

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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SENATE BILL 1531*

Short Title: Strengthen Local Management Entities (LMEs). (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Nesbitt, Allran, Cowell, Dannelly, Forrester, Lucas, Malone, Purcell; Albertson, Atwater, Bland, Boseman, Hartsell, Jenkins, Shaw, and Snow.

Referred to: Health Care.

May 18, 2006

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO CLARIFY AND STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF LOCAL
2 MANAGEMENT ENTITIES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT
3 LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH,
4 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 122C-3 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

8 **"§ 122C-3. Definitions.**

9 ~~As used in this Chapter, unless another meaning is specified or the context clearly~~
10 ~~requires otherwise, the following terms have the meanings specified:~~The following
11 definitions apply in this Chapter:

12 ...

13 (20b) "Local management entity" or "LME" means an area authority, county
14 program, or consolidated human services agency. An LME is not a
15 unit of local government, and the term refers to functional
16 responsibilities rather than governance structure."

17 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 122C-111 reads as rewritten:

18 **"§ 122C-111. Administration.**

19 The Secretary shall administer and enforce the provisions of this Chapter and the
20 rules of the Commission and shall operate State facilities. An area director or program
21 director shall (i) manage the public mental health, developmental disabilities, and
22 substance abuse system for administer the programs of the area authority or county
23 program, as applicable, program according to the local business plan, and (ii) enforce
24 applicable State laws, rules of the Commission, and rules of the Secretary. The
25 Secretary in cooperation with area and county program directors and State facility
26 directors shall provide for the coordination of public services between area authorities,
27 county programs, and State facilities. The area authority or county program shall

1 monitor the provision of mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse
2 services for compliance with the law, which monitoring shall not supersede or duplicate
3 the regulatory authority or functions of agencies of the Department."

4 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 122C-115.2(a) reads as rewritten:

5 "**§ 122C-115.2. ~~Business~~ LME business plan required; content, process, certification.**

6 (a) Every county, through an area authority or county program, shall provide for
7 the development, review, and approval of a an LME business plan for the management
8 and delivery of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services.
9 ~~A~~ An LME business plan shall provide detailed information on how the area authority
10 or county program will meet State standards, laws, and rules for ensuring quality mental
11 health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services, including outcome
12 measures for evaluating program effectiveness. The business plan shall be in effect for
13 at least three State fiscal years."

14 **SECTION 4.** Article 4 of Chapter 122C is amended by adding a new section
15 to read:

16 "**§ 122C-115.4. Responsibilities of local management entities.**

17 (a) Local management entities are responsible for the administration and
18 management of the public system of mental health, developmental disabilities, and
19 substance abuse services at the community level. An LME plans, develops, implements,
20 and monitors services within a specified geographic area for both insured and uninsured
21 individuals.

22 (b) The core functions of an LME include all of the following:

23 (1) Access for all citizens to core services through the implementation of a
24 24-hour a day, seven-day a week screening, triage, and referral process
25 and a uniform portal of entry into care.

26 (2) Provider endorsement, monitoring, technical assistance, and capacity
27 development. An LME may remove as a choice a provider who fails to
28 meet defined quality criteria or fails to provide data required for
29 monitoring client outcomes.

30 (3) Utilization review and determination of the appropriate level and
31 intensity of services for all State-funded services, authorization of
32 recipients of services under a Medicaid waiver, review and approval of
33 all person-centered plans, utilization management for all services, care
34 coordination, quality management, and authorization of State
35 psychiatric hospital and other State facility bed days.

36 (4) Community collaboration and consumer affairs including assurance of
37 rights, appeals, establishment of, and support for an effective
38 consumer and family advisory committee.

39 (5) Financial management and accountability including information
40 management for the delivery of publicly funded services for mental
41 illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse.

42 (c) An area authority or county program may contract with any public or private
43 entity for the implementation of some or all of the LME responsibilities articulated
44 under this section. A consolidated human services agency may contract with any public

1 or private entity for the implementation of some or all of the LME responsibilities
2 subject to the requirements of G.S. 122C-127. The Secretary may not remove any
3 responsibility enumerated under subsection (b) of this section absent an individualized
4 finding that a particular area authority or county program is not providing minimally
5 adequate services under G.S. 122C-124.1 or is in imminent danger of failing financially
6 under G.S. 122C-125. The notice and procedural requirements of G.S. 122C-124.1 and
7 G.S. 122C-125 shall apply to the findings."

