



NEWS RELEASE

Media contact: Allison Inman
Executive Director, Office of Communications
allison.inman@vayahealth.com
828-225-2785, ext. 5364

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 3, 2021

Person County to join Vaya Health service region under Medicaid managed care

ASHEVILLE, N.C. – The Person County Board of Commissioners has selected Vaya Health to manage publicly funded services for county residents with substantial mental health needs, substance use disorders or an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD).

Person County is currently served by Charlotte-based Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, one of the state’s seven local management entities/managed care organizations (LME/MCOs) for behavioral health and I/DD services. On June 1, Cardinal Innovations announced its plans to consolidate with Vaya, headquartered in Asheville, under Vaya’s leadership. The consolidation marks the fourth such endeavor for Vaya, having successfully led mergers with three other North Carolina behavioral health care organizations.

“Our priority throughout this transition is supporting the individuals and communities we are privileged to serve,” said Vaya President & CEO Brian Ingraham. “As we expand eastward into the Piedmont region, we remain committed to our approach of listening to members and community stakeholders and fostering local partnerships to ensure quality, person-centered care.”

The Vaya/Cardinal consolidation is expected to be complete by April 1, 2022, upon approval by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). However, the two organizations have already begun working together to transfer multiple business functions to Vaya at an earlier date. In July 2022, Vaya will launch its Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plan in the counties it serves as part of North Carolina’s shift to Medicaid managed care.

Under the Tailored Plan, Vaya will serve Medicaid beneficiaries and uninsured or underinsured residents who have significant behavioral health needs, as well as people who receive services through or are on waitlists for the N.C. Innovations and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) waivers. Vaya will also manage members’ physical health care, pharmacy services and long-term services and supports as part of “whole-person” care.

At least six other Piedmont counties—Alamance, Caswell, Franklin, Granville, Rowan and Vance—are also expected to transition to Vaya once the consolidation with Cardinal is complete. Vaya and Cardinal are committed to bringing the best of both organizations together to ensure the widest range of services, highest

quality care and unparalleled commitment to local communities. For more information about Vaya, visit www.vayahealth.com.

About Vaya Health

Vaya Health is a public managed care organization that oversees Medicaid, federal, state and local funding for prevention, treatment and crisis services delivered by practitioners and providers in Vaya's contracted network. Vaya manages services and coordinates care for individuals in 22 western North Carolina counties, home to more than 1 million residents. Vaya's local model ensures that each county receives individualized attention and support to meet the unique needs of each community. Every day, Vaya works with providers, local stakeholders and members to develop needed services, supports and educational programming for a healthier North Carolina. The organization has a proven track record of meeting or exceeding the state's clinical benchmarks and maximizing public funds to reach more individuals per capita than any other LME/MCO. Access to care and crisis assistance are available 24/7 at 1-800-849-6127. Learn more at www.vayahealth.com.

###