




Mental Health: Medicaid 1915 b/c Waiver

I. Responding to Citizens Questions/Concerns

- The Waiver does not involve new funding/tax dollars
- The Waiver does not expand Medicaid “entitlements”; only the Federal government has that authority; states can expand “optional” services
- Managing an “entitlement” in a waiver environment presents challenges but it is the management trend
- A Waiver provides local flexibility to increase efficiencies so the same amount of dollars are better leveraged for better outcomes
- This Waiver manages a capitated budget so at a minimum it must operate at cost neutrality; optimally savings are realized which are reinvested
- The Waiver would create 50-60 new jobs by bringing back locally a function the State had contracted to an out of state provider
- The risk pool is to ensure dollars to cover any liabilities ie over spending or inappropriate authorizations requiring “pay backs”

II. How will Commissioners ensure the Waiver is good for consumers, taxpayers and the community?

- A resolution that approves the Waiver will require these conditions be met:
 - No additional County Dollars required
 - No reducing services to gain “savings”
 - No changes in the LME Board structure (8 County Managers)
 - Completion of the LME Board approved Technology plan
 - Mercer must deem LME infrastructure as ready to move forward
 - A special committee, including the County Internal Auditor will provide an additional layer of fiscal oversight
 - The LME must work cooperatively with our FQHC (Minnie Jones Clinic) to ensure advancement of the “integrated care” model

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- A Fully Realized “Risk” Pool prior to reinvestment of savings
 - The Waiver does not “lock us in”: The LME can withdraw from the Waiver/the County can withdraw from the LME
 - Consumers are protected if the Waiver terminates; the functions would be assumed through the State Value Options Contract or through another LME
 - The County will require outcomes be reported regularly specific to:
 - Number and type of services authorized/delivered
 - Number and reason for denials of services
 - Outcomes for all consumer appeals
 - Fiscal performance