8 **SECTION 5.** Effective July 1, 2009, G.S. 122C-115.4(b) as enacted in
9 Section 4 of this act reads as rewritten:

10 "(b) The core functions of an LME include all of the following:

- 11 (1) Access for all citizens to core services through the implementation of a
12 24-hour a day, seven-days a week screening, triage, and referral
13 process and a uniform portal of entry into care.
- 14 (2) Provider endorsement, monitoring, technical assistance, and capacity
15 development. An LME may remove as a choice a provider who fails to
16 meet defined quality criteria or fails to provide data required for
17 monitoring client outcomes.
- 18 (3) Utilization review and determination of the appropriate level and
19 intensity of services for all ~~state-funded~~ services, authorization of
20 recipients of services under a Medicaid waiver, review and approval of
21 all person-centered plans, utilization management for all services, care
22 coordination, quality management, and authorization of State
23 psychiatric hospital and other State facility bed days.
- 24 (4) Community collaboration and consumer affairs including assurance of
25 rights, appeals, establishment and support for an effective consumer
26 and family advisory committee.
- 27 (5) Financial management and accountability including information
28 management for the delivery of publicly funded services for mental
29 illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse."

30 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 122C-118.1 reads as rewritten:

31 **"§ 122C-118.1. Structure of area board.**

32 (a) An area board shall have no fewer than 11 and no more than 25 members. In
33 a single-county area authority, the members shall be appointed by the board of county
34 commissioners. Except as otherwise provided, in areas consisting of more than one
35 county, each board of county commissioners within the area shall appoint one
36 commissioner as a member of the area board. These members shall appoint the other
37 members. The boards of county commissioners within the multicounty area shall have
38 the option to appoint the members of the area board in a manner other than as required
39 under this section by adopting a resolution to that effect. The boards of county
40 commissioners in a multicounty area authority shall indicate in the business plan each
41 board's method of appointment of the area board members in accordance with
42 G.S. 122C-115.2(b). These appointments shall take into account sufficient citizen
43 participation,—~~equitable~~ representation of the disability groups, and equitable
44 representation of participating counties. Individuals appointed to the board shall include

1 an individual with financial ~~expertise~~ or expertise, a county finance officer, an
2 individual with expertise in management or business, and an individual representing the
3 interests of children. A member of the board may be removed with or without cause by
4 the initial appointing authority. Vacancies on the board shall be filled by the initial
5 appointing authority before the end of the term of the vacated seat or within 90 days of
6 the vacancy, whichever occurs first, and the appointments shall be for the remainder of
7 the unexpired term.

8 (b) ~~At least~~ Not more than fifty percent (50%) of the members of the area board
9 shall represent the following:

10 (1) A physician licensed under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes to
11 practice medicine in North Carolina who, when possible, is certified as
12 having completed a residency in psychiatry.

13 (2) A clinical professional from the fields of mental health, developmental
14 disabilities, or substance abuse.

15 (3) ~~A~~ At least one family member or ~~an~~ individual from a citizens'
16 ~~organizations~~ organization composed primarily of consumers or their
17 family members, representing the interests of individuals:

18 a. With mental illness; ~~and~~

19 b. In recovery from addiction; ~~and~~ or

20 c. With developmental disabilities.

21 (4) ~~Openly~~ At least one openly declared ~~consumers;~~ consumer:

22 a. With mental illness; ~~and~~

23 b. With developmental ~~disabilities;~~ and disabilities; or

24 c. In recovery from addiction.

25 (c) The board of county commissioners may elect to appoint a member of the
26 area authority board to fill concurrently more than one category of membership if the
27 member has the qualifications or attributes of more than one category of membership.

28 (d) Any member of an area board who is a county commissioner serves on the
29 board in an ex officio capacity. The terms of county commissioners on an area board are
30 concurrent with their terms as county commissioners. The terms of the other members
31 on the area board shall be for ~~four~~ three years, except that upon the initial formation of
32 an area board ~~one fourth~~ one-third shall be appointed for one year, ~~one fourth~~ one-third
33 for two years, ~~one fourth~~ for three years, and all remaining members for ~~four~~ three
34 years. Members ~~other than county commissioners~~ shall not be appointed for more than
35 two consecutive terms. Board members serving as of July 1, 2006, may remain on the
36 board for one additional term.

