

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

**SESSION LAW 2013-85
SENATE BILL 208**

AN ACT TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE STATEWIDE OPERATION OF THE 1915 (B)/(C) MEDICAID WAIVER.

Whereas, S.L. 2011-264, as amended by Section 13 of S.L. 2012-151, required the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) to restructure the statewide management of the delivery of services for individuals with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance abuse disorders through the statewide expansion of the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver; and

Whereas, a local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO) that is awarded a contract to operate the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver was required to maintain fidelity to the Piedmont Behavioral Health (PBH) demonstration model; and

Whereas, LME/MCOs are acting as Medicaid vendors and the Department must ensure that they are compliant with the provisions of S.L. 2011-264, as amended by Section 13 of S.L. 2012-151, as well as all applicable federal, State, and contractual requirements; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 122C-3 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(20c) "Local management entity/managed care organization" or "LME/MCO" means a local management entity that is under contract with the Department to operate the combined Medicaid Waiver program authorized under Section 1915(b) and Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act."

SECTION 2. Article 4 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 122C-124.2. Actions by the Secretary to ensure effective management of behavioral health services under the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver.

(a) For all local management entity/managed care organizations, the Secretary shall certify whether the LME/MCO is in compliance or is not in compliance with all requirements of subdivisions (1) through (3) of subsection (b) of this section. The Secretary's certification shall be made every six months beginning August 1, 2013. In order to ensure accurate evaluation of administrative, operational, actuarial and financial components, and overall performance of the LME/MCO, the Secretary's certification shall be based upon an internal and external assessment made by an independent external review agency in accordance with applicable federal and State laws and regulations. Beginning on February 1, 2014, and for all subsequent assessments for certification, the independent review will be made by an External Quality Review Organization approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and in accordance with applicable federal and State laws and regulations.

(b) The Secretary's certification under subsection (a) of this section shall be in writing and signed by the Secretary and shall contain a clear and unequivocal statement that the Secretary has determined the local management entity/managed care organization to be in compliance with all of the following requirements:

(1) The LME/MCO has made adequate provision against the risk of insolvency with respect to capitation payments for Medicaid enrollees. "Adequate provision" includes all of the following:

a. The LME/MCO has submitted to the Department all the financial records and reports required to be submitted to the Department under the Contract, including monthly balance sheets.



- b. There are no consecutive three-month periods during which the LME/MCO's ratio of current assets to current liabilities is less than 1.0, based on a monthly review of the LME/MCO's balance sheets for each month of the three-month period, as determined by the Secretary.
 - c. An intradepartmental monitoring team, as designated by the Secretary and consisting of the Secretary or a designee, representatives of the Division of Medical Assistance, and representatives of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, utilizing the monitoring team's solvency measures, determines that the LME/MCO has made adequate provisions against the risk of insolvency based on a quarterly review of the financial reports submitted to the Department by the LME/MCO.
 - (2) The LME/MCO is making timely provider payments. The Secretary shall certify that an LME/MCO is making timely provider payments if there are no consecutive three-month periods during which the LME/MCO paid less than ninety percent (90%) of clean claims for covered services within the 30-day period following the LME/MCO's receipt of these claims during that three-month period. As used in this subdivision, a "clean claim" is a claim that can be processed without obtaining additional information from the provider of the service or from a third party. The term includes a claim with errors originating in the LME/MCO's claims system. The term does not include a claim from a provider who is under investigation by a governmental agency for fraud or abuse or a claim under review for medical necessity.
 - (3) The LME/MCO is exchanging billing, payment, and transaction information with the Department and providers in a manner that complies with all applicable federal standards, including all of the following:
 - a. Standards for information transactions and data elements specified in 42 U.S.C. § 1302d-2 of the Healthcare Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as from time to time amended.
 - b. Standards for health care claims or equivalent encounter information transactions specified in HIPAA regulations in 45 C.F.R. § 162.1102, as from time to time amended.
 - c. Implementation specifications for Electronic Data Interchange standards published and maintained by the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC X12) and referenced in HIPAA regulations in 45 C.F.R. § 162.920, as from time to time amended.
- (c) If the Secretary does not provide a local management entity/managed care organization with the certification of compliance required by this section based upon the LME/MCO's failure to comply with any of the requirements specified in subdivisions (1) through (3) of subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall do the following:
- (1) Prepare a written notice informing the LME/MCO of the provisions of subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (c) of this section with which the LME/MCO is deemed not to be in compliance and the reasons for the determination of noncompliance.
 - (2) Cause the notice of the noncompliance to be delivered to the LME/MCO.
 - (3) Not later than 10 days after the Secretary's notice of noncompliance is provided to the LME/MCO, assign the Contract of the noncompliant LME/MCO to a compliant LME/MCO.
 - (4) Oversee the transfer of the operations and contracts from the noncompliant LME/MCO to the compliant LME/MCO in accordance with the provisions in subsection (e) of this section.
- (d) If, at any time, in the Secretary's determination, a local management entity/managed care organization is not in compliance with a requirement of the Contract other than those specified in subdivisions (1) through (3) of subsection (b) of this section, then the Secretary shall do all of the following:

