



## Network Communication Bulletin #380

**To:** All Providers

**From:** Khristine Brewington, MS, LCMHCS, LCAS, CCS, CCJP  
Senior VP of Network Management

**Date:** October 30, 2024

**Subject:** Implementation of Provider Data Management/Centralized Verification Organization on Hold, Medication Management Services- Open Enrollment, Free Mental Health Support for Teens Across North Carolina in Wake of Hurricane Helene, Resources for Certified Peer Support Specialists, Assistance for Providers Experiencing Disruptions Due to Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Helene Policy Flexibilities and Resources, Attention Innovations Waiver Residential Service Providers, Roadmap2Ready: October is Fire Prevention Month, Connections-Care Management Platform, Featured Cultural Competency, DEI, and Bias Trainings, Annual Provider Training Needs Assessment, Working with Children with Complex Needs, Innovations Direct Care Worker Wage End of Year Summary Report, Request for Proposal: Transition Management Services, Re-Entry Simulations, Provider Relations Resource for Behavioral Health Providers, DSP Recruitment and Retention Provider Grant Initiative, Trillium is a Closed Network for BH/SUD/IDD, Need to Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse?

**NEW**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF PROVIDER DATA MANAGEMENT/ CENTRALIZED VERIFICATION ORGANIZATION ON HOLD**

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is pausing the implementation of the Provider Data Management/Centralized Verification Organization (PDM/CVO) module until further notice. While NCDHHS expects to fully implement a PDM/CVO module in the future, providers will continue to use NCTracks for all enrollment activities.

Even though NCDHHS is not transitioning to PDM/CVO at this time, providers remain contractually obligated to:

- 🌱 **Maintain an accurate provider record in NCTracks.** Reviewing each provider record and correcting outdated information is essential to supporting beneficiaries and the integrity of NCTracks provider data.
- 🌱 **Respond to NCTracks notifications that require action.** Monitor the NCTracks Provider Message Inbox for Reverification, Expiring Credentials, Maintaining Eligibility, and other important notices that require action to continue participation with NCDHHS programs.
- 🌱 **Stay informed.** Review the [NC Medicaid Provider webpage](#) often and read all new [Medicaid bulletins](#).
- 🌱 **Participate in educational opportunities.** Respond to notifications of engagement opportunities, webinars and other events.

NCDHHS will continue to work closely with providers to ensure a smooth enrollment process in NCTracks. For more information about provider enrollment, visit NC Medicaid's [Provider Enrollment webpage](#).

Contact NCTracks Call Center: 1-800-688-6696

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## **MEDICATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES-OPEN ENROLLMENT**

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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 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](#)

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## FREE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR TEENS ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA IN WAKE OF HURRICANE HELENE

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NCDHHS is partnering with Alliance Health and [Somethings](#) to provide mental health support to teens across North Carolina. This initiative aims to offer much-needed [support to youth impacted by Hurricane Helene](#).

Somethings is a mental health platform that connects teens and young adults with Certified Peer Support Specialist mentors and can provide referrals to licensed therapists. If you're a teen or know a teen who needs mental health support, visit [Somethings.com/northcarolina](https://Somethings.com/northcarolina) to get connected to support. Services are available via text and video calls after school from 3:00 to 11:00 p.m., and on weekends.

This partnership between NCDHHS and Somethings is a critical step toward addressing this urgent need and ensuring that mental health support is within reach for every young person in North Carolina. In the wake of Hurricane Helene, North Carolina has been working tirelessly to ensure that impacted residents receive the mental health support they need.

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## RESOURCES FOR CERTIFIED PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

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The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services (DMHDD/SUS) is deeply committed to supporting Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSS) and recognizing the invaluable contributions that individuals with lived experiences with recovery from mental illness and/or substance use disorders bring to North Carolina's prevention, treatment, and recovery services. The resources below are some of the many ways we continue to invest in and empower North Carolina's peer workforce.

### **New! Certified Peer Support Specialists Webpage**

Visit the new DMH/DD/SUS [Certified Peer Support Specialist](#) webpage for information about how to become a CPSS and apply for a certification scholarship. Community members can learn how to connect with a CPSS for help with recovery. Providers can access hiring resources like credential verification and the CPSS workforce opportunities website.

## REMINDERS

### ASSISTANCE FOR PROVIDERS EXPERIENCING DISRUPTIONS DUE TO HURRICANE HELENE

Trillium Health Resources is aware that some providers may be experiencing service disruptions due to the impact of Hurricane Helene. To assist these providers, Trillium has created a tool to report and track service and financial disruptions.

