

Alliance

BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

For Immediate Release

October 8, 2012

Contact: Doug Fuller, Director of Communications
dfuller@AllianceBHC.org or (919) 651-8430

Alliance Responds to Funding Reductions

(Durham, NC) – Alliance Behavioral Healthcare has responded to a \$2.2 million cut in State-managed funds in FY13 by reducing or eliminating a number of mental health, substance abuse, and intellectual and developmental disabilities programs and services. Those cuts were divided almost equally between Durham and Wake counties.

“We employed an inclusive, collaborative decision-making process but in the end these were painful decisions about services that have a positive effect on people’s lives,” said Ellen S. Holliman, Alliance Area Director. “Unfortunately our funding situation required that they be made.”

Alliance consulted with consumer, advocacy and provider groups across its service area and held town hall meetings in both Durham and Raleigh to gather input from the community about how funding cuts could best be absorbed.

In making its decisions, Alliance prioritized funding for programs and services that help keep individuals with the most intensive needs out of crisis situations that can result in multiple emergency room visits and lengthy hospitalizations.

In Durham County, the programs and services that will no longer be available are developmental therapy, a telephone “warm line” that provides non-crisis support to individuals experiencing behavioral health issues, and the community activity and employment transitions (CAET) program. Receiving funding reductions are personal assistance, dual-disorder intensive outpatient therapy (DDIOP), transitional living, job training, Spanish language substance abuse services, and programs focusing on early intervention, assertive engagement and transitions to adult services. Alliance is working with consumers and providers to help ensure a seamless transition to other services or community supports.

Alliance Behavioral Healthcare is a new multi-county Area Authority merging The Durham Center and Wake LME.

Corporate Office: 4600 Emperor Boulevard, Durham, NC 27703 ♦ (919) 651-8401

Durham Office: 414 East Main Street, Durham, NC 27701 ♦ (919) 651-8401

Wake Office: 401 East Whitaker Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27608 ♦ (919) 651-8401

Alliance

BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Decisions about Wake County reductions have not been finalized, but they may not closely mirror those made in Durham County due to differences in funding sources and the consumer populations of the two counties.

According to Holliman, Alliance hopes that future funding will allow the organization to consider restoring support for some of the programs and services that are being cut. “We are sensitive to the benefit of each of these services and as always our goal is to offer the most comprehensive array of services possible to the people of our community.”

About Alliance:

Alliance Behavioral Healthcare is the multi-county behavioral healthcare area authority formed by the July 1 merger of The Durham Center and Wake County LME. It is responsible for administrative oversight of the public MH/DD/SA service system for citizens of Durham and Wake counties. On January 1, 2013 Alliance will make another shift in its operating structure when it becomes a behavioral health managed care organization, or MCO, under Medicaid 1915 (b)/(c) waivers. It will be the largest of its kind in North Carolina when it adds the responsibility for the authorization of services for citizens of Cumberland and Johnston counties in addition to those in Durham and Wake, totaling over 186,000 Medicaid-eligible individuals and a population of 1.7 million.

Alliance Behavioral Healthcare is a new multi-county Area Authority merging The Durham Center and Wake LME.

Corporate Office: 4600 Emperor Boulevard, Durham, NC 27703 ♦ (919) 651-8401

Durham Office: 414 East Main Street, Durham, NC 27701 ♦ (919) 651-8401

Wake Office: 401 East Whitaker Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27608 ♦ (919) 651-8401