

# Columbus County

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### PRESS RELEASE

## COLUMBUS COUNTY ASKS TO LEAVE EASTPOINTE, JOIN TRILLIUM HEALTH SERVICES; SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT

July 18, 2017

Whiteville, NC-The Columbus County Board of Commissioners have requested permission from Secretary Mandy Cohen of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to leave Eastpointe and join Trillium Health Resources. North Carolina law allows counties choose which Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) manages mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services in their county, subject to the approval of DHHS. An effective date for the change has not yet been determined.

Columbus County has been a member of Eastpointe since July 1, 2012, when Southeastern Regional Mental Health merged with The Beacon Center and Eastpointe to form a 12 county LME/MCO. The Board of Commissioners do not believe that Columbus County residents have had access to the high quality services they deserve under Eastpointe management and that a change is necessary to better serve the county. The Board of Commissioners have chosen Trillium Health Resources, a twenty four county program that borders Columbus County, as the new manager. Trillium Health Resources has a proven track record of providing high quality services in rural counties. Trillium Health Resources has promised to contract with all providers currently serving Columbus County residents and to recruit new providers to fill in gaps in services.

Columbus County is seeking public comment on this proposed change. The county particularly wants to hear from people who currently receive services and their families, provider agencies, advocates and self advocates, and other stake holders. Comments on this proposal can be made to Columbus County Manager William S. Clark in writing, in person, or via telephone at the Columbus County Manager's Office, located at 111 Washington Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, at 910-640-6630, or at [bclark@columbusco.org](mailto:bclark@columbusco.org).

Comments will be accepted for 60 days and the comment period will end at 5:00 P.M. on September 15, 2017.