

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: March 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Western Highland Area Authority Medicaid Waiver Project

PRESENTER: Steve Wyatt

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1.) Resolution

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services recently designated the Western Highlands Local Management Entity (LME) to participate in the ongoing 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver for mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services delivered to Medicaid recipients within the LME area. The Waiver allows Western Highlands to manage and authorize all Medicaid and State-funded mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services locally with the public policy purpose to deliver “the right services to the right person at the right time in the right amount at the right cost”.

To move forward with the Waiver Project, the Board’s of Commissioners in the eight counties comprising the Western Highlands LME must endorse the LME’s participation in the proposed Medicaid Waiver project.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to review the attached Resolution endorsing the LME’s participation in the Medicaid Waiver, and if desired, adopt it as presented.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board adopt the attached Resolution endorsing the Western Highlands Area Authority Network’s participation in the proposed Medicaid 1915(b)/(c) Waiver under the conditions outlined in the Resolution.

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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RESOLUTION

WESTERN HIGHLAND AREA AUTHORITY MEDICAID 1915 (b)/(c) WAIVER PROJECT

- WHEREAS,** the Western Highlands Area Authority serves as the Local Management Entity (LME) for mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services in the eight county region consisting of Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania and Yancey counties; and
- WHEREAS,** North Carolina statute [N.C.G.S. 122C-115(a)] requires that “a county shall provide mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services through an area authority”; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal medical assistance program known as Medicaid permits states to receive permission to waive numerous requirements of Title XIX of the Social Security Act so as to increase consumer access to care, improve quality of care, and demonstrate cost effectiveness; and
- WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services designated Western Highlands to participate in the ongoing 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver for mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services delivered to Medicaid recipients within the region served by Western Highlands Area Authority; and
- WHEREAS,** the Waiver allows Western Highlands to manage and authorize all Medicaid and State-funded mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services locally with the public policy purpose to deliver “the right services to the right person at the right time in the right amount at the right cost”; and
- WHEREAS,** the Waiver requires of Western Highlands to pay for all Medicaid and State-funded mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services from an annual finite, capitated amount of funds Medicaid and state funds ; and
- WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services perceives such Waiver as the future model of managing mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services; and

- WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners is committed to ensuring a sustainable and effective system of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services to serve our citizens and their families; and
- WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners has committed significant local resources to ensure the availability of a sustainable and effective system of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services to serve our citizens and their families; and
- WHEREAS,** North Carolina statute [N.C.G.S. 122C-115.3(g)] requires that, upon the dissolution of an area authority, any unsatisfied indebtedness of the dissolved area authority shall be satisfied by participating counties on a pro rata basis; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposal for Western Highlands to assume control of the management and payment of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services delivered to Medicaid recipients contains a federally mandated, state funded “stop loss” set aside at the level of 2% of administrative costs, however the risk pool level for Western Highlands to set aside prior to authorization and utilization of “1915(b)(3) Waiver services” is \$15,000,000; and
- WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners must balance the potential benefits to our citizens and their families arising from the Waiver’s local management, oversight and payment of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services with the corresponding potential increased financial liability of the County; and
- WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners would oppose “savings” through reduced access to mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, that Henderson County endorses the Western Highlands Area Authority Network’s participation in the proposed Medicaid 1915(b)/(c) Waiver under the following conditions and failure to adhere to this criteria would result in a review of our continued participation:

- A recognition that the unique Board composition of Western Highlands, which includes 8 County Managers; will be maintained as this provides additional fiscal and management capacity to oversee the Waiver.
- Western Highlands Area Authority completely comply with their IT Plan prior to the start date as this infrastructure is necessary in order to gain the efficiencies needed to generate savings to support service flexibility.
- Western Highlands Area Authority provides detailed monthly reports to Henderson County specific to service expansion and service denials related to the Waiver.
- Western Highlands Area Authority completes the funding of the risk pool amount of \$15,000,000 prior to authorization and utilization of “1915(b)(3) Waiver services”.

- Western Highlands Area Authority present monthly reports to the County specific to the number and outcome of appeals by consumers and providers.
- Western Highlands Area Authority provides monthly financial and risk pool data analysis to the designated County representative.

FURTHERMORE, by supporting this action, Henderson County assumes no additional financial obligation to the Western Highlands Area Authority other than to maintain its statutorily mandated Maintenance of Effort funding level pursuant to N.C.G.S. 122C-115(d), and to comply with N.C.G.S. 122C-115.3(g).

Adopted this the 16th day of March, 2011.

J. Michael Edney, Chairman

Thomas Thompson, Vice Chairman

Charlie Messer, Commissioner

Larry Young, Commissioner

Bill O'Connor, Commissioner

Teresa Wilson
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners