

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: January 17, 2018

SUBJECT: Safelight Letter of Support

PRESENTER: Andi Craven, Safelight

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Draft Letter of Support

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Safelight, a Henderson County based non-profit providing support for survivors of interpersonal violence, sexual assault and child abuse, has requested a letter of support from the County as they make application to become a Medicaid provider. Safelight, formerly Mainstay and the Healing Place, works closely with DSS and the Health Department. Medicaid contracting will allow Safelight to expand on needed services within the community.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to adopt the Letter of Support as presented.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board adopt the Letter of Support as presented, and authorize the Chairman to execute the letter.

DRAFT

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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January 17, 2018

Vaya Health
200 Ridgefield Ct, Suite 206
Asheville, NC 28806

Re: Letter of Support -Safelight

To Whom It May Concern:

Safelight, a Henderson County based non-profit providing support for survivors of interpersonal violence, sexual assault and child abuse, has made the County aware of their desire to become a Medicaid provider. Please accept this letter in support of their efforts, based on the services they provide within Henderson County.

Safelight works closely with the County's Department of Social Services and Health Department, and a frequent conversation is lack of access to trauma-focused services. Medicaid contracting will allow Safelight to expand on trauma-informed services. While some services are currently offered through the Child Advocacy Center, they are limited to the number of slots our current therapists have. The need for EMDR and other evidence-based services to be expanded upon is great.

Additionally, the Child Advocacy Center is currently performing an average of four to five forensic interviews a week, and an average of two to three medical exams per week. Each of the children served have been referred for trauma-informed therapies to reduce the effects of severe physical abuse and sexual abuse. However, the current limitations on capacity create a waiting list, particularly during this time of the year.

Finally, Safelight works closely with Family Preservation, the comprehensive provider in Henderson County, on referrals. On average, Family Preservation is in contact three times per month referring clients who have stated they have experienced either previous or current severe trauma.

Thank you for your consideration of Henderson County's support for Safelight's application to become a Medicaid provider.

J. Michael Edney
Chairman, Henderson County Board of Commissioners