37 (e) Upon request, the board shall provide information pertaining to the
38 membership of the board that is a public record under Chapter 132 of the General
39 Statutes."

40 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 122C-115.1(g) reads as rewritten:

41 "(g) In a single-county program, an advisory committee shall be appointed by the
42 board of county commissioners and shall report to the county manager. The
43 appointments shall take into account sufficient citizen participation, equitable
44 representation of the disability groups, and equitable representation of participating

1 counties. ~~At least fifty percent (50%) of the~~ The membership shall conform to the
2 requirements in ~~G.S. 122C-118.1(b)(1)-(4).~~ G.S. 122C-118.1. In a multicounty program,
3 the advisory committee shall be appointed in accordance with the terms of the interlocal
4 agreement."

5 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 122C-115.1(a) reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 122C-115.1. County governance and operation of mental health, developmental**
7 **disabilities, and substance abuse services program.**

8 (a) A county may operate a county program for mental health, developmental
9 disabilities, and substance abuse services as a single county or, pursuant to Article 20 of
10 Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, may enter into an interlocal agreement with one
11 or more other counties for the operation of a multicounty program. An interlocal
12 agreement shall provide for the following:

- 13 (1) Adoption and administration of the program budget in accordance with
14 Chapter 159 of the General Statutes.
- 15 (2) Appointment of a program director to carry out the provisions of
16 G.S. 122C-111 and duties and responsibilities delegated by the county.
17 Except when specifically waived by the Secretary, the program
18 director shall meet the following minimum qualifications:
 - 19 a. Masters degree,
 - 20 b. Related experience, and
 - 21 c. Management experience.
- 22 (3) A targeted minimum population of 200,000 or a targeted minimum
23 number of five counties served by the program.
- 24 (4) Compliance with the provisions of this Chapter and the rules of the
25 Commission and the Secretary.
- 26 (5) Written notification to the Secretary prior to the termination of the
27 interlocal agreement.
- 28 (6) Appointment of an advisory committee. The interlocal agreement shall
29 designate a county manager to whom the advisory committee shall
30 report. The interlocal agreement shall also designate the appointing
31 authorities. The appointing authorities shall make appointments that
32 take into account sufficient citizen participation, equitable
33 representation of the disability groups, and equitable representation of
34 participating counties. At least fifty percent (50%) of the membership
35 shall conform to the requirements provided in
36 ~~G.S. 122C-118.1(b)(1)-(4).~~ G.S. 122C-188.1."

37 **SECTION 9.** Effective January 1, 2007, G.S. 122C-115.1(a), as amended by
38 Section 8 of this act reads as rewritten:

39 "**§ 122C-115.1. County governance and operation of mental health, developmental**
40 **disabilities, and substance abuse services program.**

41 (a) A county may operate a county program for mental health, developmental
42 disabilities, and substance abuse services as a single county or, pursuant to Article 20 of
43 Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, may enter into an interlocal agreement with one

1 or more other counties for the operation of a multicounty program. An interlocal
2 agreement shall provide for the following:

- 3 (1) Adoption and administration of the program budget in accordance with
4 Chapter 159 of the General Statutes.
- 5 (2) Appointment of a program director to carry out the provisions of
6 G.S. 122C-111 and duties and responsibilities delegated by the county.
7 Except when specifically waived by the Secretary, the program
8 director shall meet all the following minimum qualifications:
 - 9 a. ~~Masters degree, degree.~~
 - 10 b. ~~Related experience, and experience.~~
 - 11 c. Management experience.
 - 12 d. Any other qualifications required under the job classification
13 adopted by the State Personnel Commission.
- 14 (3) A targeted minimum population of 200,000 or a targeted minimum
15 number of five counties served by the program.
- 16 (4) Compliance with the provisions of this Chapter and the rules of the
17 Commission and the Secretary.
- 18 (5) Written notification to the Secretary prior to the termination of the
19 interlocal agreement.
- 20 (6) Appointment of an advisory committee. The interlocal agreement shall
21 designate a county manager to whom the advisory committee shall
22 report. The interlocal agreement shall also designate the appointing
23 authorities. The appointing authorities shall make appointments that
24 take into account sufficient citizen participation, equitable
25 representation of the disability groups, and equitable representation of
26 participating counties. The membership shall conform to the
27 requirements provided in G.S. 122C-118.1."

