

MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2026

The Vaya Health Regional Board for Region 3, representing Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, McDowell, Rowan, Watauga, and Wilkes Counties, conducted a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on January 28, 2026 via Teams; with PUBLIC ACCESS available via electronic communication only (real-time two-way audio and/or visual communication, i.e., telephone and Microsoft Teams).

In Attendance:	Attending:	Apologies:
Justin Mundy (Alexander)	X	
Larry Yonder (Alexander)	X	
Timmy Evans (Alleghany)	X	
Stacey Presnell (Alleghany)	X	
Todd McNeill (Ashe)		X
Adam Stumb (Ashe)		X
Phillip Barrier (Avery)	X	
Tim Phillips (Avery)		X
Donnie Potter (Caldwell)		X (Proxy to Ashley Wooten)
Kim Arnett (Caldwell)	X	
Trisha Garner (McDowell)		X
Ashley Wooten (McDowell)	X	
Mike Caskey (Rowan)		X
Judy Klusman (Rowan)		X
Todd Castle (Watauga)		X (proxy to Braxton Eggers)
Braxton Eggers (Watauga)	X	
Kevin Brown (Wilkes)	X	
Shirley Randleman (Wilkes)	X	

Also attending the Regional Board meeting for Region 3:

Tracy Hayes, Area Director & Chief Executive Officer; Rhonda Cox, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer; Danielle Wittekind, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Richard Zenn, Chief Medical Officer; Brian Shuping, Vice President of Community Relations; Dustin Burleson, Community Relations Regional Director; Zack Shepherd, Community Relations Regional Director; Dr. Heather Cree, Vice President of Pharmacy Operations; Susan Jenkins, Consumer and Family

Advisory Committee Representative; McLean Moore, Chief of Staff – Business Integrity Division; Ashley Logan, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board; and no additional members of the public.

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Mr. Ashley Wooten, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Ms. Ashley Logan, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board, facilitated roll call confirming a quorum of the Region 3 Board.

B. Approval of Agenda and October 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Phillip Barrier made a motion to approve the Agenda and Meeting Minutes for October 29, 2025, as presented.

Mr. Braxton Eggers seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

C. Governing Board Report

Mr. Ashley Wooten, Vice Chair, turned the floor over to Mr. Brian Shuping, Vice President of Community Relations, to open nominations for Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Mr. Braxton Eggers made a motion to appoint Mr. Ashley Wooten as Chair of Regional Board 3.

Mr. Phillip Barrier seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Eggers made a motion to appoint Mr. Donnie Potter as Vice Chair of Regional Board 3. Mr. Barrier 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, including 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.

Mr. Barrier made a motion to approve the Region 3 Bylaws, as presented.

Mr. Eggers seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Larry Yoder entered the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

D. Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Tracy J. Hayes, Area Director & Chief Executive Officer, began her presentation with advocacy updates, including the Vaya CFAC Annual Retreat and i2i Winter Conference. Ms. Hayes recognized Board members for attending the i2i Winter Conference, noting Vaya

consistently has the highest Board attendance, demonstrating a strong commitment to the public system. Continuing, Ms. Hayes welcomed new Regional Board Region 3 members, Mr. Larry Yoder, Alexander County Commissioner, and Mr. Justin Mundy, Alexander County Manager, and presented an overview of the member roster and meeting schedule for Regional Board Region 3.

Ms. Stacey Presnell joined the meeting at 4:39 p.m. Mr. Ashley Wooten left the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Mr. Ashley Wooten rejoined the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Continuing, Ms. Hayes 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. Hayes then 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 an additional no cost extension, and details regarding a Renew NC single-family housing program.

Next, Ms. Hayes shared recent Spotlight Carolina segments and media coverage throughout Region 3. On Dec. 5, 2025, the Triangle Business Journal profiled Ms. Hayes and highlighted Vaya's Hurricane Helene recovery efforts. Ms. Hayes shared training data from October to December 2025 in Region 3, and updates on the Vance and Caldwell Projects.

Continuing, 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. Region 3 Board members discussed their experiences following the Dec. 2025 launch of CFSP.

In closing, Ms. Hayes presented crisis utilization data and details from the Jan. 2, 2026, Tailored Plan and Medicaid Direct scorecards.

E. Community Relations Report

Mr. Brian Shuping, Vice President of Community Relations, began the presentation by 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. 16, 2026, in Boone, NC, and an overview of community events for Region 3 from October 2025 through January 2026.

Next, Ms. Zack Shepherd, Community Relations Regional Director, and Mr. Dustin Burleson, Community Relations Regional Director, presented updates on the mobile medication assisted treatment unit, Alexander County Resource Center (ARC) Partnership, and the upcoming McDowell Community College sequential intercept mapping event, Med. Assist events in Mitchell and Avery Counties, AYA House Ribbon Cutting in Rowan County, and funding to Watauga County Schools.

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 Uzedy dosing with potential drug savings of \$210,000, Hepatitis C project review, osteoporosis review, and future project considerations.

G. Consumer & Family Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Susan Jenkins, CFAC Representative, provided a CFAC activity summary from November 2025 through January 2026, highlights from Vaya CFAC's annual retreat held on Nov. 12-14, 2025, recent events attended by Vaya CFAC members, including the 2026 NAMI Conference, held in Greensboro, NC, and i2i Winter Conference, held in Winston-Salem, NC. Ms. Jenkins concluded by inviting all Regional Board members to attend the upcoming Region 2 CFAC meeting on Feb. 9, 2026.

H. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

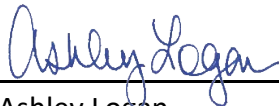
I. Adjournment

Mr. Ashley Wooten made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Braxton Eggers seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.



Ashley Logan

Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board