

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**HENDERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** March 18, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Vaya Health Update  
**PRESENTER:** Angie Garner, Vaya Health  
**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes  
1. Presentation

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Angie Garner, Community Relations Regional Director with Vaya Health, will provide the Board with an update.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

No Board Action requested, this item is for information only.

**Suggested Motion(s):**

*No motion suggested.*



VAYAHEALTH

# Henderson County Board of Commissioners Presentation

Angie Garner

Community Relations Regional Director

March 18, 2026

# Who We Are

- Vaya Health is a local political subdivision of the state of North Carolina and a Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) governed by Chapter 122C of the North Carolina General Statutes.
- Vaya Health is one of 4 **Tailored Plans** in NC which manages publicly-funded mental health, substance use disorder, intellectual/ developmental disability, and traumatic brain injury services in 32-county region.
- NCGS § 122C-115.4(a): “Local management entities are responsible for the management and oversight of the public system of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services at the community level. An LME shall plan, develop, implement, and monitor services within a specified geographic area to ensure expected outcomes for consumers within available resources.”

# What is a Tailored Plan?

**July 2024 - The launch of Standard Plans (Healthy Blue, AmeriHealth Caritas, United Healthcare, and WellCare) and Tailored Plans**

- Plans are a new kind of NC Medicaid Managed Care health plan. They cover mental health, severe substance use, I/DD, TBI and medical, and prescriptions in one plan.
- The assigned Tailored Plan is based on the county that manages the Medicaid benefits for the member. You cannot choose a different Tailored Plan.
- With a Tailored Plan, your physical, mental, severe substance use, intellectual/developmental disability or traumatic brain injury needs are not separate.



Serious  
Mental Illness (SMI)



Severe Substance  
Use Disorders (SUD)

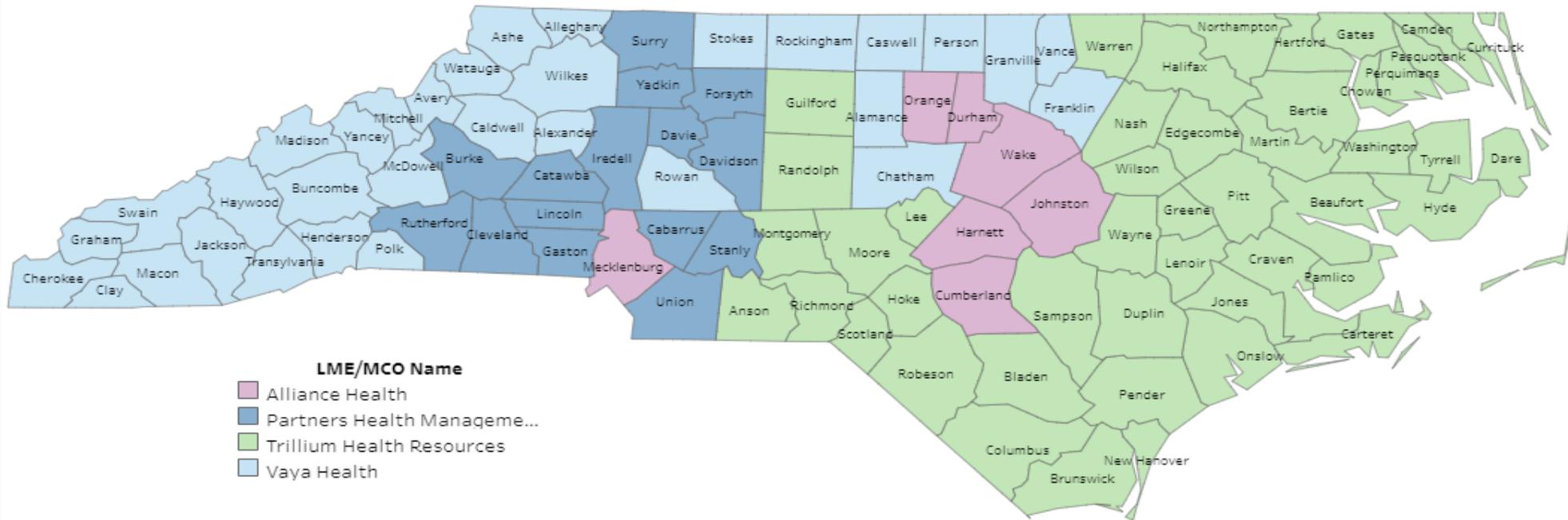


Intellectual/  
Developmental  
Disabilities (I/DD)



Traumatic Brain  
Injuries (TBI)

# Who Manages Tailored Plans?



This map shows LME/MCO configuration effective 2/1/24.