28 **SECTION 10.** Effective January 1, 2007, G.S. 122C-115.1(f) reads as
29 rewritten:

30 "(f) In a single-county program, the program director shall be appointed by the
31 county manager. In a multicounty program, the program director shall be appointed in
32 accordance with the terms of the interlocal agreement.

33 Except when specifically waived by the Secretary, the program director in a single
34 county program shall meet all the following minimum qualifications:

- 35 (1) Masters degree.
- 36 (2) Related experience.
- 37 (3) Management experience.
- 38 (4) Any other qualifications required under the job classification adopted
39 by the State Personnel Commission."

40 **SECTION 11.** Effective January 1, 2007, G.S. 122C-121(d) reads as
41 rewritten:

42 "(d) Except when specifically waived by the Secretary, the area director shall meet
43 all the following minimum qualifications:

- 44 (1) ~~Masters degree, degree.~~

- 1 (2) Related ~~experience;~~ and experience.
- 2 (3) Management experience.
- 3 (4) Any other qualifications required under the job classification adopted
- 4 by the State Personnel Commission."

5 **SECTION 12.** Effective July 1, 2007, G.S. 122C-115(a) reads as rewritten:

6 **"§ 122C-115. Duties of counties; appropriation and allocation of funds by counties**

7 **and cities.**

8 (a) A county shall provide mental health, developmental disabilities, and

9 substance abuse services through an area authority or through a county program

10 established pursuant to G.S. 122C-115.1. The catchment area of an area authority or a

11 county program shall contain either a minimum population of at least 200,000 or a

12 minimum of six counties. To the extent this section conflicts with G.S. 153A-77(a), the

13 provisions of G.S. 153A-77(a) control."

14 **SECTION 13.** Effective July 1, 2007, G.S. 122C-115.1(a), as amended by

15 Sections 8 and 9 of this act, reads as rewritten:

16 **"§ 122C-115.1. County governance and operation of mental health, developmental**

17 **disabilities, and substance abuse services program.**

18 (a) A county may operate a county program for mental health, developmental

19 disabilities, and substance abuse services as a single county or, pursuant to Article 20 of

20 Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, may enter into an interlocal agreement with one

21 or more other counties for the operation of a multicounty program. An interlocal

22 agreement shall provide for the following:

- 23 (1) Adoption and administration of the program budget in accordance with
- 24 Chapter 159 of the General Statutes.
- 25 (2) Appointment of a program director to carry out the provisions of
- 26 G.S. 122C-111 and duties and responsibilities delegated by the county.
- 27 Except when specifically waived by the Secretary, the program
- 28 director shall meet all the following minimum qualifications:
- 29 a. Masters degree.
- 30 b. Related experience.
- 31 c. Management experience.
- 32 d. Any other qualifications required under the job classification
- 33 adopted by the State Personnel Commission.
- 34 ~~(3) A targeted minimum population of 200,000 or a targeted minimum~~
- 35 ~~number of five counties served by the program.~~
- 36 (4) Compliance with the provisions of this Chapter and the rules of the
- 37 Commission and the Secretary.
- 38 (5) Written notification to the Secretary prior to the termination of the
- 39 interlocal agreement.
- 40 (6) Appointment of an advisory committee. The interlocal agreement shall
- 41 designate a county manager to whom the advisory committee shall
- 42 report. The interlocal agreement shall also designate the appointing
- 43 authorities. The appointing authorities shall make appointments that
- 44 take into account sufficient citizen participation, equitable

1 representation of the disability groups, and equitable representation of
2 participating counties. The membership shall conform to the
3 requirements provided in G.S. 122C-118.1."

4 **SECTION 14.** G.S. 122C-117(c) reads as rewritten:

5 "(c) Within 30 days of the end of each quarter of the fiscal year, the area director
6 and finance officer of the area authority shall provide to the finance officer of the
7 county, or in the case of a multicounty area authority, the finance officers of each
8 county, the quarterly report of the area authority, The report shall include a budgetary
9 statement and balance sheet that details the assets, liabilities, and fund balance of the
10 area authority. The county finance officer shall review the report and may make
11 comments regarding the finances of the area authority before the report is provided to
12 each member of the board of county commissioners ~~the quarterly report~~ of the area
13 authority. This information shall be presented in a format prescribed by the county. At
14 least twice a year, this information shall be presented in person and shall be read into
15 the minutes of the meeting at which it is presented. In addition, the area director or
16 finance officer of the area authority shall provide to the board of county commissioners
17 ad hoc reports as requested by the board of county commissioners."

18 **SECTION 15.** G.S. 122C-115.1(e) reads as rewritten:

19 "(e) Within 30 days of the end of each quarter of the fiscal year, the program
20 director and finance officer of the county program shall present to the finance officer of
21 the county, or in the case of a multicounty program, the finance officers of each county,
22 the quarterly report of the county program. The report shall include a budgetary
23 statement and balance sheet that details the assets, liabilities, and fund balance of the
24 county program. The county finance officer shall review the report and may make
25 comments regarding the finances of the program before the report is provided to each
26 member of the board of county ~~commissioners a budgetary statement and balance sheet~~
27 ~~that details the assets, liabilities, and fund balance of the county program.~~
28 ~~commissioners.~~ This information shall be read into the minutes of the meeting at which
29 it is presented. The program director or finance officer of the county program shall
30 provide to the board of county commissioners ad hoc reports as requested by the board
31 of county commissioners."

32 **SECTION 16.** G.S. 153A-149(c)(22) reads as rewritten:

33 "(c) Each county may levy property taxes for one or more of the purposes listed in
34 this subsection up to a combined rate of one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) on the one
35 hundred dollars (\$100.00) appraised value of property subject to taxation. Authorized
36 purposes subject to the rate limitation are:

37 ...

38 (22) Mental Health. – To provide for the county's share of the cost of
39 maintaining and administering services offered ~~by-by, to,~~ or through
40 the area mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse
41 authority. authority or the county program for mental health,
42 developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services."

43 **SECTION 17.** G.S. 153A-247 reads as rewritten:

44 "**§ 153A-247. Provision for public health and mental health.**

1 A county may provide for and regulate the public health ~~pursuant to~~ under Chapter
2 130A of the General Statutes and any other law authorizing local public health activities
3 and may provide mental health~~[,] mental retardation, health, developmental disabilities,~~
4 and substance abuse ~~programs pursuant to Chapter 122C of the General~~
5 ~~Statutes.~~ programs."

6 **SECTION 18.** G.S. 122C-115.2(b)(1) reads as rewritten:

7 "(b) Business plans shall include the following:

8 (1) Description of how the following core administrative functions will be
9 carried out:

- 10 a. Planning. – Local services plans that identify service gaps and
11 methods for filling the gaps, ensure the availability of an array
12 of services based on consumer needs, provision of core
13 services, equitable service delivery among member counties,
14 and prescribing the efficient and effective use of all funds for
15 targeted services. Local planning shall be an open process
16 involving key stakeholders.
- 17 b. Provider network development. – Ensuring available, qualified
18 providers to deliver services based on the business plan.
19 Development of new providers and monitoring provider
20 performance and service outcomes. Provider network
21 development shall address consumer choice and fair
22 competition. For the purposes of this section, a "qualified
23 provider" means a public or private provider who meets the
24 provider qualifications as defined by rules adopted by the
25 Secretary.
- 26 c. Service management. – Implementation of uniform portal
27 process. Service management shall include appropriate level
28 and intensity of services, management of State
29 hospitals/facilities bed days, utilization management, case
30 management, and quality management. If services are provided
31 directly by the area authority or county program, then the plan
32 shall indicate how consumer choice and fair competition in the
33 marketplace is ensured.
- 34 d. Financial management and accountability. – Carrying out
35 business functions in an efficient and effective manner,
36 cost-sharing, and managing resources dedicated to the public
37 system.
- 38 e. Service monitoring and oversight. – Ensuring that services
39 provided to consumers and families meet State outcome
40 standards and ensure quality performance by providers in the
41 network.
- 42 f. Evaluation. – Self-evaluation based on statewide outcome
43 standards and participation in independent evaluation studies.

1 g. Collaboration. – Collaborating with other local service systems
2 in ensuring access and coordination of services at the local
3 level. Collaborating with other area authorities and county
4 programs and the State in planning and ensuring the delivery of
5 services.

6 h. Access. – Ensuring access to core and targeted services."

7 **SECTION 19.** G.S. 122C-141 is amended by adding a new subsection to
8 read:

9 "(d) A county may be a qualified public provider and may, under Article 20 of
10 Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, enter into an interlocal agreement with one or
11 more other counties to operate as a qualified public provider."

12 **SECTION 20.** G.S. 122C-112.1(a) reads as rewritten:

13 "**§ 122C-112.1. Powers and duties of the Secretary.**

14 (a) The Secretary shall do all of the following:

- 15 (1) Oversee development of the State Plan for Mental Health,
16 Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services.
- 17 (2) Enforce the provisions of this Chapter and the rules of the Commission
18 and the Secretary.
- 19 (3) Establish a process and criteria for the submission, review, and
20 approval or disapproval of LME business plans submitted by area
21 authorities and counties for the management and provision of mental
22 health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services.
- 23 (4) Adopt rules specifying the content and format of LME business plans.
- 24 (5) Review business plans and, upon approval of the LME business plan,
25 certify the submitting area authority or county program to provide
26 mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse
27 ~~services.~~services in the applicable catchment area.
- 28 (6) Establish comprehensive, cohesive oversight and monitoring
29 procedures and processes to ensure continuous compliance by area
30 authorities, county programs, and all providers of public services with
31 State and federal policy, law, and standards. Procedures shall include
32 performance measures and report cards for each area authority and
33 county program.
- 34 (7) Conduct regularly scheduled monitoring and oversight of area
35 authority, county programs, and all providers of public services.
36 Monitoring and oversight shall include compliance with the program
37 business plan, core administrative functions, and fiscal and
38 administrative practices and shall also address outcome measures,
39 consumer satisfaction, client rights complaints, and adherence to best
40 practices.
- 41 (8) Make findings and recommendations based on information and data
42 collected pursuant to subdivision (7) of this subsection and submit
43 these findings and recommendations to the applicable area authority
44 board, county program director, board of county commissioners,

- 1 providers of public services, and to the Local Consumer Advocacy
2 Office.
- 3 (9) Assist area authorities and county programs in the establishment and
4 operation of community-based programs.
- 5 (10) Operate State facilities and adopt rules pertaining to their operation.
- 6 (11) Develop a unified system of services provided ~~in area, county, and at~~
7 the community level, by State facilities, and by providers enrolled or
8 under a contract with the ~~State.~~State and an area authority or county
9 program.
- 10 (12) Adopt rules governing the expenditure of all funds for mental health,
11 developmental disabilities, and substance abuse programs and services.
- 12 (13) Adopt rules to implement the appeal procedure authorized by
13 G.S. 122C-151.2.
- 14 (14) Adopt rules for the implementation of the uniform portal process.
- 15 (15) Except as provided in G.S. 122C-26(4), adopt rules establishing
16 procedures for waiver of rules adopted by the Secretary under this
17 Chapter.
- 18 (16) Notify the clerks of superior court of changes in the designation of
19 State facility regions and of facilities designated under G.S. 122C-252.
- 20 (17) Promote public awareness and understanding of mental health, mental
21 illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse.
- 22 (18) Administer and enforce rules that are conditions of participation for
23 federal or State financial aid.
- 24 (19) Carry out G.S. 122C-361.
- 25 (20) Monitor the fiscal and administrative practices of area authorities and
26 county programs to ensure that the programs are accountable to the
27 State for the management and use of federal and State funds allocated
28 for mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse
29 services. The Secretary shall ensure maximum accountability by area
30 authorities and county programs for rate-setting methodologies,
31 reimbursement procedures, billing procedures, provider contracting
32 procedures, record keeping, documentation, and other matters
33 pertaining to financial management and fiscal accountability. The
34 Secretary shall further ensure that the practices are consistent with
35 professionally accepted accounting and management principles.
- 36 (21) Provide technical assistance, including conflict resolution, to counties
37 in the development and implementation of area authority and county
38 program business plans and other matters, as requested by the county.
- 39 (22) Develop a methodology to be used for calculating county resources to
40 reflect cash and in-kind contributions of the county.
- 41 (23) Adopt rules establishing program evaluation and management of
42 mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse
43 services.

- 1 (24) Adopt rules regarding the requirements of the federal government for
2 grants-in-aid for mental health, developmental disabilities, or
3 substance abuse programs which may be made available to area
4 authorities or county programs or the State. This section shall be
5 liberally construed in order that the State and its citizens may benefit
6 from the grants-in-aid.
- 7 (25) Adopt rules for determining minimally adequate services for purposes
8 of G.S. 122C-124.1 and G.S. 122C-125.
- 9 (26) Establish a process for approving area authorities and county programs
10 to provide services directly in accordance with G.S. 122C-141.
- 11 (27) Sponsor training opportunities in the fields of mental health,
12 developmental disabilities, and substance abuse.
- 13 (28) Enforce the protection of the rights of clients served by State facilities,
14 area authorities, county programs, and providers of public services.
- 15 (29) Adopt rules for the enforcement of the protection of the rights of
16 clients being served by State facilities, area authorities, county
17 programs, and providers of public services.
- 18 (30) Prior to requesting approval to close a State facility under
19 G.S. 122C-181(b):
- 20 a. Notify the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental
21 Operations, the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Health,
22 Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, and
23 members of the General Assembly who represent catchment
24 areas affected by the closure; and
- 25 b. Present a plan for the closure to the members of the Joint
26 Legislative Committee on Mental Health, Developmental
27 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, the House of
28 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and
29 Human Services, and the Senate Appropriations Committee on
30 Health and Human Services for their review, advice, and
31 recommendations. The plan shall address specifically how
32 patients will be cared for after closure, how support services to
33 community-based agencies and outreach services will be
34 continued, and the impact on remaining State facilities. In
35 implementing the plan, the Secretary shall take into
36 consideration the comments and recommendations of the
37 committees to which the plan is presented under this
38 subdivision.
- 39 (31) Ensure that the State Plan for Mental Health, Developmental
40 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services is coordinated with the
41 Medicaid State Plan and NC Health Choice."

42 **SECTION 21.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall reduce
43 by ten percent (10%) annually the administrative funding for area authorities and county
44 programs that do not comply with Sections 12 and 13 of this act. The funds withdrawn

1 for LME administrative functions shall be reallocated to the same area authority or
2 county program to be used to provide mental health, developmental disabilities, and
3 substance abuse services.

4 **SECTION 22.** The Office of State Personnel shall develop a job
5 classification for director of an area authority or county program that reflects the skills
6 required of an individual operating a local management entity. The Office of State
7 Personnel shall also review the job classifications for area authority and county program
8 finance officers to determine whether they reflect the skills necessary to manage the
9 finances of a local management entity. The Commission shall adopt a job classification
10 for director and any new or revised job classifications for finance officers no later than
11 December 31, 2006. The requirements of the job classifications shall apply to persons
12 hired by an area authority or county program on or after January 1, 2007.

13 **SECTION 23.** The Department of Health and Human Services (Department)
14 shall recalculate the LME systems management allocations for State fiscal year
15 2006-2007 to include funds for each LME to implement 24-hour, seven-days a week
16 screening, triage, and referral and the review and approval of all person-centered plans.
17 The funds shall be used by LMEs to implement those functions.

18 The Department shall also review the LME's responsibilities described in
19 G.S. 122C-115.4 in Section 4 of this act and recalculate the LME systems management
20 allocations for State fiscal year 2006-2007 to provide sufficient funds for LMEs to fully
21 implement those functions. To the extent there remains any reduction in administrative
22 funding between the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 fiscal years LME systems management
23 allocations, those funds shall be reallocated to those LMEs that will experience a
24 reduction in their administrative budgets. The LMEs shall use the funds to provide
25 mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services.

26 **SECTION 24.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
27 Department of Health and Human Services the sum of twenty thousand dollars
28 (\$20,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to provide training to area authority and county
29 program board members under G.S 122C-119.1.

30 **SECTION 25.** Unless otherwise specified, this act becomes effective July 1,
31 2006.