



**RESOLUTION TITLE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PARTNERS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT AS GASTON COUNTY'S CHOICE FOR LME/MCO**

WHEREAS, Partners Behavioral Health Management ("Partners") has served Gaston County as the Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) for many years; and,

WHEREAS, Partners has provided exceptional and often innovative services in Gaston County in the areas of Mental Health, Substance Use, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (MH/SU/IDD), Opioid Crisis Management, Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), Whole-Person Integrated Care (WPIC) and many other related areas; and,

WHEREAS, Partners has formed and continually nurtures strong collaborative relationships and engagement with a comprehensive group of stakeholders such as City Government, County Government, Law Enforcement, Sheriff, Police, Department of Health and Human Services, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Social Services, Courts and Hospitals; and,

WHEREAS, Partners uses highly trained, caring and educated professionals to ensure provision of timely, appropriate care to all eligible consumers guided by Partners' calling of "Improving Lives. Strengthening Communities"; and,

WHEREAS, Partners uses this County's statutorily mandated maintenance of effort (MOE) funding within our County in a manner consistent with our wishes and needs; and,

WHEREAS, Partners is highly responsive to and keeps our County stakeholders and leaders well informed, including dedicated staff and communications customized to our needs and desires; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to state law, including North Carolina General Statute §122C-115(a3), North Carolina counties have a legislated right to choose their LME/MCO; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina legislative and regulatory actions are providing "Medicaid Transformation" decisions and plans – substantive and budgetary -- that might jeopardize these benefits this County enjoys being aligned with Partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Gaston County wholeheartedly and without reservation reaffirms its choice of Partners Behavioral Health Management as the LME/MCO.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any Medicaid Transformation that changes regions served by LME/MCOs and "Tailored Plans" preserve this choice that the County remain aligned with Partners and in Partners' present and future "catchment area" or "region," with full, reliable and adequate funding and authority to continue Partners' exceptional work with us and our citizens.

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**DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE**

**I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and accurate copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:**

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