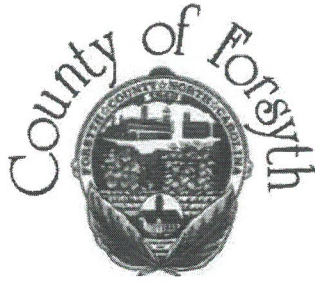


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID R PLYLER, Chairman
DON MARTIN, Vice Chairman
FLEMING EL- AMIN
TED KAPLAN
RICHARD V. LINVILLE
TONYA D. MCDANIEL
GLORIA D. WHISENHUNT



J DUDLEY WATTS, JR.
County Manager
DAMON SANDERS-PRATT
Deputy County Manager
SHONTELL A. ROBINSON
Deputy County Manager
ASHLEIGH M. SLOOP
Clerk to the Board

FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

November 17, 2020

Dr. Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary, NC Department of Health and Human Services
2001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Re: Forsyth County LME/MCO Disengagement

Dear Secretary Cohen:

On behalf of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to provide you with the enclosed resolution adopted unanimously by the Board on Thursday, November 12, 2020, directing me to begin the process of disengagement from Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, our current LME/MCO. Through our previous correspondence, you are aware that Cardinal has failed to provide Forsyth County residents with adequate services. Please accept this letter and resolution as Forsyth County's written notice of intent to disengage from Cardinal, effective no later than August 17, 2021, consistent with applicable statutes and regulations. NCGS 122C-115 (a3); 10A NCAC 26C.0701-0703.

We are in the process of developing our disengagement plan and selecting a new LME/MCO. Once established, we will send a subsequent letter to the Secretary, publish our plan and begin to solicit public comments.

As we work through this transition, Forsyth County remains committed to facilitating and providing appropriate services for our residents. We will continue to work with Cardinal Innovations in a professional and appropriate manner and in the best interest of our organization and the residents of Forsyth County. Additionally, we want to express our support for other counties in the Cardinal Innovations catchment area and their desire to see sustainable change.

Please expect our formal written request for approval from the Secretary as soon as legally and operationally feasible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Dudley Watts, Jr." in a cursive style.

J. Dudley Watts, Jr.
Forsyth County Manager

Enclosure: Resolution

Cc: Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

Counties in the Cardinal Catchment Area

Rep. Josh Dobson, Co-Chair

NC General Assembly, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health & Human Services

300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 307B

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Sen. Joyce Krawiec, Co-Chair

NC General Assembly, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health & Human Services

300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 308

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Rep. Donny Lambeth, Co-Chair

NC General Assembly, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health & Human Services

300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 303

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO BEGIN THE
PROCESS OF DISENGAGING FROM CARDINAL INNOVATIONS HEALTHCARE**

WHEREAS North Carolina General Statute 122C-115(a3) authorizes a county to choose its Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) subject to the approval of the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services;

WHEREAS Cardinal Innovations Healthcare (“Cardinal”) currently serves as the LME/MCO for Forsyth County, but the citizens of Forsyth County face numerous challenges in accessing behavioral health, substance abuse, and intellectual/developmental delay services through Cardinal, including gaps and delays in service authorization, authorization of lower levels of care than what is clinically recommended, limited local providers, and a lack of seamless transition during hospital emergency room discharge planning and transitions to higher levels of care;

WHEREAS Forsyth County has repeatedly addressed concerns directly with Cardinal over the years with little to no resolution; and

WHEREAS Forsyth County desires to ensure the highest quality of service available to meet the needs of County residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager to work in coordination with the County Attorney and staff to prepare any documentation, including any letter of intent, plans, or procedures to disengage from Cardinal Innovations Healthcare.

Adopted this 12th day of November 2020.

ADOPTED

NOV 12, 2020

Forsyth County Board
of Commissioners