Providers can notify Trillium of service disruptions to members via the [Stabilization payment request submission form](#). If funding is being requested, providers will need to fill out the [Disaster Expense Reimbursement Request Form](#) and attach it to the Smartsheet. Upon receipt of the form, Trillium will review and process the request as quickly as possible.

Please reach out to [TrilliumFinance@TrilliumNC.org](mailto:TrilliumFinance@TrilliumNC.org) with questions about the process, or to receive updates on the progress of a submission.

#### WHAT DO PROVIDERS NEED TO DO?

Providers experiencing service and/or financial disruption due to conditions resulting from Hurricane Helene should complete [Stabilization payment request submission form](#) as well as the [Disaster Expense Reimbursement Request Form](#). Questions regarding the process and information required should be directed to [TrilliumFinance@TrilliumNC.org](mailto:TrilliumFinance@TrilliumNC.org).

#### WHAT TYPES OF EXPENSES CAN THE FORMS BE UTILIZED FOR?

Providers may submit:

- 🌱 Expenses directly related to Hurricane Helene response efforts.
- 🌱 Expenses that cannot be immediately paid for with other funds.
- 🌱 Expenses that are incurred at (a) cost and scale consistent with the need on the ground and (b) whenever possible, in line with the standard rate/cost of such expenses in the normal course of business.

#### These member-focused expenses may include:

- 🌱 Counseling, crisis counseling, and/or peer support services.
- 🌱 Shelter supports behavioral health, I/DD and TBI needs.
- 🌱 "Guest dosing" of medications.

- 🌿 Other critical expenses related to supporting the behavioral health or other disability needs of people directly impacted by the storm.

### **HARDSHIP PAYMENT:**

For Hurricane Helene hardship requests, providers can continue to claim a hardship payment via email communication to the Financial Hardship team at [TrilliumFinance@TrilliumNC.org](mailto:TrilliumFinance@TrilliumNC.org). Upon receipt, Trillium will review and process the request as quickly as possible.

### **WHO CAN PROVIDERS CONTACT IF THEY HAVE QUESTIONS?**

If providers have questions, they should contact [TrilliumFinance@TrilliumNC.org](mailto:TrilliumFinance@TrilliumNC.org).

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## **HURRICANE HELENE POLICY FLEXIBILITIES AND RESOURCES**

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[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

The links below provide information on updated flexibilities being implemented by NC Medicaid due to the Hurricane Helene Public Health Emergency.

- 🌿 [Disaster Relief Applications Available for Health Care Providers Not Currently Enrolled as a NC Medicaid Provider](#)
- 🌿 [Reimbursement for Medically Necessary Services during Hurricane Helene](#)
- 🌿 [Behavioral Health Services](#)
- 🌿 [Dental](#)
- 🌿 [Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies \(DMEPOS\)](#)
- 🌿 [Family Planning](#)
- 🌿 [Innovations and Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) Waiver](#)
- 🌿 [Long Term Services and Supports \(LTSS\)](#)
- 🌿 [Obstetrical Services](#)
- 🌿 [Outpatient Specialized Therapies](#)
- 🌿 [Pharmacy](#)
- 🌿 [Swing Beds: Expanded Ability for Hospital Swing Beds](#)
- 🌿 [Key Reminders for Providers](#)

 [Contact Information](#)

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND LINKS**

-  [Hurricane Helene Newsletter – English](#)
-  [Hurricane Helene Newsletter – Spanish](#)
-  [Hurricane Helene Response Guidance for Managed Care Health Plans](#)
-  [Medicaid TP Support Calendar](#)
-  [Hurricane Helen Policy Flexibilities to Support Providers and Recipients](#)
-  [Weathering the Storm](#)
-  [SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline](#)
-  [Replacement Benefits Available for Food and Nutrition Services Recipients Impacted by Hurricane Helene](#)
-  [North Carolinians Enrolled in Food and Nutrition Services Can Use Benefits to Buy Hot Food Following Hurricane Helene](#)
-  Call 911 for emergency assistance.
-  Call 211 for local resources.
-  For those seeking immediate shelter, ReadyNC.gov lists open shelters.
-  Specific resource requests should be directed to county emergency management agencies.
-  Individuals residing in counties affected by the disaster can apply for assistance with FEMA by visiting [disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov) or calling 1-800-621-3362.
-  Visit the NCDHHS Hurricane Helene Recovery Resources website for current information.
-  Visit the North Carolina Department of Public Safety website for Hurricane Helene storm information and resources.
-  Call or text 988 for mental health support from a trained mental health professional.
-  Call NC's Peer Warmline (1-855-PEERS NC) to speak to a peer living in recovery from mental health or substance use issues.
-  First responders and volunteers can call Hope4NC (1-855-587-3463) for support.
-  The Disability Disaster Hotline provides information, referrals and guidance to people with disabilities and their families during disasters.

