



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Vaya Health invites WNC residents to virtual town hall Nov. 19**

ASHEVILLE, N.C. – Vaya Health is seeking input on North Carolina’s publicly funded system for behavioral health and intellectual and/or developmental disability (IDD) services during a live virtual town hall on Facebook.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will host the online event at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020. Vaya members, families and advocates are invited to attend. Participants will have a chance to share feedback, ask questions and voice any concerns as the state’s public system for mental health, substance use disorder and IDD services undergoes major changes.

Vaya and DHHS want to hear about how the system is working or how they can help create a system that improves health outcomes and promotes recovery for North Carolinians. The town hall will focus on the needs of western North Carolinians and will include remarks and presentations Kody Kinsley, DHHS deputy secretary; Victor Armstrong, director of the N.C. Division for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services; and Brian Ingraham, CEO of Vaya Health.

To join the live event – courtesy of UNC-TV and the Governor’s Institute – visit [www.facebook.com/GovInst/live](http://www.facebook.com/GovInst/live). The link will be active 15 minutes before the event begins. Participants will be able to post questions in the live chat, record a video message beforehand or submit questions in advance to [Suzanne.Thompson@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Thompson@dhhs.nc.gov).

For more information, including how to upload video questions, visit [www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-abuse/virtual-town-hall-meetings](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-abuse/virtual-town-hall-meetings).

### **About Vaya Health**

Based in Asheville, N.C., Vaya Health manages public funds for mental health, substance use disorder and intellectual or developmental disability services in 22 western North Carolina counties: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey. Access to care and crisis assistance are available 24/7 at 1-800-849-6127. Learn more at [www.vayahealth.com](http://www.vayahealth.com).

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