

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular workshop session. Board present Keith Eller, Lynn Cody, Jacob Nelms and Dale Wiggins. Board absent Connie Orr. Also, present Manager Jason Marino, Finance Director Becky Garland, Attorney J.K Coward and Clerk Kim Crisp.

1. Vice-Chairman Eller called the workshop to order.
2. Vice-Chairman Eller asks Shelly Foreman, Regional Community Relations Director with Vaya Health to speak. Ms. Foreman thanked the board for their time and stated that Clerk Crisp had assisted her with making copies of her presentation today and further stated that they are keeping Chairman Connie Orr in their thoughts. Ms. Foreman stated that Chairman Orr sat on the Vaya Health County Commissioner Advisory Board.
3. Ms. Foreman stated that she wanted to discuss Medicaid Transformation and the changes that have taken place at VAYA Health. Ms. Foreman stated that Vaya Health is a local government agency that manages publicly funded services and supports for individuals facing challenges with MHSUIDD needs in a 22-county “catchment area” of Western North Carolina and are a local political subdivision of the state of North Carolina originally known as an area authority and now referred to as a local management entity / managed care organization (LME/MCO). Ms. Foreman stated that Vaya Health offers three distinct health plans: a MH, SU and IDD health plan for individuals who have a qualifying type of Medicaid based in one of their 22-counties and they manage this plan under a contract with the NC Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to the NC 1915(b) Medicaid Waiver. Ms. Foreman stated that the second is a MH, SU, and IDD health plan for eligible individuals who are uninsured or underinsured and because this plan is supported with state, local and federal block grant funds (not Medicaid), there is no entitlement to these services and funding is limited and the third is a home an community based services and supports health plan for individuals with I/DD and this plan is pursuant to the NC 1915(c) “Innovations” Waiver.
4. Ms. Foreman stated that the goals of Medicaid Transformation are:
 - a. Deliver whole-person care
 - b. Unite communities to address member needs and deploy cost-effective solutions
 - c. Transition to provider-based care management at site of care
 - d. Improve member experience
 - e. Reduce provider administrative burden
 - f. Support a healthier North Carolina
 - g. Address unique needs of historically marginalized population
5. Ms. Foreman stated that the managed care plans, which are called Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs) in North Carolina will be paid capitated payments by DHHS (Department of Health & Human Services) to manage the care of eligible Medicaid and NC Health Choice beneficiaries. Ms. Foreman stated that there will be three types of PHP’s: Standard Plans, Tailored Plans, and Tribal Option.
6. Ms. Foreman stated that the Medicaid Transformation by the numbers for Graham County is (2690) Current Medicaid-eligible residents; (2451) Estimated Medicaid members moving to Standard Plans in July and (239) Estimated Medicaid members staying with Vaya after July Standard Plan launch.
7. Ms. Foreman stated that Standard Plans will address the majority of the Medicaid population using a “whole person care” approach, to include both the physical health and behavioral health needs for those individuals with mild to moderate challenges; (4) Standard Plans (commercial) statewide serving the (6) health regions and (1) Provider Led Entity (PLEs) serving region three and five beginning July 2021. Ms. Foreman stated that Tailored Plans “whole person care” approach for those individuals who have more complex behavioral health or IDD needs: Tailored Plans will manage both the physical health needs of the person with behavioral health and or IDD and their specialty care needs; The legislation states that there was will be no fewer than (5) and no more than (7) Tailored Plans that begin July 2022.
8. Ms. Foreman stated that a “Win Theme” is the reason Vaya should be awarded the RFA, and the overall theme is improving member experience and outcomes, embracing, and promoting

integrated, whole person care, building, and sustaining cost effective, community-based system of care.

9. Commissioner Wiggins stated that the number of eligible people in Graham County is (2690) which is a large portion of our population. Ms. Foreman stated that is correct and the State determines who is eligible based on income and disabilities. Ms. Foreman stated that this is an extraordinarily complex and complicated course, but Vaya will still provide services to the uninsured which will be challenging. Ms. Foreman stated that the region Ombudsman will help eligible citizens with enrollment to determine which plan is best for them. Commissioner Wiggins stated that this is extremely complicated for Graham County residents due mainly to the geographic location of our county and most have a (100) mile round trip to see a provider. Ms. Foreman stated that Vaya will continue to work hard for our far western counties.
10. Vice-Chairman Eller thanked Ms. Foreman for the updates and asks for further comment. No further comment.
11. Vice-Chairman Eller adjourned the workshop.

Connie Orr, Chairman (ABSENT)

Keith Eller, Vice-Chairman

Lynn Cody, Member

Jacob Nelms, Member

Dale Wiggins, Member

ATTEST

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board