- 🌱 The Connections App provides evidence-based support for mental health and substance use recovery.

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## ATTENTION INNOVATIONS WAIVER RESIDENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

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This is a reminder that Trillium Innovations providers are required to comply with Clinical Coverage Policy 8-P North Carolina Innovation related to residential services. Private home respite services serving individuals outside their private homes are subject to licensure under NC G.S. 122C Article 2 when: more than two individuals are served concurrently, or either one or two children, two adults, or any combination thereof are served for a cumulative period of time exceeding 240 hours per calendar month.

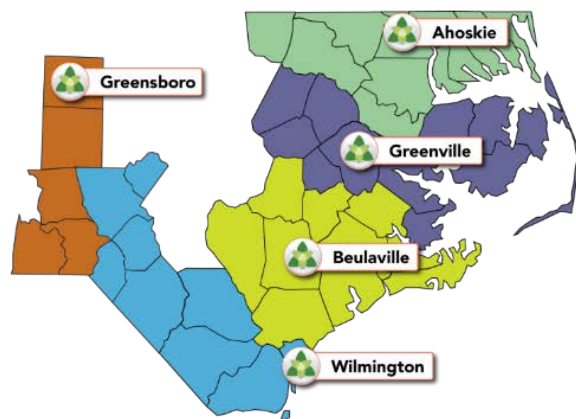
An Alternative Family Living (AFL) site shall be licensed if serving either (1) one or more minor clients or (2) two or more adult clients. Minor and adult clients shall not reside in the same location. Unlicensed supervised living homes (AFLs) may only serve one adult as criteria not being met for 10A NCAC 27 G.5601 (b) (1) or (2).

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## ROADMAP 2 READY: OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

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# Roadmap 2 Ready



Part of being prepared is to have a plan for any kind of emergency. We will be providing best practices for preparedness to help your organization. Last month we gave you information about National Preparedness Month. This month we will cover fire, one of the hazards that may have come up as a risk. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has the following requirements for workplace safety in relation to fire safety.

At a minimum, the plan must include but is not limited to the following elements [[29 CFR 1910.38\(c\)](#)]:

- 🌿 [Means of reporting fires and other emergencies](#)
- 🌿 [Evacuation procedures and emergency escape route assignments](#)
- 🌿 [Procedures for employees who remain to operate critical plant operations before they evacuate](#)
- 🌿 [Accounting for all employees after an emergency evacuation has been completed](#)
- 🌿 [Rescue and medical duties for employees performing them](#)
- 🌿 [Names or job titles of persons who can be contacted](#)

If you provide services to members in a residential setting, help them by checking [their smoke alarms](#) and talk about [home evacuation plans](#)! If they have no fire alarms or they need to be replaced, reach out to the American Red Cross for their [free fire alarm installation](#) program.

Please [complete this document](#) if you wish to notify us of your interest in joining our Shelter Response Team. You must complete all the required fields and submit this document to let us know of your interest. For more insight on what this could look like please view this training that the NCDHHS put together. (Available [in Trillium's MyLearningCampus](#).)

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## CONNECTIONS-CARE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

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[Network Communication Bulletin #378](#) notified providers that Trillium Health Resources will no longer offer our Tailored Care Management (TCM) platform to TCM providers.

Trillium's intent is to terminate the TCM provider contracts regarding the use of our care management platform no later than June 30, 2025. Future TCM providers will be required to utilize their own platform for documentation of service delivery.

The reason for this decision is that Trillium is not funded, nor is it financially sustainable to continue to support external TCM entities in providing access to Trillium's Connection platform.



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## FEATURED CULTURAL COMPENENCY, DEI, AND BIAS TRAININGS

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Registration is open for classes including Healthcare, Equity, and You; Supporting Transgender Individuals; Cultural Competency; and The Engagement Strategy with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

 [Review classes and register here.](#)

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## ANNUAL PROVIDER TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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Trillium Health Resources requests your participation in the annual Provider Training Needs Assessment. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary but very useful in the development of topics for provider trainings.

