Fourth Edition for Adults to the agenda (open agenda item). The agenda was presented as a sample agenda for the meeting and several items were not reviewed/skipped. A quorum was present for today's meeting. 	
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda for February 9, 2024, was presented as a sample and did not require approval. There were no questions or concerns identified for follow-up or items recommended for corrective action. 	
Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no items identified for follow-up 		

3. Agenda topic: Follow-up Items

Presenter(s): Dr. Michael Smith

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda – Share PIP presentation upon completion of development. Open and scheduled for review at April meeting. • Dr. Smith – F/u on Trillium sharing ADT list of uninsured state-funded beneficiaries who may be Medicaid eligible (with Medicaid Expansion) to assist those members with Medicaid enrollment. TBD. • Holly – Review Physical Health CTP Code #96127 and follow-up on possibly mirroring a CTP Code on the Behavioral Health Side. Open. Holly shared this CTP Code is active in NC Tracks. She confirmed that this code is not currently in Trillium’s Benefit Plan. Discussion internally continues on this, and additional information will be provided at the April meeting. • Dr. Patel – Schedule time with Jason to discuss CPESN’s data tracking. Open and scheduled for review at April meeting. Dr. Patel will schedule a meeting with Jason to discuss this next week. Dr. Patel shared receiving questions regarding covering immunizations and inquired if there were any resources for Flu and COVID vaccines were available for Trillium members. This will be discussed further with Jason when they meet. • Susan – Post August 4, 2023 minutes to SharePoint and forward to Communications to post on Trillium’s website. Completed. • Susan – Post Bylaws to SP/Trillium website – Completed. • Dr. Smith & Hillary – Make additional revisions to by-laws and present at April meeting for discussion and vote. Scheduled for April meeting. • Public Comment – 8A-12 SAIOP - Emailed to CAC 1/5/24. • Public Comment – 8A-13 SACOT – Emailed to CAC 1/5/24. • News Release – Consolidation Announcement - Emailed to CAC 12/18/23. • Discussion Gary shared an update on the consolidation of the Provider Council. As the President of the Provider Council, he reached out to English Albertson, Eastpointe President for their Provider Council and also Jerry Earnhart, President of Sandhills Provider Council and have a meeting scheduled for next week. We will be discussing how we can consolidate bylaws and determining the structure. He does not foresee removing any of the current members. Gary shared he was glad to see the CAC consolidation and will use it as a road map at next week’s meeting. Dr. Smith shared that consolidation is not a small process. It’s moving very quickly and also very slowly. This is being completed in stages. The first phase was adding around 900 staff into the Trillium system and that doesn’t happen overnight (equipment, phones, email addresses, delegating access to system platforms, etc.). The second phase is currently where we are at now placing these staff in department positions. This process is expected to take a couple of months to complete, it took about a year to complete the ECBH consolidation. Dr. Smith stated he is very impressed with everyone pulling together putting members first and making this as smooth of a transition as possible. The first check write for providers went well and this is a big marker as well as the second check write. In addition to the second phase, we are also working towards TP go live. The
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	state is adamant they are not moving from the July 1 st go live date. Other Trillium Internal and external committees are consolidating as well. Our consolidated Governing Board has already met twice virtually and are planning a face-to-face meeting for later this month.	
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All open follow-up items will be carried forward to the next meeting until completion. There were no other questions or concerns identified for follow-up or items recommended for corrective action. 	
Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share PIP presentation upon completion of development F/u on Trillium sharing ADT list of uninsured state-funded beneficiaries who may be Medicaid eligible (with Medicaid Expansion) to assist those members with Medicaid enrollment Schedule time with Jason to discuss CPESN's data tracking Present additional information on CTP code #96127 discussion and determination Make additional revisions to by-laws to present for discussion and official vote 	<p>Amanda Dr. Smith</p> <p>Dr. Patel</p> <p>Holly</p> <p>Dr. Smith/Hillary</p>	<p>Apr Mtg. TBD</p> <p>Apr Mtg.</p> <p>Apr Mtg.</p> <p>Apr Mtg.</p>

4. Agenda topic: Meeting Minutes Review and Approval
Presenter(s): Dr. Michael Smith, Hillary Faulk-Vaughn

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The October 6, 2023 minutes were presented for review and approval. 	
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The October 6, 2023 minutes were approved as written with a motion by Dr. Bryan and a second by Robby with all members in favor of the motion. There were no questions or concerns identified for follow-up or items recommended for corrective action. 	
Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post October 6, 2023 minutes to Trillium's SP site & forward to Communications to post to Trillium's Website 	Susan	ASAP

5. Agenda topic: Quality Improvement Projects (QIA) Review – Information and Discussion
Presenter(s): Amanda Morgan

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Quality Improvement Projects (QIAs) were not reviewed at today's meeting. This presentation is a standing agenda item and will resume at the April meeting. 	
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no questions or concerns identified for follow-up or items recommended for corrective action. 	
Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no items identified for follow-up 		

6. Agenda topic: Trillium Updates and Information
Presenter(s): Dr. Michael Smith

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TP Update
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	This topic was covered in Section 3 Follow-up Items under discussion.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing and Consolidation Updates 	
	This topic was covered in Section 3 Follow-up Items under discussion.	
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no questions or concerns identified for follow-up or items recommended for corrective action. 	
Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no items identified for follow-up 		

7. Agenda topic: CAC Business

Presenter(s): Dr. Smith, Dr. Garcia

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs), Eastpointe and Sandhills – refer to links below: https://www.eastpointe.net/providers/authorization-um-and-benefits-packages-2/#1559750305911-8f92082e-f4e9 https://www.sandhillscenter.org/clinical-practice-guidelines-evidence-based-practices <p>This committee develops CPGs and endorses CPGs that we recommend for our Network. Trillium and Legacy Sandhills and Legacy Eastpointe have also worked hard on their CPGs. Dr. Smith shared that he and Hillary have discussed this and recommended conducting a blanket endorsement for all three MCOs CPGs, instead of going through them one by one, understanding there may be duplication and structuring needed. Hillary asked if anyone had concerns they would like to share about the CPGs or the blanket endorsement. Gary stated Eastpointe and Sandhills have very competent clinical staff that have endorsed their CPGs and we need to honor that. A subcommittee or workgroup could wean out any duplication in the future or during the required review cycle of each CPG.</p>	
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A blanket endorsement for Trillium, Eastpointe and Sandhills CPGs was approved with a motion by Gary and seconded by Dr. Bryan with all members in favor of the motion. • Please forward recommendations for evidenced based practices/CPG endorsement or updates to CPGs to Michael.Smith@trilliumnc.org, Paul.Garcia@trilliumnc.org or Susan.Massey@trilliumnc.org. • There were no questions or concerns identified for follow-up or items recommended for corrective action. 	
Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no items identified for follow-up 		

8. Agenda topic: Additional Revisions to the CAC Bylaws

Presenter(s): Dr. Michael Smith

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Smith shared that one of the revisions we made to the bylaws was removing term limits. With preparation for the consolidation and TP implementation the team (Dr. Smith, Dr. Garcia, Hillary, and Dr. Adams) felt it was better to continue the committee as is with members already familiar 	
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	with what is going on until we were over these hurdles. We consolidated this committee, but everyone was not knew to the committee. We felt that it was probably wise not to bring in new members amongst all this chaos/major changes. Dr. Smith would like the group to review the bylaws at the April meeting and consider whether or not we need to have term limits.		
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CAC Bylaws will be added to April’s agenda and included in the upload of documents. • There were no other questions or concerns identified for follow-up or items recommended for corrective action. 		
Action Items		Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add bylaw term limit discussion to Apr agenda 		Dr. Garcia	Apr Mtg.

