



BOARD BULLETIN

April 18, 2008

Mental Health Audit – Mercer Report

Recently the State of North Carolina engaged a consulting firm to conduct a performance evaluation audit of each Local Management Entity (i.e., Sandhills Mental Health) in the State.

The evaluation focused on three (3) specific management criteria. These focus areas are financial and business operations, information technology and claims management and clinical operations and governance.

Upon review of the data aligned to these focus areas, the LMEs were scored and ranked into three tiers. Tier 1 includes all of the LMEs determined to be 6% or above the average weighted score. Tier 2 were those LMEs centered around the mean weighted score, and Tier 3 includes those LMEs 6% or below the weighted mean score.

As a reminder, Anson County is a member of the Sandhills Mental Health System. Sandhills Mental Health scored in Tier 3. This is the lowest rated tier. In comparison, Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare which includes Union, Stanly, Cabarrus and Rowan counties was rated in the top Tier (Tier 1).

Each of the LMEs were also ranked within the separate focus areas. Sandhills Mental Health was ranked in Tier 3 in two of the three areas. Sandhills is ranked in Tier 2 in the area of information technology and claims management.

The Mercer Group made several recommendations to improve the provision of mental health services. The recommendations include further regional consolidation of LME functions or the development of a centralized management entity with some local LME functions decentralized and preserved to ensure adequate local participation.

Staff will continue to actively monitor proposed legislation in the area of mental health reform. Additionally, if you would like to review a copy of the Mercer report please visit the link below:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas/announce/mercer-report4-3-08.pdf>

Water Bill Issue and Resolution

Please be aware the County experienced an issue upon transmitting water draft accounts for the month of April to our financial institution. An error was made in the transmission process that caused the system to repeat the same information that was transmitted for the month of March.

The process error has been identified so further issues can be avoided. However, this error has created issues for our customers. Since the wrong amounts were drafted, the County had to transmit the correct file. As such, customers will see two (2) debits on their monthly statement and a credit. However, due to the timing of the debits and credits, our customers experienced both debits prior to receiving the credit. Thus, in some instances accounts were overdrawn. The County will work to identify and hold these customers financially harmless for the error that occurred.

Health & Wellness Fair

The County of Anson will be holding a health and wellness fair for employees, retirees, and any municipal employees in Anson County on Friday, April 25 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please make plans to join us.

The health and wellness fair will have over 25 different vendors available to provide information, useful tips, health screenings (e.g. blood pressure, cholesterol, etc.), healthy cooking tips, fitness advise, financial information, massages, a free lunch and numerous prizes.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Special Board Mtg. Class & Comp Review	Thursday, April 24 5:30 PM Courtroom #1
Health & Wellness Fair	Friday, April 25 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Lockhart-Taylor Center
Regular Board Mtg.	Monday, May 12 6:00 PM Courtroom #1