All of your responses will be kept confidential. Responses will only be used for statistical purposes and to determine your training needs. Please take about five minutes to complete this survey so that Trillium's Training Department can provide trainings that your agency needs. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Tadeo, Training Director ([Jackie.Tadeo@TrilliumNC.org](mailto:Jackie.Tadeo@TrilliumNC.org)). You can access the survey by clicking the following link:

 [Provider Training Needs Assessment](#)

**This survey will be available October 4 – November 4, 2024.**

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## WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

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The Build Up Team, housed within the Impact Center at UNC's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute is offering an Implementation Science 101 webinar titled Understanding How Implementation Science and Practice May Improve Agency and Clinical Outcomes.

 [Click here to register](#) for Friday, November 8, 2024 from 10am-12pm EST.

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## INNOVATIONS DIRECT CARE WORKER WAGE END OF YEAR SUMMARY REPORT WAS DUE SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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Pursuant to the 2023 Appropriations Act, Session Law 2023-134, North Carolina Medicaid established a process for eligible Medicaid providers to submit required

information to participate in the Innovations Direct Care Worker (DCW) provider rate increase that was intended to support increased DCW wages.

Providers should reference the [Innovations DCW Wage Increase Attestation and Acknowledgment Form](#), which details the documentation they can use to support and verify that the Innovations DCW Wage Increase funding was used for the benefit of its Innovations DCW.

Per the legislation, Innovations waiver services providers must submit to the relevant Health Plan an annual summary of expenditures, due three months after the respective State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024, to validate distribution of Innovations DCW Wage Increase revenue.

For your convenience, please see the [Example - Innovations Direct Care Worker Wage End of Year Summary Report](#), which details how to complete the required report.

For the State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024, the [Innovations Direct Care Worker Wage End of Year Summary Report](#) was due September 30, 2024.

The report should be submitted to [RatesFinance@TrilliumNC.org](mailto:RatesFinance@TrilliumNC.org). If you have questions about this report or require assistance, please submit an email to [RatesFinance@TrilliumNC.org](mailto:RatesFinance@TrilliumNC.org).

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## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: TRANSITION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

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Trillium has posted a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite service providers to submit a proposal for the implementation of Transition Management Services (TMS). TMS is provided to individuals participating in the Transition to Community Living (TCL) initiative.

TMS is a rehabilitation service intended to increase and restore an individual's ability to live successfully in the community by maintaining tenancy. TMS focuses on increasing the individual's ability to live as independently as possible, managing the illness, and reestablishing his or her community roles related to the following life domains: emotional, social, safety, housing, medical and health, educational, vocational, and legal. TMS provides structured rehabilitative interventions through a team approach. Providers may submit proposals for one or more of the counties/regions included in the RFP.

The five regions/counties included in the RFP are as follows:

1. Craven
2. Guilford/Randolph
3. Moore/Hoke
4. New Hanover
5. Pitt/Greene/Wilson

For more information, to ask questions, and to apply, please visit the [Current Service Needs](#) page on Trillium's website.

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## RE-ENTRY SIMULATIONS

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Trillium Health Resources is 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 EVENTS:

-  [Robeson County, NC – November 6](#)       [Brunswick County, NC – November 19](#)

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## PROVIDER RELATIONS RESOURCE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

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Trillium is offering another way for Behavioral Health providers to connect with their Provider Relations and Engagement Coordinators.

We have been working to improve our level of service and are confident this new process will provide an excellent experience.

To locate your Coordinator, please [visit this link](#) to view the alphabetical listing of Behavioral Health providers.

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## DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROVIDER GRANT INITIATIVE

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DMHDDSUS is announcing a new funding opportunity to strengthen the DSP workforce. This initiative is designed to provide financial support for DSPs to receive continuing education, training, and professional development to further enhance their ability to provide exceptional care.

**The application opened Sept. 9 at noon.**

Due Date: Nov. 8, 2024, 12:00 p.m. | Application: [Apply here](#)

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## **TRILLIUM IS A CLOSED NETWORK FOR BH/SUD/IDD**

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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 [Current Service Needs](#) webpage.

Non-Contracted Providers can submit an [Interest Submission Form](#) to express future interest in contracting for behavioral health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disabilities services.

**Trillium will review interest submissions on a monthly basis.**

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

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

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## **NEED TO REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE?**

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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.