**NC PC Updates from DMH/DD/SAS for 11/04/2021:**

* Our division postings for Director and Deputy Director/COO ended 11/1
* County Transition Updates:
	+ Orange and Mecklenburg Counties’ transition date to Alliance Health has changed from Dec. 15, 2021 to Dec. 1, 2021. The change was made after taking into consideration a number of operational factors that make the first day of the month preferable to a mid-month transition.
	+ Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Franklin, Granville, Person, Rowan, Stokes, and Vance Counties will transition to Vaya effective Jan. 1, 2022.

* **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2O21**

**1:00P.M. - 2:00P.M.**

The Division of MH/DD/SAS is hosting a webinar session for stakeholders. To bring the most up-to-date information, the IDD& TBI Section at DMHDDSAS will be providing an informational webinar and soliciting your feedback for the proposed definitions**, Supported Living Periodic and Residential Supports (IDD & TBI)** services.

Participants will receive an overview of the pro-posed definitions for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injury. The overview will include specific criteria for services and highlights of the definition. Please see log-in information below:

**Event address for attendees: https://tinyurl.com/a3s3bm59**

**Event number (access code)**: 2435 803 3132

**Event Password:** SFS1005

For more information or questions, contact: DMHIDDCONTACT@dhhs.nc.gov

* The **DMHDDSAS TBI Program** is in the process of establishing a workgroup to begin updates for the TBI State Action Plan. If interested, please email: TBIContact@dhhs.nc.gov; for more information on DMHDDSAS TBI Program please visit: https://tinyurl.com/z7bz46df

For information and training opportunities related to brain injury, please visit www.bianc.net.

* **Resource Guide for Veterans (this is a really nice resource!)** can be viewed electronically at:
	+ https://helpncvets.org/resources/

If you would like a hard copy of the Veterans Resource Guide or would like to partner with us to get these guides out into the community, please let me know and I can assist in linking you with the appropriate Community Engagement and Empowerment Liaison from DMH/DD/SAS.

HELPNCVETS.org is a project of the [Governor's Institute](https://governorsinstitute.org) and the [North Carolina Governor's Working Group (NCGWG)](http://ncgwg.org/) and is supported by block grant funding from SAMHSA through the DMH/DD/SAS.

* The Division of MH/DD/SAS **Community Engagement and Empowerment Team** provides education, training, and technical assistance to internal and external organizations and groups to facilitate community inclusion and meaningful engagement of persons with lived MH/DD/SUD experience across HHS policy making, program development, and service delivery systems. Learn more at: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/mental-health-substance-abuse/>
* **Update from Victor Armstrong, Deputy Secretary Chief Health Equity Officer for the Department:**

NCDHHS[joined approximately 40 cross-sector health care organizations](https://www.healthevolution.com/leveraging-data-to-improve-health-equity/#Pledge) committing to using and sharing high-level data about race, ethnicity, language and gender to inform best practices to promote health equity. **We are proud to be the first government agency to sign on to the pledge.** A Health Evolution Forum work group has been convening over the past year to agree on a consistent set of measures and an approach to collecting, stratifying, and analyzing health disparities data.

* **LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J403: Expanding opportunities for Competitive Integrated Employment and other meaningful day options for individuals with disabilities**

Date: November 2, 2021

* + This bulletin addresses the Department’s continued commitment to expand opportunities for North Carolinians with disabilities to achieve their goals for employment and community inclusion.
	+ Prioritizing Competitive Integrated Employment for people with disabilities is consistent with the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Regulation settings requirements, the integrated setting principles of the US Supreme Court’s landmark Olmstead v. L.C. decision and other federal reports that determined that segregated work settings and subminimum wage jobs are not best practices.
	+ The Department will undertake various activities over the next five years to forward these initiatives by:
		- offering trainings
		- updating and aligning state and Medicaid funded Supported Employment, Community Living and Supports, and Day Supports services to incorporate current best practices for individuals with IDD and TBI
		- developing a Transition to Competitive Integrated Employment Guide that explains the new service array and how to access inclusive educational and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities

Details regarding the phased roll-out of these initiatives, including opportunities for stakeholder input will be forthcoming.

Contacts for this bulletin include: the email box: DMHIDDContact@dhhs.nc.gov or LaToya Chancey at: latoya.chancey@dhhs.nc.gov

For more information, please see [Expanding Opportunities for Competitive Integrated Employment and Other Meaningful Day Options](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/blog/2021/11/03/expanding-opportunities-competitive-integrated-employment-and-other-meaningful-day-options)