



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Vaya Health announces new Sylva location

May 17, 2018 – Vaya Health today announced it will move its Sylva regional office to a new location in town as part of an administrative consolidation to strengthen the organization and increase cost-effectiveness.

Effective July 1, Vaya’s Sylva office will move from 44 Bonnie Lane to 20 Sylva Plaza. Based in Asheville, Vaya manages publicly funded services for mental health, substance use and intellectual/developmental disabilities in 23 western N.C. counties, including Jackson.

“Our members will see no changes in access to care, benefits or choice of healthcare providers due to the new location,” said Vaya CEO Brian Ingraham. “No staff reductions are expected in connection with the move. We remain dedicated to maintaining a strong presence in our westernmost counties and to our members, healthcare providers and community partners.”

The new location will house about 22 Vaya staff members from multiple areas of operations, including care coordination, finance and human resources. Additionally, Vaya maintains home-based employees throughout the region, as well as a regional office in Waynesville.

Founded in 1972 in Sylva under the name Smoky Mountain Center, Vaya moved its administrative headquarters to Asheville in 2015. In light of a changing healthcare landscape, the organization announced its administrative consolidation plan in February 2017.

The plan aims to increase cost-effectiveness to best serve Vaya members, providers and partners. An earlier review, conducted as part of the consolidation, found the Bonnie Lane facility was underutilized.

Vaya values its roots in far western North Carolina. Vaya’s leadership looks forward to continuing to serve Jackson County while modernizing the organization’s workforce and increasing its efficiency as a public agency.

### About Vaya Health

Vaya Health manages public funds for mental health, substance use disorder and intellectual or developmental disability services in 23 North Carolina counties: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey. Access to services and crisis help are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-849-6127. Learn more at [www.vayahealth.com](http://www.vayahealth.com).

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