

**LME/MCO Fund Balance Transfers
Quarter Ending September 30, 2021**

Session Law 2021-62, Section 3.5.A(e)



Report to

**The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services**

**The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Medicaid and NC Health Choice**

The Fiscal Research Division

By

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Background

Session Law 2021-62, Section 3.5A (see Appendix A) requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to report by October 15, 2021 on the following:

1. Any formulas developed to calculate the portion of the risk reserve and other funds that are transferred from the area authority from which a county is disengaging to the area authority to which the county is realigning.
2. Any funds transferred during the previous quarter.

This report demonstrates how DHHS has met both of those directives.

Formulas Developed for Transferring Risk Reserve and Other Funds (Fund Balance)

Section 3.5A(a) directs that “the amount of risk reserve and other funds to be transferred shall be determined by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in accordance with a formula or formulas developed in accordance with [the] section.” Section 3.5A(b) further directs that any formula developed under this section must do each of the following:

1. Consider the stability of both the area authority from which the county is disengaging and the area authority with which the county is realigning.
2. Support the ability for each area authority to carry out its responsibilities under State law and...support the successful operation of BH IDD tailored plans under G.S. 108D-60.
3. Assure that the area authority from which the county is disengaging retains sufficient funds to pay any outstanding liabilities to health care providers, staff related expenses, and other liabilities.

DHHS developed formulas to govern the transfer of Risk Reserve and Fund Balance consistent with this legislative directive and with the benefit of significant feedback from the Local Management Entities/ Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs), and met the Section 3.5A(d) directive to post the formula on the DHHS website. A copy of the formulas appears in Appendix B of this report, or may be accessed through the County Disengagement webpage or at <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/providers/programs-and-services/behavioral-health-idd/lme-mco-contracts-and-reports>. The formulas utilize Calendar Year (CY) 2019 Service Expenditures as the primary source for equitably, proportionally allocating the amount of risk reserve to be transferred based on each beneficiary population that is shifting between LME/MCOs. CY 2020 service expenditures were not used due to the unusual changes in utilization and costs patterns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fund Balance formula further adjusts proportional allocations based on a “rurality” factor (as used by the Division of Mental Health in the distribution of State “single-stream” funding) that accounts for the differential challenges of rural counties.

Funds Transferred During the Previous Quarter

Three counties disengaged from Cardinal Innovations (Cardinal) and realigned with Partners Healthcare (Partners) effective September 1, 2021. After allowing time for month-end closeout of the accounting for the month just prior to the disengagement, DHHS directed that Cardinal identify the total amount of Cardinal Risk Reserve associated with the disengaging counties and transfer those amounts to Partners in accordance with the approved formula for transfer of Risk Reserve (described above). The Cardinal risk reserve as of August 31, 2021, prior to any county disengagements, was determined to be \$126,358,978. No funds were transferred during the quarter prior to the initial October 15, 2021 legislative reporting date; however, \$15,604,116 was transferred soon after to reflect the disengagements/realignments that occurred in the prior quarter.

On October 21, 2021, DHHS authorized Cardinal to transfer \$15,604,116 to Partners for Cabarrus, Stanly, and Union County disengagements retroactive to 9/1/2021. The allocation was based on the following amounts associated with each realigning county:

<u>County of Disengagement</u>	<u>MCO receiving County</u>	<u>Disengagement Effective Date</u>	<u>Date of Funds Transfer</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date of Approval</u>
Cabarrus	Partners	9/1/2021	10/28/2021	\$ 7,380,237	10/21/2021
Stanly	Partners	9/1/2021	10/28/2021	\$ 2,491,422	10/21/2021
Union	Partners	9/1/2021	10/28/2021	\$ 5,732,457	10/21/2021
				<u>\$ 15,604,116</u>	

On October 28, 2021, the State was notified that Cardinal delivered Check# 411986 in the amount of \$15,604,116 to Partners via Fed Ex.

Appendix A: S.L. 2021-62, Section 3.5A

TRANSFER OF AREA AUTHORITY FUND BALANCES/COUNTY DISENGAGEMENT

SECTION 3.5A.(a) When a county disengages from one area authority and realigns with another area authority under G.S. 122C-115, a portion of the risk reserve and other funds of the area authority from which the county is disengaging shall be transferred to the area authority with which the county is realigning. The amount of risk reserve and other funds to be transferred shall be determined by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in accordance with a formula or formulas developed in accordance with this section.

SECTION 3.5A.(b) Any formula developed by DHHS under this section shall consider the stability of both the area authority from which the county is disengaging and the area authority with which the county is realigning. The formula shall support the ability for each area authority to carry out its responsibilities under State law and shall support the successful operation of BH IDD tailored plans under G.S. 108D-60. The formula shall assure that the area authority from which the county is disengaging retains sufficient funds to pay any outstanding liabilities to health care providers, staff-related expenses, and other liabilities.

SECTION 3.5A.(c) Upon the Secretary's approval of a disengagement under G.S. 122C-115(a3), the area authority from which the county is disengaging and the area authority with which the county is realigning shall provide DHHS with all financial information requested by DHHS that is necessary to determine the amount of funds to be transferred using the formula or formulas developed under this section.

SECTION 3.5A.(d) Prior to finalizing any formula developed under this section, DHHS shall post the proposed formula on its website and provide notice of the proposed formula to all area authorities, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, and the Fiscal Research Division. DHHS shall accept public comment on the proposed formula. DHHS shall post the final version of the formula on its website no later than August 1, 2021.

SECTION 3.5A.(e) No later than October 15, 2021, DHHS shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, and the Fiscal Research Division on any formulas developed under this section and any funds transferred during the previous quarter. Beginning January 15, 2022, and quarterly thereafter through April 15, 2026, DHHS shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, and the Fiscal Research Division on any funds transferred as a result of disengagements during the previous quarter. A final quarterly report shall be due June 30, 2026, for the quarter ending on that date.

SECTION 3.5A.(f) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the development and application of the formula or formulas under this section shall be exempt from

the rulemaking requirements under Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes and the contested case provisions of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

SECTION 3.5A.(g) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to disengagements approved by DHHS with an effective date on or after September 1, 2021.

SECTION 3.5A.(h) This section shall expire on June 30, 2026.