

Mid-State Regional Advisory Board January 28, 2025

The Trillium Health Resources Mid-State Regional Advisory Board met Tuesday, January 28, 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: Chair Commissioner David Allen, Kishia Dunlap, Mary Hassell, Leann Henkel, Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid and Ann Shaw

Members Absent: Commissioner Skip Alston, Vice Chair Commissioner Carlvena Foster, and Commissioner Dr. Rick Watkins

Staff Present: Anthony Ward, Anne Kimball, and Sherry Bynum (recorder)

I. Call to Order

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

II. Certification of Quorum

Sherry Bynum certified a quorum.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Allen called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mary Hassell made a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Tommy Jarrell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of November 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chair Allen called for a motion to approve the November 26, 2024 meeting minutes. Mary Hassell made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid 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. Trillium Health Resources Board Structure and Initial Appointments

On Monday, December 30, 2024, NC DHHS (North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services) Secretary Kody Kinsley issued Secretarial Directive 2024-001 announcing his review and approval of the proposed alternative Board structure submitted on Friday, July 19, 2024 by Trillium's Chief Executive Officer, Joy Futrell, as required by the mandate included in Senate Bill 425. The approved Board structure includes 15 voting members and 3 non-voting members. Appointed from the Mid-State Region are Anson County Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid (Regional Advisory Board), Leann Henkel (CFAC), and Guilford County Representative Randy Abbott (At Large). The newly

appointed Board plans to meet January 30th in Raleigh. The agenda includes, election of a Chair and Vice-Chair, meeting schedule, and a review of the Governing Board Bylaws.

B. NC Department of Health and Humans Services (DHHS) Secretary

Dr. Devdutta 'Dev' Sangvai was sworn in on January 12th, as the 19th NC DHHS Secretary. The NC DHHS Secretary is subject to confirmation by the NC General Assembly Senate. That confirmation hearing will likely be scheduled in the next few weeks.

C. Senate Bill 425

On January 7th, Guilford County filed an Amended Complaint for Declaratory Judgement and Motion for Permanent Injunction, updated based on the Secretarial Directive 2024-001 approving the alternative Board structure and appointing the initial Governing Board members. The case remains listed as Pending in Wake County Superior Court with no upcoming action listed.

D. Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) Updates

Mr. Ward explained that Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 is a federal law that requires health insurers and group health plans to provide mental health and substance use services with no more stringent benefits limitations than those for medical and surgical benefits. Trillium's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer served as panelists on a Mental Health Parity Kick Off Training recently. Other events are planned to provide stakeholder engagement opportunities for these new requirements.

E. Request for Applications (RFA): Mobile Crisis Providers

A RFA has been posted seeking providers to deliver State-funded, Medicaid Tailored Plan, and Medicaid Direct Mobile Crisis Services in specified counties, including all counties in the Mid-State Region. Anthony explained that this will be a provider in addition to Therapeutic Alternatives, who currently provides the services. Applications are being reviewed with announcements to be made in the near future about any service expansions from this RFA.

F. Children and Families Specialty Plan

Children and Families Specialty Plan is a new single, statewide Medicaid Managed Care plan that will wrap Medicaid-enrolled children, youth, and their families currently and formerly served by the child welfare system with seamless, integrated and coordinated health care. The Plan will operate statewide, by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, ensuring members can access the health care services they need, including mental health care, and continue to work with their doctors as placements may move them across the state and is set to launch December 1, 2025. Children and families eligible for this plan that are currently served by Trillium will transition to this new plan at launch.

G. Child First Expansion

Child First is an innovative, home-based, early childhood intervention, embedded in a system of care that works to decrease the incidence of serious emotional disturbance, developmental and learning problems, and abuse and neglect among the most vulnerable young children and families. In late 2024, Trillium was awarded \$1 million in funding from NC DHHS to expand Child First services. The provider identified for this service expansion in the Mid-State Region is Coastal Horizons. On Thursday, February 6th, at 11:00 a.m. at the West End office, an announcement of the service expansion is planned along with an opportunity for local stakeholders to meet leadership staff of Coastal Horizons.

H. Victory Junction – Trillium Family Weekends

Trillium is continuing the partnership with Victory Junction to offer family weekends for Trillium members in April. For families interested, an interest form is available on the Trillium website.

I. Staff Transitions

Mr. Ward gave an update on several staff transitions:

- ▲ Chief Operations Officer, Cindy Ehlers, announced her upcoming retirement. Trillium has begun her recruitment, with plans to announce the successor in mid-February.
- ▲ A Chief Human Resources Office position has been added, which Trillium's current Chief Finance Office (CFO), Melissa Owens, will fill the position. Recruitment for a CFO will begin in the coming weeks.
- ▲ Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer position has been added to focus on strategic initiatives, innovative developments, operational excellence and stakeholder engagement. Recruitment will be in the coming weeks.

J. Operations Report

Mr. Ward provided an overview of the Operations Report which covered October and November 2024. He reported on the progress that has been made, resulting in required benchmarks being met. He noted that transportation continues to be a concern and resulted in most of the complaints that have been received.

VII. Governing Board Report

Governing Board member, Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid, highlighted items from the Governing Board report, noting that since the last Mid-State Regional Advisory Board meeting, the Governing Board has not met.

- ▲ The Secretarial Directive released December 30, 2024, from former NC DHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley approved the alternative Governing Board structure that was required from Senate Bill 425. In that same Directive, the initial Governing Board was appointed to fill that approved alternative structure.
- ▲ The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 30th in Raleigh.

VIII. Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) Report

Leann Henkel, CFAC Chairperson, provided a Mid-State Consumer and Family Advisory (CFAC) report, highlighting:

- ▲ Meetings – are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Reports are provided by staff.
- ▲ Membership – currently have 11 members. Recruiting efforts continue in Anson and Montgomery County.
- ▲ Activities –
 - All 5 Trillium CFAC's participated in a meeting with Trillium's Leadership.
 - January's CFAC meeting focused on self-preparedness for disasters.
 - Attended internal and external committee meetings.

IX. Regional Advisory Board Comments

Chair Allen thanked Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid and Leann Henkel for serving on the Governing Board.

Chair Allen stated that plans are to review the Mid-State Regional Advisory Board By-laws once the Governing Board has completed review of their By-Laws.

X. Other Material

- ▲ Chief Executive Officer Report

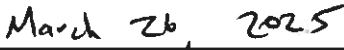
XI. Adjournment

With there being no other business, Chair Allen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Hassell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Priscilla Little-Reid seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Asheboro Office, 938 New Century Drive, Asheboro, NC.



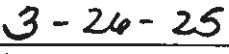
David Allen, Chairperson



Date



Sherry Bynum, Clerk



Date

Packet Material:

- Tuesday, January 28, 2025 agenda
- Draft November 26, 2024 minutes
- Mid-State Regional Vice President Report
- Mid-State Regional Governing Board Report
- Mid-State CFAC Report