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Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"

Mecklenburg County [web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov]

Sent: Monday, December 15, 2014 10:04 PM

To: sjohnston@tueforumclt.org

MECKLENBURG COUNTY GOVERNMENT



An update to the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners
from the County Manager

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December 15, 2014

[Giving@Work](#) Charitable Giving Campaign Wrap-Up

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's [Giving@Work](#) charitable giving campaign. I am proud to share that employee participation grew by almost 90 percent compared to last year's campaign.

Donations through payroll deduction and one-time contributions exceeded \$90,000. Employees also cashed out 724 hours of vacation to donate to their favorite charities. When these two giving methods are combined, we will contribute more than \$100,000 to charitable organizations in Mecklenburg County that share our vision of making this the best place to live, work and recreate.

County Website Gets Makeover

You may notice that the page you're used to seeing when you visit www.mecklenburgcountync.gov looks very different. That's because we've been working for a year to bring you a design that offers a cleaner, sleeker, updated look with improved search capabilities and more organized content.

But there may be some growing pains. If you run into any issues with the new site, please email webmasters@mecklenburgcountync.gov.

State Extends Medicaid Certification Periods

As you may recall, during the Nov. 18 BOCC meeting, staff provided an update regarding increased processing times for Medicaid redeterminations resulting from implementation of the State's NC FAST system.

As a result of this impact, the Division of Medical Assistance has granted the continuation of the automatic recertification extension process for Family Medicaid recertifications, thereby allowing households to continue to receive benefits until a decision is made regarding their redetermination for eligibility. The automatic extension process will continue for January, February and March 2015.

For more information, contact Michelle Lancaster at 704-336-2621 or Michelle.Lancaster@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

Behavioral Health Division Transitional Funding Update

As part of the Board's action to provide transitional County funding to minimize the disruption to 51 consumers receiving services that Cardinal Innovations announced would not be part of their service array for non-Medicaid individuals, Mecklenburg County entered into a contract with UMAR for the period of April 1 - June 30, 2014. These UMAR-specific services included state services of Day Activity and Supported Employment Follow Along.

Prior to July 1, staff of the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) met with the UMAR Director and her staff to review services, and offered UMAR the option of continued funding for non-Medicaid consumers where there was not an identified alternative service offered within Cardinal's network. During this meeting, BHD staff emphasized that County funds could not be used to support Medicaid or state service definitions, but rather to fund initiatives/services that would promote integrated care and support individuals in achieving self-sufficiency and independence from public funding.

UMAR was given the opportunity to submit a proposal, which was received and accepted. A contract was developed effective July 1, 2014 to support 28 individuals (the remainder of the original 51 had either completed treatment or been referred to a Cardinal funded service to address their support needs).

For FY15, Cardinal Innovations expanded their benefit plan for Medicaid consumers and added services such as Supported Employment and In-Home Skill Building to their Medicaid service array. BHD staff conducted a site visit at UMAR at the end of October, reviewed consumer records and discovered that of the 28 individuals receiving services at that time, 25 were Medicaid consumers and would be eligible for services that were now included in Cardinal's expanded benefit plan. The three non-Medicaid individuals had been employed four years or more and no longer needed public funding for support.

Once this information was documented, a follow-up meeting was held with UMAR to inform them that the current County contract would be terminated as of January 31, 2015. A contract termination letter was sent to UMAR on December 2, 2014. Allowing the contract to remain in place through January gives UMAR sufficient time to refer consumers to Cardinal's network and to minimize disruption in services. UMAR is a provider in Cardinal's network and does have a contract with Cardinal to provide a variety of Medicaid services.

For more information, contact Michelle Lancaster at 704-336-2621 or Michelle.Lancaster@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, December 16, 5-6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH 14
- Tuesday, December 16, 6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber
- Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 5-6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH 14
- Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber

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