



DAVIE COUNTY LME/MCO DISENGAGEMENT PLAN

I. PURPOSE

Davie County is dedicated to improving the quality of life of the residents who have chosen our county as their home. It is in consideration of “Safe and Healthy Community” portion of our strategic plan, your Davie County Board of County Commissioners chose to pursue a relationship with Partners Behavioral Health Management to manage our citizens’ behavioral health services funded by federal, state and county dollars, including Medicaid. Partners is a Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO), a governmental entity which manages the county’s mental health, intellectual/developmental disability and substance use services. Currently, our behavioral health services are managed by Cardinal Innovations Healthcare. However, Partners’ intentional focus on community interaction and high-engagement with stakeholders and other attributes more closely align with Davie County’s vision and strategic planning. Davie County believes this realignment will better serve the community and its needs.

To prevent disruption of the behavioral health system in our county, this “Davie County LME/MCO Disengagement Plan” has been developed to ensure a smooth and seamless transition for all involved.

Our primary focus is to carry out this process with transparency, commitment to our community, and the involvement of those who will be impacted by the change. This plan primarily outlines the process for the County’s disengagement from Cardinal. However, it necessarily also refers to the process by which engagement will occur between Davie County, Partners, and all relevant stakeholders. Partners has committed to working collaboratively with Davie County and Cardinal to ensure a smooth transition for all involved. Davie County has every confidence and expectation Cardinal will also work collaboratively and cooperatively throughout the transition process.

II. BACKGROUND

North Carolina law permits a county to choose its LME/MCO. On June 2, 2021, your Davie County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to disengage from its current LME/MCO, Cardinal Innovations Healthcare. Attached is a copy of the resolution adopted on June 2, 2021, and it is also on our website at <https://www.daviecountync.gov/1098/LMEMCO-Disengagement-Plan>, where other information on this process (including this Disengagement Plan) is or will be posted. Furthermore, the Davie County Board of Commissioners met on June 29, 2021 and voted unanimously to realign with Partners Behavioral Health Management.

III. RATIONALE

Davie County is committed to ensuring the best behavioral health system is available to citizens in our community. We believe transitioning to the model of service management and community engagement operated by Partners will best accomplish this goal. As we engage in analysis and review of the Partners model of operations, we conclude it is one of intentional community integration at multiple levels within the counties they service. Leadership and staff throughout Partners are engaged in relationships within their communities, actively collaborating with stakeholders, providers, consumers and others to meet the challenges faced.

Davie County supports Partners' way of managing local maintenance of effort contributions. Partners works in collaboration with county government officials and local stakeholders to develop plans to invest those taxpayer-provided funds on mutually developed projects which have the highest level of benefit to the citizens. They provide a transparent accounting of uses of those funds to county leadership and respond to wishes of the county to target the funding to desired projects.

Davie County appreciates Partners' approach of inclusion in the provider network development. Davie County has always desired more local services and a choice for county residents. Partners' philosophy of not tightly limiting the network allows greater levels of service on both accounts. Davie County agrees with Partners' model of community priorities. Partners focuses its' attention on overarching challenges faced by most communities around the state. Their implementation model is locally driven. Philosophically, that style of execution aligns well with the views of Davie County leadership as we see healthcare best solved at the local level and not attempted as a cookie cutter, one-size-fits-all model of deliver. From a commuting pattern and "citizen flow" perspective, Davie County aligns well with Iredell County and Forsyth County and shares much in the way of normal flow of local residents. There is a greater sense of connection to Iredell County and Forsyth County for most local citizens than traveling to Charlotte or Greensboro for goods and services, including healthcare.

Partners routinely demonstrates a high level of consumer engagement when compared to other peer programs in the state. As the state reports on numbers of individuals who access care compared to the population as a whole, Partners consistently is at or near the top, indicating good accessibility of services to residents in the counties served.

Partners is also one of the highest performing programs, as evaluated by the state contract external review organization. For the past two years, Partners has been at or near the top in the total score rating the performance by the independent, external review organization, which indicates a commitment to excellence that aligns with county goals.

IV. TIMELINE

Disengagement will be effective as soon as permitted by law and reasonable. While the default effective date of nine-months, Davie County may seek to disengage and ask for realignment sooner to minimize any negative impact on Davie County consumers from a slow transition. The official disengagement date will ultimately be determined by the Secretary of North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). To protect our residents in greatest need, disengagement with Cardinal will occur simultaneously with realignment or "engagement" with Partners. The process will include a minimum of 60 days for the public to review and comment on this Disengagement Plan. Following the comment period and the 30 days of posting such comments, Davie County intends to have ready for submission the

Request to Disengage documentation and will look for approval with the 90 days outlined in rule. Further, the County intends to seek a shortening of the overall nine-month requirement outlined in rule for the transition. We believe a sooner transition will best serve the county residents and minimize the delay in preventing improved services and systems from reaching their full potential.

