

Merger Information & Medicaid 1915 (b) (c) Waiver Implementation



In August 2011, Pathways LME, Crossroads Behavioral Healthcare and Mental Health Partners received word that our application to operate under the State's 1915 (b)(c) Medicaid Waiver program was approved. Since that time, there has been tremendous work to plan for our future as a single managed care organization.

Recently, a committee comprised of board members from each of the local management entities (LMEs) selected Partners Behavioral Health Management as the new organization's name. Partners Behavioral Health Management, or Partners BHM, will begin operations on July 1, 2012 and manage government-funded behavioral health care services in Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Surry and Yadkin counties.

One of the items at the top of our list is recruitment of personnel for Partners BHM. At this time, we have initiated recruitment for a number of positions within the new organization. Many of these opportunities have been posted internally when it has been identified that there is a pool of qualified staff members that meet the position's requirements. A temporary website has been created to provide the community with information about the new organization. www.PartnersBHM.org contains information about our merger, the 1915 (b)(c) Medicaid Waiver and is the central spot for employment opportunities and information.

As we continue to form Partners BHM, we are identifying ways to best utilize our strengths, streamline operations, reduce overhead and consolidate functions to develop a locally-focused care network. Partners BHM's primary office will be in Gastonia with offices in Elkin and Hickory. We will continue to operate the community's Access to Care line—the 24/7 connection to mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse (MH/DD/SA) care.

We will continue to work with stakeholders and our communities to ensure that our citizens receive the proper care levels throughout their treatment. And, we will ensure that our consumers are part of this process. The three LME Consumer/Family Advisory Committees have been working together to establish how they will operate with Partners BMH to continue to advocate and serve as the voice of consumers and their families.

We are also working to ready ourselves to operate the State's 1915 (b)(c) Medicaid Waiver beginning in January 2013. Through the waiver, Partners BHM will be the authorizer, or approver, of Medicaid-funded MH/DD/SA services delivered in its eight county area. Pathways, and our partners, currently manage state and county dollars used to fund treatment and services.

Pathways, through the former single-county area authorities, has worked to provide and manage care for citizens living with a mental illness, a substance abuse issue or an intellectual or developmental disability for over 45 years. As we merge with Crossroads Behavioral Healthcare and Mental Health Partners to form Partners BMH, we will continue our mission of working with our communities to best care for its citizens.

If you ever have any questions regarding our merger or the 1915 (b)(c) Waiver, please do not hesitate to contact us at questions@pathwayslme.org. Thank you for your support of Pathways during this exciting time.

Rhett Melton, Area Director
Pathways LME