



State of North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

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Michael Lancaster appointed state Mental Health Division Chief of Clinical Policy

RALEIGH – Division Director Mike Moseley today announced the appointment of Dr. Michael S. Lancaster M.D. as Chief of Clinical Policy for the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. His first day will be June 14.

"I believe that Dr. Lancaster's experience will be very beneficial to the entire mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services system as we continue in our system reform efforts," Moseley said. "He is already very familiar with our system through his work with ValueOptions and his acknowledged clinical expertise will be invaluable in helping to assure that consumers of our services receive the highest possible clinical care."

Lancaster is the first person to be appointed to the newly created position which will provide clinical leadership in all disability areas for state and local mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse programs. According to Moseley, this includes state operated programs and facilities and clinical care provided by or through Local Management Entities (LMEs).

"I look forward to the challenge of moving the reform process forward in North Carolina and in joining a team that is already actively pursuing that goal," Lancaster said. "State reform gives us an opportunity to implement new clinical models of evidenced based treatment that will provide proven and responsible care for persons with mental illness, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities in our state."

"It is my goal to work closely and inclusively with providers at the facility and community level, to support a clinically stable transition for the clients we serve as the process of reform moves forward. Reform is necessary in our MH/SA/DD system, but it must be clinically responsible as it evolves. I am excited about the possibilities of enhancing the quality of clinical care to the citizens of our state through the reform process."

According to Moseley, Lancaster is charged with articulating the state's vision for excellent clinical care, providing leadership regarding the quality and effectiveness of MH/DD/SA service delivery. The Chief of Clinical Policy will also assist in the development of the continuum of care, integrating inpatient and outpatient services and strengthening the clinical relationship between the public, private and academic sectors.

Since 1992, he has served as Regional Medical Director at ValueOptions, Inc. in the Research Triangle Park. He also maintains a private practice. From 1982-92, he worked at Holly Hill Hospital in Raleigh, serving as a medical staff member and as Clinical Director of Child and Adolescent Services from 1989-92. Lancaster is a Board Certified Adult, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist.

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