

**State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC)
C/O Community Engagement and Empowerment Team**

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Benjamin Coggins
Chair

Benita Purcell
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October 23, 2017

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The NC Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC) is mandated in GS122C-171. The role of this committee is to advise the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) and the General Assembly on the planning and management of the state's public mental health, developmental disabilities and substance use services. This group is self-governing and self-directed, and is composed entirely of consumers and family members.

The SCFAC is very concerned about all the negative attention that is occurring around the audit with Cardinal Innovations. While there were a lot of items identified that need to be addressed, we want to stress that this one LME/MCO is not a reflection of the other LME/MCO's. Decisions regarding the future of LME/MCO's should not be based on the finding of this audit.

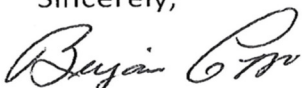
We understand that the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee wants this situation resolved immediately, as do we. However, under the current 122C legislation, staff at NC DHHS are somewhat limited in what they can do to address all the issues identified in the audit. It is clear that 122C needs to be revised or completely rewritten not only to reflect the current system, but to also implement safeguards that will ensure the issues found in this audit never occur again.

We suggest the following:

- Set a deadline for resolution of all audit issues, so the situation does not drag on.
- Establish a committee to start the process of overhauling 122C. SCFAC would like to have some members on this committee.
- Place focus on the individuals in need of services, and ensure these services remain in the forefront. Do not allow the negative publicity to lure our primary focus away from the people.

Please contact us if you have any questions. We would also like to extend an invitation to you to attend our meetings. The meeting schedule is enclosed.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Coggins, Chairman
State Consumer & Family Advisory Committee

Sincerely,



Benita Purcell, Vice-Chairman
State Consumer & Family Advisory Committee

Enclosure (1)