

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: November 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Resolution - In Support of Funding to Meet the Mental Health, Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Disorder Service Needs of the Citizens of Henderson County

PRESENTER: Steve Wyatt

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1.) Resolution

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners are requested to adopt a Resolution in support of continued funding from the State to meet the mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities and substance use disorder service needs of the citizens of Henderson County. This request is made by Vaya Health, Henderson County's Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to adopt the attached Resolution as presented.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board adopt the attached Resolution as presented.

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 Historic Courthouse Square, Suite #1
Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855

www.hendersoncountync.org

GRADY HAWKINS
Chairman
WILLIAM LAPSLEY
Vice-Chairman

CHARLIE MESSER
J. MICHAEL EDNEY
REBECCA MCCALL

RESOLUTION - IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING TO MEET THE MENTAL HEALTH, INTELLECTUAL/ DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS OF HENDERSON COUNTY

- WHEREAS,** Henderson County recognizes that, with appropriate services and supports, individuals with mental health and substance use disorders can achieve recovery; and
- WHEREAS,** Henderson County further recognizes that individuals with intellectual/ developmental disabilities (“IDD”) can live productive lives in the homes and communities of their choice; and
- WHEREAS,** the amount of resources needed for mental health, substance use disorder and IDD services and supports is increasing due to North Carolina’s increasing population; and
- WHEREAS,** Henderson County is a member of Vaya Health, a public Local Management Entity/ Managed Care Organization (“LME/MCO”) responsible for management and oversight of publicly-funded mental health, substance use disorder and IDD services for over 270,000 Medicaid-covered and uninsured individuals across twenty-two (22) western North Carolina counties (the “Catchment Area”); and
- WHEREAS,** consistent with the goals of the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver expansion, the Vaya Health Board of Directors developed a comprehensive reinvestment plan beginning in SFY 2015-16 as part of a focused effort to reduce unnecessary emergency department admissions, divert people from incarceration and institutionalization, combat the opioid epidemic, and support county Departments of Social Services; and
- WHEREAS,** Vaya has already reinvested \$18.5 million of its Medicaid savings in a broad array of initiatives designed to directly address the needs of the citizens of Henderson County, including but not limited to expanding Facility Based Crisis and Behavioral Health Urgent Care services, implementing an innovative evidenced-based service to support children aging out of the foster care system, distributing opioid overdose reversal kits, increasing provider rates and expanding Medication Assisted Treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** State funding for North Carolina's behavioral healthcare system has been inconsistent and inadequate for more than 17 years since mental health reform legislation was passed by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2001; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has reduced State funding for behavioral health services (known as single-stream funding) by more than \$458 million statewide over the past four years, including more than \$48 million in cuts to single-stream funding to Vaya alone, while requiring Vaya and other LME/MCOs to continue offering the same level of State-funded services as before such reductions; and

WHEREAS, if the proposed \$9 million single-stream reduction in the pending State budget is passed into law, the General Assembly will have cut \$57 million in single-stream funding from Vaya; and

WHEREAS, despite these significant single-stream funding reductions, Vaya has continued serving the uninsured and underinsured using remaining State funds and Medicaid savings that were intended to be used for implementing its reinvestment plan; and

WHEREAS, such continued reductions have forced Vaya to eliminate, or halt work on, items from its reinvestment plan; and

WHEREAS, Henderson County has continued to fund Vaya with County dollars to supplement services to our residents, but we are concerned that additional reductions in behavioral health funding by the State may increase the need for the local allocation and place additional strain on local hospitals, Emergency Medical Services, jails, housing, and other social service resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, do hereby request that the North Carolina General Assembly:

- Stop cutting Vaya Health's State single-stream funding so that such funds can be utilized to strengthen access to healthcare services for the mental health, intellectual/ developmental disabilities, and substance use disorder needs of uninsured and underinsured Henderson County citizens; and
- Allow Vaya Health to build up its Medicaid savings so that Vaya can reinvest in services and supports for our communities rather than mandating that such funds be used to replace reduced State funding.

Adopted this the 4th day of November, 2019.

GRADY HAWKINS, CHAIRMAN
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

TERESA L. WILSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD