



BOARD BULLETIN

February 22, 2008

Community Based Services and Medicaid

A recent report identifies Anson County as number one in the State with respect to non-physician (**mental health - Community Based Services**) expenses as a percentage of total Medicaid expenditures. Almost 14% (13.83%) of Anson County's Medicaid expenditures are related to non-physician services.

In fact, four (4) of the top eleven counties in the State are part of the Sandhills Mental Health Local Management Entity.

In contrast, Stanly County is the lowest county in the State with respect to non-physician services as a percentage of total Medicaid expenditures (0.12%). Further, Union County is also in the bottom five in the State at 0.47%. These counties are part of another Local Management Entity (Piedmont LME) which got a waiver to approve their own community based services outside of the State's contract with Value Options.

It is important our residents in need of mental health based programs and treatment have access to these services. At the same time it is also important to assess Anson's level of need for these services versus surrounding counties (e.g. Stanly, Union, Scotland, Davidson) which are not part of the Sandhills LME. This assessment should address several strategic questions, including, but not limited to those below:

- **Are residents in need of mental health services being underserved in surrounding counties such as Union, Stanly, and Rowan?**
- **Why are Anson's non-physician (community based services) expenses as a percentage of total Medicaid expenditures 2.5 times greater than the State average and 2.2 times greater than the average of the other economically distressed, Tier 1 counties in North Carolina?**

In an effort to ensure the appropriate level of service in Anson County, it will be important for the County to work collaboratively with Sandhills Mental Health to address these questions.

Agrarian Growth Zone Application - Economic Development

The NC Department of Commerce has an additional economic development incentive tool available to Anson County. This incentive is part of the State's Article 3J tax credit for growing businesses. Anson County businesses/industries currently qualify for a \$12,500 tax credit per job created and a 7% credit on all capital investment. Anson qualifies for incentives at this level due to its Tier 1 status.

However, there is an additional tax credit opportunity via the Agrarian Growth Zone (AGZ) designation. In order to qualify, a county must not have a municipality with 10,000 or more residents. Further, there must be a Census tract with over 20% of the residents living at or below the federally defined poverty level.

One of Anson County's six Census tracts meets this standard. This tract (9804) runs north of US 74 from US 52 east toward Morven Freight Line Road. Thus, Anson County should qualify for the AGZ designation. As such, business/industry locating or growing in this zone will be eligible for an additional \$1,000 tax credit per job or an additional \$2,000 per job if a resident from the defined zone is employed.

The Board will be asked to review information associated with this program and adopt a resolution at its March 4 meeting requesting the State's assistance in designating an AGZ in Anson County.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Regular Board Mtg.	Tuesday, March 4 4:00 PM Cooperative Ext. Building
Joint Meeting w/School Board	Tuesday, March 4 6:00 PM Cooperative Ext. Building
Regular Board Mtg.	Tuesday, April 1 6:00 PM Courtroom #1