V. DISENGAGEMENT

This Disengagement Plan serves as a guide for the first step in the process of transitioning from one LME/MCO to the other. While this plan should not be considered all-inclusive, we have made every effort to identify the areas on which we need to focus and the necessary steps to ensure the needs of our residents are met. Both Davie County and Partners are dedicated to carrying out this plan, as outlined in the following focus areas:

a. Transition Planning

To ensure active and robust community involvement in this transition and to facilitate input and feedback from subject matter experts, the Davie County Manager will form an LME/MCO Realignment Committee consisting of key County officials and agencies, Partners, and other appropriate stakeholders. This will include the following, or their representatives, plus others as appointed by the County Manager:

- County Manager (Chair)
- County HHS Director
- Chair of the Davie County Board of Commissioners
- Representative from the HHS Board
- Deputy Director of Child Welfare
- Local Mental Health / Behavioral Health / IDD Provider Director
- District Attorney
- Sheriff
- Assistant County Manager/CFO
- County Attorney
- Davie Medical Center Representative
- One or more Partners executives and directors
- Executive leadership from Cardinal Innovations (when appropriate)
- Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) or consumer representative
- One or more Behavioral Health / IDD Provider representatives

This Committee will meet as needed to share information; to schedule listening and education meetings with key stakeholders (providers, consumers, advocates); to consult subject matter experts; and to assist the County and Partners in whatever tasks are needed to ensure a smooth disengagement and transition.

The County and Partners envision the transition plan to include “5 Ps”: People, Providers, Projects, Property and Payments. As county leadership and Partners leadership work alongside those on the LME/MCO Realignment committee, the engagement plan that emerges will be discussed during ongoing meetings with the community stakeholders. Such a plan is not a required element of the disengagement plan submitted to the Secretary for approval as noted above and is not a document other counties have published widely. However, Davie County and Partners share a commitment to transparency and intend to be very inclusive in the development and implementation of this plan.

b. Continuity of Services Plan

Davie County recognizes the importance of ensuring services for its community are uninterrupted and are provided with high quality, timeliness and a focus on community involvement. Therefore, a separate written Continuity of Services Plan is being developed and will be published shortly after this Disengagement Plan. Partners has committed to ensure all current providers contracted and in good standing with Cardinal and serving our County will be contracted with Partners. Likewise, Partners intends to honor consumer service authorizations, annual plans and other documentation and decisions essential to ensure a smooth transition. In addition and as applicable, Davie County will work with Partners in the development of a strong communication plan to address and include Transitions to Community Living Initiative (TCLI) eligible individuals and their legal guardians.

c. Notification of Stakeholders

Davie County and Partners will collaborate to notify all stakeholders impacted by this transition. Additionally, a concentrated effort will be made to solicit comments, feedback and suggestions from consumers, advocates, self-advocates, providers, State and Local consumer and Family Advisory Committees (CFACs), and all other interested parties. We will use our usual Davie County established communication methods, including our website (primarily), mailings, stakeholder meetings, press releases, and social media messaging. All input is welcome and encouraged.

d. Community Initiatives

Davie County has ensured Partners is committed to becoming ingrained in our community and supporting our current community initiatives involving behavioral health. A list of all current, planned and proposed projects/initiatives will be compiled and agreed upon prior to the transition effective date.

e. Distribution of Real Property Plan

In accordance with State law, a written Distribution of Real Property Plan must be developed during a LME/MCO realignment process. This disengagement involves no real property (land, buildings, etc.) to be distributed, so a Plan stating as much will be posted with or shortly after this Disengagement Plan.

f. Financial Liabilities

Davie County affirms, to its knowledge, it has no outstanding financial liabilities to Cardinal, nor will the County have any within 30 calendar days of the request to disengage. Should Cardinal reasonably disagree, the County will work amicably and promptly with Cardinal to resolve same equitably, and if unable to do so, defer the matter to the NCDHHS Secretary for resolution. Partners has agreed to work with the County to ensure its financial liabilities under maintenance of efforts requirements are not increased by realigning with Partners.

g. Written Notice to Providers Impacted by decision to disengage

Davie County and Partners will collaborate to notify all provided impacted by the transition.

h. Written Notice to other Counties served by Cardinal

Davie County will provide notice to all counties remaining in Cardinal's catchment area.

i. Approval by Partners' Board of Directors

Partners' Board of Directors will approve a resolution authorizing Davie County to align with Partners as its LME/MCO.

VI. NEXT STEPS/PUBLIC COMMENT

The law requires Davie County to seek public comment on this Disengagement Plan for 60 days from the posting of this Disengagement Plan on our website at <https://www.daviecountync.gov/1098/LMEMCO-Disengagement-Plan>. Public comment is welcome and encouraged through an online submittal form at <https://www.daviecountync.gov/1098/LMEMCO-Disengagement-Plan> and/or by mail addressed to:

Davie County Manager
ATTN: LME/MCO Realignment
123 South Main Street
Mocksville, NC 27028

Following this public comment period, the County will post all responses for an additional 30 days. Davie County will take into consideration feedback received, will review all written plans, and will submit a written request to disengage to the Secretary of NCDHHS for approval (details of which are outlined in the NC Administrative Code referenced below.)

In keeping with our dedication to transparency, both Davie County and Partners commit to keeping the public informed during this process, including public meetings, information and listening sessions with key stakeholders and groups.

VII. AUTHORITY

This Disengagement Plan has been developed in accordance with current state laws and regulations governing a county's disengagement with an LME/MCO. Specifically, the following were used to create the plan and ensure compliance:

- North Carolina General Statute 122C-115(a3)
- North Carolina Administrative Code 10A NCAC26C.0701-.0703