

Take Aways from General Session on State's Transformation to Whole Person Care

by Stacy Justiss

Kody H. Kinsley, Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health & Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at DHHS held the attention of over 350 state leaders at the i2i's Conference General Session the the Visionary Voices Conference. His session was focused how the State plans to transition to whole person care (handouts <https://i2icenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/General-Session-State-Vision-for-Whole-Person-Care-.pdf>). What Kinsley referred to as the "Vision for the Divisions."

Kinsley indicated that the key steps to achieving this is integrating systems across divisions creating a system that is intuitive and focused on whole person care. He discussed the initiatives and policies that will drive and assist in achieving this vision such as: Medicaid Transformation; Development of the Opioid Action Plan: increasing and expanding SUD services; Medicaid expansion; new Healthcare System; Transition to Community Living; DSS involved families: creating a child service array and treating DJJ involved populations. He also discussing the need to increase access to care, expand services and address Social Determinants of Health.

Kinsley also discussed important elements needed to make this transition. They include:

- 1) Lead changes by using data to develop the best policies and practices
- 2) Design an integrated delivery system across multiple payers and populations
- 3) Right size our regulation to ensure safeguards and system adequacy – but spur innovation
- 4) Expand reach through partners in the public and private sector and
- 5) Optimize our operations

Reviewing the elements of the Division of MH/IDD/SUD's budget, Kinsley has set a goal for the Division to present a comprehensive spending plan to community members, partners, and LME/MCOs for review, feedback, and finalization by end of February 2019.

Ending the session, Kinsley asked participants to remember three things about State change: 1) Whole Person, Integrated Care; 2) Lead behavioral health public policy across all payers and partners; and 3) Optimize – adhere to our identity – drive efficiency – reinvest in what matters – insight innovation.

Attending this session provided me the opportunity to hear the vision, direction and process NC DHHS is taking in regards to the transformation of the public health and human services systems. I applauded the Division for their intention of ensuring a smooth process is in place by the implementation date of November 1, 2019. Mr. Kinsley stated that anyone seeing services Nov. 1st or after will still be able to access them even if the insurance isn't confirmed. As we all move forward into systems transformation, I will take the information provided and educate the

State Leaders on current best practices such as System of Care (SOC) and the use of Family and Youth Partners to ensure whatever system is developed is family driven and youth guided.

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