

MEETING MINUTES
January 29, 2026

The Vaya Health Regional Board for Region 1, representing Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties, conducted a regular meeting at 3:00 p.m. on January 29, 2026 via Teams with PUBLIC ACCESS via electronic communication only (real-time two-way audio and/or visual communication, i.e., telephone and Microsoft Teams).

<i>In Attendance:</i>	<i>Attending:</i>	<i>Apologies:</i>
Amanda McGee (Cherokee)	X	
Alan Bryant (Cherokee)	X	
Clay Logan (Clay)		X
Todd Goins (Clay)	X	
Connie Orr, Vice Chair (Graham)	X	
Lynn Cody (Graham)	X	
Terry Ramey (Haywood)	X	
Ira Dove, Chair (Haywood)	X	
Cris Weatherford (Jackson)	X	
Mark Letson (Jackson)	X	
Gary Shields (Macon)	X	
Vacant (Macon)		
Phillip Carson (Swain)		X
Amy Seay (Swain)	X	

Also attending the Regional Board meeting for Region 1:

Tracy J. Hayes, Area Director & Chief Executive Officer; Rhonda Cox, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer; Danielle Wittekind, Chief Human Resources Officer; Brian Shuping, Vice President of Community Relations; Dr. Heather Cree, Vice President of Community Relations; Shelly Foreman, Community Relations Regional Director; Emily Whitmire, Member Engagement Coordinator; Ashley Logan, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board; McLean Moore, Chief of Staff - Business Integrity; Mikhail Korolchuk, Support Specialist II; and no additional members of the public.

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Mr. Ira Dove, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Ms. Ashley Logan, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board, confirmed a quorum of the Region 1 Board.

B. Approval of Agenda and October 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Connie Orr made a motion to approve the Agenda, as presented.

Mr. Todd Goins seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

Ms. Amanda McGee made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Ms. Orr seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

C. Governing Board Report

Mr. Ira Dove, Chair, turned the floor over to Mr. Ronnie Beale, Chair of the Board of Directors, to open nominations for the Chair position.

Mr. Todd Goins made a motion to reappoint Mr. Ira Dove as Regional Board Chair.

Ms. Amanda McGee seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

Ms. Connie Orr nominated Mr. Lynn Cody to serve as Regional Board Vice Chair.

Mr. Mark Letson made a motion to appoint Mr. Lynn Cody as Regional Board Vice Chair.

Mr. Todd Goins seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

Ms. Tracy Hayes, Area Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), provided an overview of recommended updates to the Bylaws, which include the addition of language for a designee to present the Report of the Area Director and CEO, adding the Consumer and Family Advisory Committee report as part of regular business, and updating the annual meeting cadence.

Ms. Connie Orr made a motion to adopt the Region Board 1 Bylaws, as presented.

Mr. Terry Ramey seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

D. Report of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer

By request of Ms. Tracy Hayes, Ms. Rhonda Cox, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, began the presentation by sharing recent advocacy updates, including the details from Vaya's CFAC Annual Retreat and i2i Winter Conference. Continuing the presentation, Ms. Cox welcomed new Regional Board 1 members, Alan Bryant, Cherokee County Commissioner, and Amy Seay, Swain County HHS Assistant Director, and presented an overview of the member roster and meeting schedule for Regional Board 1.

Next, Ms. Cox reported that SAMHSA issued a notice of grant termination on Jan. 14, 2026, which would have affected Vaya's System of Care Team. The grant termination notice was

rescinded on Jan. 15, 2026. Ms. Danielle Wittekind, Chief Human Resources Officer, shared Hope4NC updates, highlighting the total number of contacts with survivors to date, approval for the Hope4NC program to continue through April 24, the opportunity for one additional no cost extension, and a Renew NC outreach event held on Jan. 8, at the Fines Creek Community Center in Haywood County. Ms. Wittekind then presented training data from October to December 2025 for Region 1.

Continuing, Ms. Cox shared details of recent Spotlight Carolina segments and an article in the Cherokee Scout discussing the addition of Vaya providing licensed and certified mental health clinicians to respond to 911 calls that involve people having mental health situations. The Triangle Business Journal recently profiled Ms. Hayes to highlight Vaya's Hurricane Helene recovery efforts. Mr. Brian Shuping, Vice President of Community Relations, shared Vaya's regional map, noting Ms. Shelly Foreman, Community Relations Director, active involvement throughout Region 1.

Concluding, Ms. Cox presented updates on the Rural Health Transformation Program and details of community feedback received following the launch of the Children and Families Specialty Plan (CFSP), membership transitioned from CFSP by county, and reasons CFSP members transitioned as of Jan. 1, 2026. Ms. Amanda McGee shared her experience following the Dec. 1, 2025 launch of CFSP, voicing concerns and impact on children in Cherokee County. In closing, Ms. Cox presented crisis utilization data and details from the Jan. 2, 2026, Tailored Plan and Medicaid Direct scorecards.

E. Community Relations Update

Mr. Brian Shuping, Vice President of Community Relations, began the presentation sharing metrics on Tailored Plan and Medicaid Direct eligible members by age group, Tailored Plan and Medicaid Direct penetration rate data, behavioral health service utilization, physical health service utilization, behavioral health emergency department admissions and readmissions, physical health emergency department admissions and readmissions, walk in center utilization, mobile crisis management utilization, facility-based crisis utilization, and behavioral health urgent care utilization from the period of July to September 2025.

Continuing, Mr. Shuping shared details of the Member Moment event for Heart Month, taking place on Feb. 13, 2026, in Bryson City, NC, and an overview of community events for Region 1 from October 2025 through January 2026.

Next, Ms. Shelly Foreman, Community Relations Regional Director, presented upcoming community events and activities, including a Jackson County sequential intercept mapping event on Feb. 9-10, 2026, MedAssist events in Macon, Swain and Cherokee counties, Roll and Read events in Jackson, Haywood, Graham, Cherokee and Clay Counties. Concluding, Ms. Foreman shared network development updates.

F. Pharmacy Operations Update

The Chair welcomed Dr. Heather Cree, Vice President of Pharmacy Operations, to the meeting. Dr. Cree began by presenting plan paid spending and utilization trends. Dr. Cree shared high cost claims and care management data for October through December, GLP-1 utilization, and authorization summary details by volume and by denial. Dr. Cree continued by presenting details of the asthma management project, noting the project resulted in 68% improvement in health outcomes. Dr. Cree further presented a review of excessive Uzedly dosing with potential drug savings of \$210,000, Hepatitis C project review, osteoporosis review, and future project considerations.

G. Consumer and Family Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Emily Whitmire, Member Engagement Coordinator, provided a CFAC activity summary for November 2025 through January 2026, highlights from Vaya CFAC's annual retreat held on Nov. 12-14, 2025, i2i Winter Conference attendance, and upcoming regional CFAC meeting schedule.

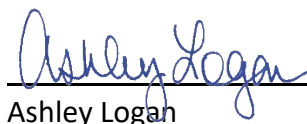
H. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

I. Adjournment

Ms. Lynn Cody made a motion adjourn. Mr. Alan Bryant seconded the motion.
Motion unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.



Ashley Logan

Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board