



Learn more about Olmstead: [Here](#)

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TCL CHAMPIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In-Reach is an engagement, education and support effort designed to fully inform adults who have a serious or persistent mental illness (SMI/SPMI) about community-based mental health services (including Individual Placement and Support- Supported employment (IPS-SE)), supportive housing options and includes, but is not limited to, the availability of tenancy support services and rental assistance.

This month TCL recognizes Kristie Mathis, an In-Reach Specialist at Vaya Health. While engaging with an individual Kristie realized she needed to be more creative to establish a rapport and gain his trust. Kristie collaborated with a coworker to create individualized, person-centered visual aids that were effective and kept the individual engaged and focused while Kristie educated him about TCL and completed the In Reach/Transition tool. Kristie's outside-the-box thinking is a great example of a solution focused approach!



DISCHARGE & TRANSITION PROCESS

In collaboration with all six LME/MCOs, DHHS conducted a series of virtual Informed Decision-Making (IDM) trainings to re-educate In Reach Specialists about the purpose of the IDM tool and to incorporate peer-to-peer learning into our staff training plan. DHHS identified four In-Reach Specialists to lead the IDM training session: Miketta Hines from Alliance Health; Rashedah George from Eastpointe; and Susan Buchanan & Marie Collins from Vaya Health.

The trainings were a success and highlighted several key topics such as engagement, rapport building, effective ways to conduct informed-decision making with guardians, best practices for educating individuals about community-based services and supports and the benefits of supportive housing. There was a total of 163 participants that attended the four trainings, with some participants attending more than once.

RSVP/DIVERSION

The NC DHHS has a new RSVP URL effective on 1/9/23. The new link can be found on our DHHS TCL webpage under Referral Screening Verification Process (RSVP) :

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/transitions-community-living> or the direct link can be accessed at <https://www.myhousingsearch.com/nc/rsvp>

CHECK US OUT ON TWITTER!



Secretary Kody Kinsley
@KodyKinsley

@NC.Governor's budget transforms our system of care and supports, aligned with #Olmstead, for North Carolinians living with #disabilities.

- \$17M to expand our Transitions to Community Living Initiative
- \$10M to expand competitive integrated employment

📖 (1/7)

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PEER SUPPORT

DHHS is helping LMEMCOs fund Peer-run organizations to increase TCL individuals' success engaging and thriving in their communities:

- Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry – Vaya
 - Buncombe, Henderson, Haywood, Madison, McDowell, and Transylvania Counties.
- Alliance of Disability Advocates NC and Disability Advocates Center – Alliance, Eastpointe, and Sandhills Center
 - Alamance, Caswell, Guilford, Randolph, and Rockingham Counties.
- Promise Resource Network - Alliance
 - Mecklenburg County
- Solutions for Independence – Partners
 - Davidson, Davey, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties

DHHS will continue its work with LMEMCOs to contract with peer-run agencies to expand this vital TCL support.

ACKNOWLEDGING PEERS

The shortage of direct care workers has become a national crisis. Finding certified peers with lived experience that are dedicated to working with individuals with SMI/SPMI in Transitions to Community Living, is an even bigger challenge. Despite these challenges, some peers have stuck with TCL through thick and thin and it's time to acknowledge your loyalty and dedication. DHHS would like to recognize and celebrate the following peers for their tenure and years of service with TCL. Click [here](#) for details.

TCL NUMBERS

Total Housed as of February 28 : **3291**

February total slots requested: **49**

- From ACHs: 12
- From State Hospitals (Pop 4): 7
- From Diversion (Pop 5): 30



Acknowledging Peers and Their Years of Service

TCL Years of Service is \geq 5 years:

Alliance
7 years Charline Mangum
6 years, 4 months Jacqueline A. Blackwell
Eastpointe
9 years 5 months Rhonda White
6 years 3 months Linda Pennix
6 years 2 months Kimberly Boyd
6 years Tracy Sparks
5 years 6 months Pamela Jones
5 years Rockela Garrett
Partners
9 years 6 months Linda Grob
8 years In reach now does follow along in TCL James Kithcart
7 years and 9 months Sharika Howell
7 years In Reach now does follow along with TCL Cindy Payne
6 years and 4 month Gerri Logan
5 years and 5 months Greg Mathews
Sandhills
7 years Michelle Wright Scott Smith
6 years 8 months Mona Aguilar
6 years 3 months David Girod
Trillium
6 years April Koch
Vaya
9 years 10 months George Rucht
7 years Vanessa Fitzgerald
6 years and 8 months Chris Smith

TCL Years of Service is 1 to 4 years:

Alliance
4 years and 6 months Shelda Askew
4 years 3 months Demetrius Hunter
3 years, 6 months Sherrica S. Knowles Bobby Harrington
3 years 3 months Brandy Brown
2 years 6 months Miketta A. Hines
2 years Angie K. Love (Kennedy)
1 year, 4 months Wykina McCall-Hackney
1 year 4 months Javonne Green Akeebia Crouch
Eastpointe
4 years, 6 months Rashedah George
4 years 8 months Mary Nelms
2 years 6 months Nakia Pearson
1 year, 7 months Janice McMillian
1 year, 4 months Fonda Whitted
1 year, 2 months Russell Hass
Partners
4 years--In reach 4 years does TCL follow along now Crystal Foy
4 years and 4 months James Ragland
2 years 4 months Heather Gragg
1 year In Reach now does follow along with TCL Dorothy Woods
1 year and 6 months Julie Simpson
Sandhills
4 years Duane Nealey
Trillium
2 years Lori Lilley
Vaya
4 years Laura Barber
3 years 6 months Susan Buchanan
3 years 1 month Kristie Mathis
2 years 4 months Jessie Serrano Billie Moreland
1 year 6 months Barbie Olander
1 year 5 months Daniel Miller
1 year 5 months Marie Collins
1 year 2 months Norman Griffin