# Vaya Health Updates

NC General Assembly passed “Mini Budget” and is still in process of finalizing. Hope that biennium budget will be passed now General Assembly now in session. Key areas of concern:

- “Mini Budget” Medicaid funding of \$600,000 million falls below NCDHHS projections.
  - ✓ The Division of Health Benefits and the GA Fiscal Research both projecting Medicaid shortfall. Disagreement between them on the amount of the shortfall.
  - ✓ Governor Stein and Secretary Sangvai sent joint communication outline proposed changes to FY 26 Medicaid budget and related provider rate reductions based on “Mini Budget” funding.
  - ✓ NCDHHS implemented rate reductions on October 1<sup>st</sup> with Medicaid services being cut by 3% and targeted services cut by either 8 or 10%. Vaya postponed until November 1st.
  - ✓ Due to NC Court rulings NCDHHS sent notice that Medicaid rate reductions were rescinded with rates being restored and refunded to the September 30, 2025 Medicaid rates level.
  - ✓ NCDHHS reports the Medicaid budget is currently underfunded by \$319 million under current “Mini Budget” and funds will be depleted by early 2026 unless the NC General Assembly does not pass a budget with additional funding.
- Vaya’s Single Stream (Indigent) Funding reduced by up to \$9 million based on “Mini Budget”. Vaya continues to advocate to restore funding.

# Child and Family Specialty Plan

In August 2024, NCDHHS announced that Blue Cross Blue Shield will be the single Health Plan serving youth and families involved in child welfare/foster care system.

Many children and families will remain in Vaya Total Care and Medicaid Direct; Vaya will maintain our contractual relationships with providers and our dedicated residential crisis resources.

On December 11, 2024, NC DHHS provided an Amendment to the CFSP contract with BCBS revealing the following timetable:

- Implementation Period: August 15, 2024 through November 30, 2025
- Contract Year 1: **December 1, 2025** through June 30, 2026
- Contract Year 2: July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- Contract Year 3: July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028
- Contract Year 4: July 1, 2028 through June 30, 2029

# Workforce Development Grant

- Vaya Health was awarded a \$300,000 grant to run through September 2026 from Dogwood Health Trust to tackle the critical healthcare workforce shortages impacting mental health, substance use disorder, intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD), and traumatic brain injury (TBI) providers across western North Carolina.
- The initiative is designed to strengthen the network of behavioral health, I/DD, and TBI providers in Vaya's network. The plan encompasses shared technical assistance, targeted recruitment efforts, and specialized training to drive meaningful and measured results.
- Currently working on the “improved education and training services” initiative.

# Hope4NC Grant

- Free and anonymous for all residents in affected communities:
  - Individual and group crisis recovery outreach
  - Public education
  - Community networking and support
  - Assessment, referral, and resource connection
- Team Leaders, Crisis Counselors, and Community Liaison/Resource Linkage staff in each region
- No health plan required for grant supports
- Hope4NC Helpline: 1-855-587-3463

## Need someone to talk to?



The impact of Hurricane Helene can be overwhelming for adults, youth and children. Everyone has different stress responses that may include:

- Feeling alone.
- Irritability or feeling out of sorts.
- Head, stomach or body aches.
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns.
- Difficulty concentrating, forgetful.
- Fear for your own health.
- Worrying about the health of your family or friends.
- Increased use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.
- Feeling stuck, no time for self-care.
- Looking for ideas to stay calm and healthy.

HOPE  4 NC

HELPLINE 1-855-587-3463



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES

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an equal opportunity employer  
and provider. • 11/2024



# Hope 4 NC Grant, cont.

- Hope4NC is involved in all 22 impacted WNC counties weekly including EBCI events connecting people to recovery resources.
- No-cost extension approved by SAMHSA and FEMA; work continues through April 26, 2026
- Hope 4 NC teams are focused on increased survivor engagement across outreach sites and navigation support: RenewNC, rental assistance, mucking and debris removal, food access, behavioral health, community resources.
- **Total Contacts with survivors to date: over 70,000**

# WNC Thrive

- In May 2025, Vaya received an allocation for summer recovery camps in counties impacted by Hurricane Helene.
- Vaya worked with NCDHHS to expand the allocation to support summer camp and after-school oriented recovery efforts this fiscal year.
  - NC 4-H
  - Children & Family Resource Center Glo Mobile
  - Camp Tekoa
  - Kids at Work
  - Vocational Directions

# Vaya Transition and Housing

- Transitions to Community Living (TCL) gives eligible adults living with serious mental illness or severe and persistent mental illness the opportunity to choose where they live and work
- Money Follows the Person helps older adults and people with physical disabilities who reside in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) or a hospital setting receiving skilled-level care to move back into the community.
- Justice Re-entry Program intended support individuals transitioning out of State Prisons

# Maintenance of Effort – MOE Funding

- Amount of county money that has to be invested in order to draw down the Federal money through Block Grants. Counties are required to maintain a certain amount towards Behavioral Health related services. This is per Session Law 2015-241, Section 12F.2.(e).
- The 4 LME-MCOs shall ensure the MOE spending requirement is met using State appropriations, so the money is funneled through the LME-MCO's, Vaya in our region.
- Henderson County direct spenditure of the \$528,612.00 on a fiscal year basis, and work with Vaya to ensure there is not a duplication of service.

# MOE Funding, cont.

- **Safelight** for counseling and support services
- **The Free Clinics** for Behavioral Health support
- **Blue Ridge Community Health Services** for Walk-in, counseling, and Adult Recovery Court support
- **Children and Family Resource Center** for Family Navigation position
- **Department of Public Health** for counseling services
- **Henderson County EMS** for Community Paramedic support
- **Comprehensive Providers, LLC** for Jail Psychiatric Services





VAYAHEALTH

**THANK  
YOU**