

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board
David Moxley, Vice Chairman
Cliff Collins, Commissioner
Marion Welborn, Commissioner
Frank Zachary, Commissioner*



*Ed Powell, County Attorney
Lisa Hughes, County Manager
Tanya Gentry, Clerk to the Board*

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

May 10, 2024

Rural Healthcare Initiative

The Rural Healthcare Initiative (RHI) held its listening session this week in Yadkin County. All of the folks invited to participate did and I think it was very informational to everyone involved. They broke the group into two sessions and conversations with the RHI group. There will also be a survey link shared on the County website and through the Chamber of Commerce to gain additional citizen input. The end product with current funding will be a report to the General Assembly about rural healthcare across North Carolina.

Partners Behavioral Health

Partners Behavioral Health has selected a new CEO, please see Exhibit A for their press release.

Vacancy Report

This week we have 22 vacancies. Human Services continues to have a significant number of vacancies this week, with 13. Three of the vacancies are in the Sheriff's Office and 2 in Emergency Services. The Tax Assessor's Office has 2 vacancies. Seventeen of these positions have been vacant over 30 days, with 11 of them being in Human Services. Nine of them have been vacant over 100 days. One of these positions has been vacant over 300 days, which in accordance with the County's Personnel Policy positions vacant for 12 months are eliminated.

FY2025 Budget

The current contracts with the Fire Departments require them to submit their OSFM roster, minutes of their annual Board meeting, IRS Form 990, Affidavit of background checks as required by NCGS and their budget documents.

Prior to this week, five of the fire departments had submitted everything as required. It has been consistently and repeatedly asked of the fire departments to submit these documents for their budget requests to be considered. I am still waiting on one fire department to submit their IRS Form 990 and one fire department that has yet to submit their OSFM roster, annual Board minutes, most recent IRS Form 990 and the background check affidavit.



Partners Health Management Announces Libby McCraw as CEO



Gastonia, NC – Partners Health Management, the local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO) that oversees public funding for behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disabilities services in 15 North Carolina counties, today announced that its Board of Directors has appointed Partners' Chief Operations Officer Libby McCraw as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer, effective August 1, 2024. McCraw will succeed Rhett Melton who has served as Partners' CEO since 2012. Melton announced his retirement in April and will continue in his role as CEO until August 1, 2024.

"I am deeply honored by the trust that the Partners board of directors has placed in me," said Libby McCraw. "Each of us at Partners has the profound responsibility to empower our members and families in leading fulfilling lives within their communities and I am proud to work with a dedicated team of professionals that work every day to support our members, our providers and other

stakeholders. As CEO, I am committed to leading Partners forward to the successful operation of our Tailored Plan, which will support integrated, whole-person health for our members; always focused on our mission to Improve Lives and Strengthen communities.”

A North Carolina native, Libby has dedicated more than 30 years to the health care sector, with a strong focus on serving others and giving back to the community. Since joining Partners Health Management in April 2019, she has played a pivotal role in shaping the organization's strategic direction. As Chief Operating Officer, Libby's unwavering dedication to operational excellence and workforce engagement has been pivotal in advancing the culture and driving the organization forward. Prior to her tenure at Partners, Libby held the position of Vice President of Human Resources at Holy Angels, Inc. and held various leadership roles at CaroMont Health for over two decades.

Libby earned her Bachelor of Science in Business from Meredith College and obtained her MBA from Queens University of Charlotte.

Rhett Melton, the outgoing CEO said, “I am pleased that the board through their deliberative process has selected Libby McCraw as their next chief executive officer. Libby has been a valuable and significant leader in the success of the organization for the past five years and I am confident that she will lead the organization to even better things ahead. I look forward to supporting her and the entire Partners team in the months and years ahead.”

Rhett joined the current health system in July 2000 and was CEO of one of the legacy companies at the time of merger to form Partners, where he has served as CEO since its founding in 2012. Under Rhett's stewardship, Partners has earned renowned for its unwavering commitment to community engagement and collaboration; highly collaborative and successful partnerships with its provider network partners; and for being a leader in member engagement in its catchment area with proven accomplishments in “Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities”.