- (1) Prepare a written notice informing the LME/MCO of the provisions of the Contract with which the LME/MCO is deemed not to be in compliance and the reasons therefor.
- (2) Cause the notice of the noncompliance to be delivered to the LME/MCO.
- (3) Allow the noncompliant LME/MCO 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the notice to respond to the notice of noncompliance and to demonstrate compliance to the satisfaction of the Secretary.
- (4) Upon the expiration of the period allowed under subdivision (3) of this subsection, make a final determination on the issue of compliance and promptly notify the LME/MCO of the determination.
- (5) Upon a final determination that an LME/MCO is noncompliant, allow no more than 30 days following the date of notification of the final determination of noncompliance for the noncompliant LME/MCO to complete negotiations for a merger or realignment with a compliant LME/MCO that is satisfactory to the Secretary.
- (6) If the noncompliant LME/MCO does not successfully complete negotiations with a compliant LME/MCO as described in subdivision (5) of this subsection, assign the Contract of the noncompliant LME/MCO to a compliant LME/MCO.
- (7) Oversee the transfer of the operations and contracts from the noncompliant LME/MCO to the compliant LME/MCO in accordance with the provisions in subsection (e) of this section.

(e) If the Secretary assigns the Contract of a noncompliant local management entity/managed care organization to a compliant LME/MCO under subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of this section, or under subdivision (6) of subsection (d) of this section, the Secretary shall oversee the orderly transfer of all management responsibilities, operations, and contracts of the noncompliant LME/MCO to the compliant LME/MCO. The noncompliant LME/MCO shall cooperate with the Secretary in order to ensure the uninterrupted provision of services to Medicaid recipients. In making this transfer, the Secretary shall do all of the following:

- (1) Arrange for the providers of services to be reimbursed from the remaining fund balance or risk reserve of the noncompliant LME/MCO, or from other funds of the Department if necessary, for proper, authorized, and valid claims for services rendered that were not previously paid by the noncompliant LME/MCO.
- (2) Effectuate an orderly transfer of management responsibilities from the noncompliant LME/MCO to the compliant LME/MCO, including the responsibility of paying providers for covered services that are subsequently rendered.
- (3) Oversee the dissolution of the noncompliant LME/MCO, including transferring to the compliant LME/MCO all assets of the noncompliant LME/MCO, including any balance remaining in its risk reserve after payments have been made under subdivision (1) of this subsection. Risk reserve funds of the noncompliant LME/MCO may be used only to pay authorized and approved provider claims. Any funds remaining in the risk reserve transferred under this subdivision shall become part of the compliant LME/MCO's risk reserve and subject to the same restrictions on the use of the risk reserve applicable to the compliant LME/MCO. If the risk reserves transferred from the noncompliant LME/MCO are insufficient, the Secretary shall guarantee any needed risk reserves for the compliant LME/MCO arising from the additional risks being assumed by the compliant LME/MCO until the compliant LME/MCO has established fifteen percent (15%) risk reserves. All other assets shall be used to satisfy the liabilities of the noncompliant LME/MCO. In the event there are insufficient assets to satisfy the liabilities of the noncompliant LME/MCO, it shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to satisfy the liabilities of the noncompliant LME/MCO.
- (4) Following completion of the actions specified in subdivisions (1) through (3) of this subsection, direct the dissolution of the noncompliant LME/MCO and deliver a notice of dissolution to the board of county commissioners of each

of the counties in the dissolved LME/MCO. An LME/MCO that is dissolved by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this section may be dissolved at any time during the fiscal year.