9. Agenda topic: Open Agenda Discussion
Presenter(s): All Members

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Utilization of the ASAM Fourth Edition for Adults – Sharlena The ASAM Fourth Edition Volume 1 for Adults is available. The ASAM Third Edition included adolescents and special populations whereas the ASAM Fourth Edition was published for adults and the adolescent volume and the special populations volume is not available yet. There is not a specific timeline for these other volumes at this time. Thus, we have providers kind of in between editions (the fourth editions for adults & third edition for adolescents and special populations). Sharlena shared her agency (RHA) has embedded the ASAM in their EHRs so there is development to be done there because we’re working with two ASAM editions. A question that has been consistent among providers across the nation with Hazelden and ASAM is on an implementation date. Effectively, we could start using it now, but the answer we keep receiving from ASAM and Hazelden who is doing the bulk of this training nationally is that it is really up to the payors (MCOs). Sharlena felt the CAC would be a good place to start with planning how we move forward with implementation. Staff have to be trained on both editions if they are working with dual populations. Most providers have the ASAM embedded in the CCA so development is required. At least three of the six dimensions of the ASAM have changed. The risk rating stays the same, but the level of care and the level of placement options have changed significantly. It’s going to take some time and planning to actually implement this. Sharlena asked what Trillium’s stance was on implementation of the ASAM Fourth Edition for Adults. This is being discussed with other MCOs as well and currently on Vaya’s agenda for discussion. Sharlena’s agency’s IT Department is working on updating the EHRs, but we can’t just push the button to start because again we are operating out of two different volumes and it gets messy. She inquired with the State what the timeline for implementation is for the MCOs. Dr. Smith stated he would have to review this as he’s not sure where the State is on changing CCP. We can be more lenient, but can’t be more restrictive than what the State is. Dr. Garcia stated the sometimes the verbiage used in CCPs will say for example, “DSM V or latest edition”, but this has not been seen yet on the substance use side.
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Ryan asked if anyone has checked in with DD Severino to inquire where they are with this because if Trillium rolls this out and we update the forms, but Vaya and Alliance rolls is out 6 months later this would be the same scenario of working with two different sets of forms and timelines. It seems that the State would want to set the timing on this and not the individual payors. Sharlena responded that her fear is we're so used to retro-active communications and going back to that. She would hate this to happen because we will be using forms and EMRs that just cannot be re-developed overnight. RHA is in the process of re-developing and once we get a go live date we can just flip the switch, but this item certainly deserves conversation and awareness because we know the MCOs do operate independently. Hillary asked if Sharlena had received any timelines from any other MCOs across the State. Sharlena responded that she had not, but she has approached the conversation with them to discuss this and get it on the next agenda. Sharlena shared that she also called the State to inquire what their plan was and has not received a response. Hillary stated this is definitely an item that needs to be on the agenda for the April meeting. Dr. Garcia concurred.

- **IVC Process Changes – Dr. Garcia**

The Judicial System started changing the IVC process to an electronic form and Dr. Garcia inquired if others were aware of this change. As we conduct crisis stabilization throughout our counties there are certain counties that are being rolled out in the new process. Hillary responded her agency has the electronic form from the State and it's a fillable PDF that they print off and take it with them to the Sheriff's Department or courthouse. We have the electronic form, but don't submit it electronically. Dr. Garcia will look for additional information on this. His understanding is that they are piloting this by county slowly and the only way to submit will be electronically. IVC Process Changes will be added to April's agenda for further discussion.

- **Pharmacy Subcommittees – Dr. Smith**

We need additional Pharmacists for our Pharmacy Subcommittees. We were in the process of searching/recruiting for additional Pharmacists when consolidation occurred. Two candidates have agreed to serve, one with Novant in Wilmington and the other is a Pharmacist in Duplin County. Dr. Smith asked for additional nominations from the committee. An electronic vote will be conducted for the two candidates to have them onboard when the Pharmacy Readiness Reviews start in April. We need to bring get them onboard before the next meeting in April. Dr. Patel will be recruiting for three additional pharmacists for the committees and three Physicians outside of Trillium are also needed. Recommendations can be emailed to Michael.Smith@trilliumnc.org, Jason.Swartz@trilliumnc.org, Paul.Garcia@trilliumnc.org, or Susan.Massey@trilliumnc.org. Dr. Smith prefers a Physician from the Legacy Sandhills region for geographical representation purposes. Dr. Pekarek and Dr. Gibbs volunteered for the subcommittees and are from the Legacy Sandhills catchment area.

- **Authorizations – Dr. Adams**

	Dr. Adams said it was his understanding that Trillium, Eastpointe and Sandhills won't be doing any authorizations through May with regard to hospitalization. He was curious to know how this is going to work with covered days, lookback periods and billing. Dr. Smith responded that we realized that we would need a no prior-authorization period to prevent member harm and provider abrasion using the Trillium UM guidelines. There is still a possibility of a retro medical necessity review and we are holding to our guidelines and requesting that our provider community only do what is medically necessary. Dr. Smith will check to see if the actual date for this is May. Dr. Garcia stated that we are trying to be flexible during the transition.		
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no questions or concerns identified for follow-up or items recommended for corrective action. 		
Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add ASAM discussion to Apr agenda Add IVC Process Changes to Apr agenda Email candidate info for official vote (membership) Follow-up on no authorization timeline 	Dr. Garcia Dr. Garcia Susan Dr. Smith	Apr Mtg. Apr Mtg. ASAP Apr Mtg.	

Next Meeting Date: April 5, 2024
(All meetings convene from 1pm – 2:30pm)

Supporting Document/Attachment for Minutes:

Agenda Feb 2024

Meeting Minutes – Oct 2023

Public Comment – 8A-12 SAIOP

Public Comment – 8A-13 SACOT

Consolidation Announcement – Dec 2023

Submitted by Susan Massey