



For Immediate Release

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Cumberland County Mental Health Merges with Alliance Behavioral Healthcare

(Durham, NC) – Cumberland County Mental Health, the Local Management Entity for public mental health, substance abuse, and intellectual/developmental disability care for the citizens of Cumberland County, has merged with Alliance Behavioral Healthcare. The merger took effect on July 8.

Alliance is the largest of North Carolina’s 10 public behavioral health managed care organizations, or MCOs, operating under Medicaid 1915 (b)/(c) waivers. Alliance is responsible for the authorization of services for over 186,000 Medicaid-eligible individuals and a population of 1.7 million in Durham, Wake, Cumberland and Johnston counties.

While the merger is new, Alliance has been managing Medicaid services in Cumberland as well as those funded by the state and county governments since February. Service providers working in Cumberland have been part of the Alliance provider network for several months as well. Aside from a new name and logo, Alliance officials anticipate that Cumberland residents will see minimal change as result of the merger.

“Operationally speaking, our staff has been a part of Alliance for months now,” said Hank Debnam, Alliance Cumberland Site Director and former Area Director of Cumberland County Mental Health. “Our consumers, providers and community partners have already become integrated with the Alliance organization and we’re pleased to officially become part of such a strong, capable MCO.”

The merger received approval from the Boards of County Commissioners of Cumberland, Durham and Wake and official sign off from the NC Department of Health and Human Services is expected soon. As a result of the merger, Cumberland gained three additional seats on the Alliance Board of Directors and former staff of Cumberland County Mental Health became

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Alliance employees. The local Alliance office will remain at 711 Executive Place in Fayetteville. Local service providers participate on the Alliance Provider Advisory Council and Cumberland citizens will become part of the Alliance Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC).

“We are delighted that the tremendous working relationships we have formed with our Cumberland LME partners have officially been incorporated under the Alliance banner,” said Alliance CEO Ellen S. Holliman. “This makes both organizations stronger going forward, and the Alliance commitment remains, as always, to provide clinically-sound, cost-efficient services and supports that make a positive difference in the lives of the citizens we serve.”