

Mental Health Waiver

Curtis B Venable
Ott Cone & Redpath
Asheville, N.C.



Waive What?

- Rule: Medicaid looks the same across N.C.
 - Dental services in Dare the same as in Madison
 - Process for getting optical services the same for all
- **Waiver** allows for **variations** across the state
 - Different services or
 - Different providers or
 - Different ways of evaluating/paying for services.

This Waiver

- **All** mental health, developmental disabilities, substance abuse services funds = both State & Medicaid \$\$
- Everything from hospital to MD to clubhouse
- Lump sum payment made to area authority
- Medicaid **entitlement** still exists
- **All** demands must be met from lump sum



Capitated/At Risk Waiver

Translation: An insurance company covering the entirety of the mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse needs of roughly **70,000** people for **\$120,000,000**.

All Medicaid recipients

Adults, Kids, Disabled, Developmental Disabled

All State funded recipients

Old/young, residential, respite

Services/Management

- Recipient eligibility – **LOCKED**
- List of services – **LOCKED**
- Provider qualifications – **LOCKED**
- Provider rates – Unlocked sorta
- Utilization Management = How much service for how long – Unlocked



Privatization of Tasks

- State law permits area authorities to contract all tasks
- Nothing in the waiver would bar subcontracting out any or all component of
 - Utilization management
 - Care management
 - Information systems
 - Payment systems



The Point:

■ Saving \$\$\$

■ For what:

■ Pay providers more

■ Add on services (b-3 services—locked)

- Respite/Crisis Respite
 - Psych Consultation
 - DD Supported Emp/t
 - Individual Support for MI
 - Peer supports
- 