(f) The Secretary shall provide a copy of each written, signed certification of compliance or noncompliance completed in accordance with this section to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

(g) As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) Contract. – The contract between the Department of Health and Human Services and a local management entity for the operation of the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver.

(2) Compliant local management entity/managed care organization. – An LME/MCO that has undergone an independent external assessment and been determined by the Secretary to be operating successfully and to have the capability of expanding."

SECTION 3. G.S. 122C-112.1(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(39) Develop and use a standard contract for all local management entity/managed care organizations for operation of the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver that requires compliance by each LME/MCO with all provisions of the contract to operate the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver and with all applicable provisions of State and federal law."

SECTION 4.(a) G.S. 122C-115(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) A county shall provide mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services in accordance with rules, policies, and guidelines adopted pursuant to statewide restructuring of the management responsibilities for the delivery of services for individuals with mental illness, intellectual or other developmental disabilities, and substance abuse disorders under a 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver through an area authority ~~or through a county program established pursuant to G.S. 122C-115.1.~~ authority. Beginning July 1, 2012, the catchment area of an area authority ~~or a county program~~ shall contain a minimum population of at least 300,000. Beginning July 1, 2013, the catchment area of an area authority ~~or a county program~~ shall contain a minimum population of at least 500,000. To the extent this section conflicts with ~~G.S. 153A-77(a), G.S. 153A-77(a) or G.S. 122C-115.1,~~ the provisions of ~~G.S. 153A-77(a)~~ this section control."

SECTION 4.(b) G.S. 122C-115(a3) reads as rewritten:

"(a3) A county that wishes to disengage from a local management entity/managed care organization and realign with another multicounty area authority operating under the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver may do so with the approval of the Secretary. The Secretary shall adopt rules to establish a process for county disengagement that shall ensure, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Provision of services is not disrupted by the disengagement.

(2) The disengaging county either is in compliance or plans to merge with an area authority that is in compliance with population requirements provided in G.S. 122C-115(a) of this section.

(3) The timing of the disengagement is accounted for and does not conflict with setting capitation rates.

(4) Adequate notice is provided to the affected counties, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the General Assembly.

(5) Provision for distribution of any real property no longer within the catchment area of the area authority."

SECTION 4.(c) G.S. 122C-115(c1) reads as rewritten:

"(c1) Area authorities may add one or more additional counties to their existing catchment area ~~by agreement of a majority of the existing member counties upon the adoption of a resolution to that effect by a majority of the members of the area board and the approval of the Secretary."~~

SECTION 5.(a) G.S. 122C-115.3(a), (c), (d), (f), and (g) are repealed.

SECTION 5.(b) G.S. 122C-115.3(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, no~~ No county shall withdraw from an area authority nor shall an area authority be dissolved ~~without first~~

demonstrating that continuity of services will be assured and without prior approval of the Secretary."

SECTION 5.(c) G.S. 122C-115.3(e) reads as rewritten:

"(e) Any fund balance available to an area authority at the time of its dissolution shall be distributed to those counties comprising the area authority on the same pro rata basis that the counties appropriated and contributed funds to the area authority's budget during the current fiscal year. Distribution to the counties shall be determined on the basis of an audit of the financial record of the area authority. The area authority board shall select a certified public accountant or an accountant who is subsequently certified by the Local Government Commission to conduct the audit. The audit shall be performed in accordance with G.S. 159-34. The same method of distribution of funds described in this subsection shall apply when one or more counties of an area authority withdraw from the area authority that is not utilized to pay liabilities shall be transferred to the area authority contracted to operate the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver in the catchment area of the dissolved area authority. If the fund balance transferred from the dissolved area authority is insufficient to constitute fifteen percent (15%) of the anticipated operational expenses arising from assumption of responsibilities from the dissolved area authority, the Secretary shall guarantee the operational reserves for the area authority assuming the responsibilities under the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver until the assuming area authority has reestablished fifteen percent (15%) operational reserves."