“We are pleased that our search resulted in the selection of Ms. McCraw,” said Daryl Cook, chairman of the Partners Health Management’s Board of Directors. “Her success as our COO positions her and the organization well to seamlessly execute the work currently underway, provide leadership for the future, and fulfill our mission. I also wish to express sincere gratitude for the leadership and vision that Rhett Melton has provided during my years of service on the Partners Board.”

ABOUT PARTNERS HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Partners Health Management is a leading local managed care organization (LME/MCO), providing access to care for individuals in central and western North Carolina’s with the most complex health care needs. Partners manages Medicaid, state and local funding for intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental health, substance use disorder, and traumatic brain injury (MH/SUD/IDD/TBI)

services in our covered areas. Beginning July 1, 2024, Partners will administer one of North Carolina's four Tailored Plans and will manage their members' physical health and pharmacy services in addition to their behavioral health, IDD and TBI services.

Partners is one of four LME/MCOs that are the cornerstone of North Carolina's public MH/SUD/IDD/TBI managed care system which is designed to improve quality and timely access to care for individuals and families. Established by the General Assembly in 2011, the LME/MCOs are built on a 50-year legacy of county area programs with deep local, community roots. The LME/MCOs ensure access to high quality provider networks, strong community collaboration to support a robust system of care, and budget predictability through the efficient and effective use of public funds and resources.

Solid Waste is an enterprise fund that must be self-sustaining. Even with the request for proposals being issued and all efforts to reduce cost, the bottom line is that we have a lot of trash and recycling taken to the collection sites and landfill. While staff will continue to make operations as efficient as possible, it is still necessary to recommend an increase in fees. The County is currently paying more in tipping fees per ton than the revenues coming in. It is recommended that the tipping fee be increased to \$73 per ton to cover the cost of disposal per ton. It is also recommended that the minimum fee of \$8 per trip be increased to \$10 per trip.

NCDOT and RPO

The PTRC submitted a grant application on behalf of the County for the possibility of trail expansion, primarily continuing the Jonesville greenway east along the Yadkin River. Carter Spradling with the PTRC notified me this week that the grant had been approved.

Legislative Goals

It's time to start thinking about Legislative Goals to submit to the NCACC. The submission process will kick-off in May. Please be thinking about what you would like to submit. In the past, the Board has submitted an average of 4-6 goals. The goals will be in any of the following areas: Agriculture, Environment, General Government, Health and Human Services, Justice and Public Safety, Public Education and/or Tax and Finance. Exhibit B contains the Legislative Goals Handbook.

Conferences and Trainings

The Upcoming Dates section below includes several Conferences and meetings that require pre-registration. As a County, we try to be good stewards of County funds and take advantage of early bird registrations, when registration fees are at their lowest point. Most of these registrations, as well as hotel registrations, have cancellation dates to receive full refunds or partial refunds. If these cancellation dates are not met, the registration fees and / or hotel fees are not-refundable.

Attending Conferences and Trainings is beneficial to employees and Commissioners, however, we all need to be cognizant of the costs involved and the commitments to attend once registered.

Please note the early bird registrations in the Upcoming Dates below and ask Tanya about cancellation dates in the event you register and are later not able to attend. Tanya is the point of contact for the Commissioners to register for Conferences and Trainings.

Upcoming Dates

NCACC's County Advocacy Days will be held **June 11 & 12** in Raleigh. Registration is now open. The meeting starts with a Networking Reception at 1pm, followed by Steering Committee meetings at 2pm and a Reception/Dinner starting at 6pm. The Legislative Program starts Wednesday morning at 8am at the Quorum Center before moving to the Legislative Building for meetings with our local representatives. Please let Tanya know if

you are interested in attending. She will register you and make hotel reservations for June 11.

The NACo Annual Conference & Exposition is **July 12-15** in Hillsborough County, Florida. Please let Tanya know if you are interested in attending.

The NCACC Annual Conference will be held **August 8-10** in Forsyth County.