LME-MCO Communication Bulletin #J248

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To: LME-MCOs

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Subject: Critical Access Behavioral Health Agencies (CABHAs) Sunsetting

The purpose of this article is to notify providers and other stakeholders that the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) in collaboration with the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (DMH) will sunset the requirements for the Critical Access Behavioral Health Agencies (CABHA). The CABHA designation will be removed from statute, the State Plan, and from policy.

Guided by temporary administrative rules, CABHAs were established in 2009 with 209 participating agencies. These rules which have since expired governed how CABHAs were certified and decertified; the roles of the medical director, clinical director, training director, and QA director; as well as guidelines on the detailed operation of CABHAs. As of March 2016, there were 137 CABHAs. Under a managed care environment, CABHAs are no longer a necessary part of the service delivery system as the LME-MCOs manage behavioral health services and can work with network providers to assure the quality of services and clinical oversight, without the structure of the CABHA.

The four services offered by a CABHA are Community Support Team, Intensive In-Home, Child and Adolescent Day Treatment, and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Targeted Case Management.

The policy and state plan for these four services will be revised to ensure strong medical and clinical oversight and to strengthen services utilizing evidence-based practices.
If you have any questions, please contact Bert Bennett at 919-855-4299 or bert.bennett@dhhs.nc.gov or Beverly Bell at 919-855-4231 or Beverly.bell@dhhs.nc.gov.

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