SECTION 6. G.S. 122C-118.1(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) An area board shall have no fewer than 11 and no more than 21 voting members. The board of county commissioners, or the boards of county commissioners within the area, shall appoint members consistent with the requirements provided in subsection (b) of this section. The process for appointing members shall ensure participation from each of the constituent counties of a multicounty area authority. If the board or boards fail to comply with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall appoint the unrepresented category. The boards of county commissioners within a multicounty area with a catchment population of at least 1,250,000 shall have the option to appoint members of the area board in a manner or with a composition other than as required by this section by each county ~~unanimously~~ adopting a resolution to that effect and receiving written approval from the Secretary by January 1, 2013. Secretary. A member of the board may be removed with or without cause by the initial appointing authority. The area board may declare vacant the office of an appointed member who does not attend three consecutive scheduled meetings without justifiable excuse. The chair of the area board shall notify the appropriate appointing authority of any vacancy. Vacancies on the board shall be filled by the initial appointing authority before the end of the term of the vacated seat or within 90 days of the vacancy, whichever occurs first, and the appointments shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term."

SECTION 7. G.S. 122C-118.1 is amended by adding the following new subsection to read:

"(f) An area authority that adds one or more counties to its existing catchment area under G.S. 122C-115(c1) shall ensure that the expanded catchment area is represented through membership on the area board, with or without adding area board members under this section, as provided in G.S. 122C-118.1(a)."

SECTION 8. Article 4 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

§ 122C-118.2. Establishment of county commissioner advisory board.

(a) There is established a county commissioner advisory board for each catchment area, consisting of one county commissioner from each county in the catchment area, designated by the board of commissioners of each county. The county commissioner advisory board shall meet on a regular basis, and its duties shall include serving as the chief advisory board to the area authority and to the director of the area authority on matters pertaining to the delivery of services for individuals with mental illness, intellectual or other developmental disabilities, and substance abuse disorders in the catchment area. The county commissioner advisory board serves in an advisory capacity only to the area authority, and its duties do not include authority over budgeting, personnel matters, governance, or policymaking of the area authority.

(b) Each board of commissioners within the catchment area shall designate from its members the commissioner to serve on the county commissioner advisory board. Each board of commissioners may determine the manner of designation, the term of service, and the conditions under which its designee will serve on the county commissioner advisory board."

SECTION 9. G.S. 122C-142(a) is rewritten to read:

"(a) When the area authority contracts with persons for the provision of services, it shall use the standard contract adopted by the Secretary and shall assure that these contracted services meet the requirements of applicable State statutes and the rules of the Commission and the Secretary. However, an area authority ~~or county program~~ may amend the contract to comply with any court-imposed duty or responsibility. An area authority ~~or county program~~ that is operating under a Medicaid waiver may amend the contract subject to the approval of the Secretary. Terms of the standard contract shall require the area authority to monitor the contract to assure that rules and State statutes are met. It shall also place an obligation upon the entity providing services to provide to the area authority timely data regarding the clients being served, the services provided, and the client outcomes. The Secretary may also monitor contracted services to assure that rules and State statutes are met."

SECTION 10. G.S. 150B-1(e) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(21) The Department of Health and Human Services for actions taken under G.S. 122C-124.2."

SECTION 11. By no later than August 1, 2013, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services shall complete an initial certification of compliance, in accordance with G.S. 122C-124.2(a), for each local management entity/managed care organization that has been approved by the Department to operate the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver and provide a copy of the certification to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

SECTION 12. Section 4(a) of this act becomes effective January 1, 2014. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 6th day of June, 2013.

s/ Daniel J. Forest
President of the Senate

s/ Thom Tillis
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Pat McCrory
Governor

Approved 4:27 p.m. this 12th day of June, 2013