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Sarah N. Stroud, CEO

July 25, 2017

Mr. William S. Clark
Columbus County Manager
111 Washington Street
2nd Floor
Whiteville, NC 28472

Re: Columbus County's Proposed Disengagement from Eastpointe

Dear Mr. Clark:

On behalf of Eastpointe, I am writing to express our opposition to Columbus County's proposed disengagement.

Our responsibility under the law is to ensure that every eligible citizen receives requested, medically-appropriate behavioral health services. Through the 331 in-network providers available to serve our Columbus County members, we do just that. In FY2016, Eastpointe paid \$15.1 million in Medicaid and State funds for services in Columbus County. In FY2017 that amount increased to \$16.6 million. The County represents seven percent of Eastpointe's member population and it received seven percent of the claims we paid.

Eastpointe invested the state-mandated, yearly behavioral health contributions from the County based solely on the Commissioners' judgement of what would be best for its citizens.

The Commissioners review these contributions and services annually. Despite their stated claim of looking for a better deal for their eligible citizens, they cut these contributions by 50 percent last year, from \$80,000 to \$40,000. Because County funds are spent specifically for County requests, the funding to Southeastern Regional Medical Center designated for Columbus County behavioral health needs was cut.

Eastpointe was not afforded the opportunity for discussion, or provided with detail supporting the Commissioners' behavioral health concerns, prior to this decision.

The Commissioners are making a hasty judgement without all of the facts and with a disregard for those who will be most impacted by it—those in need of behavioral health services in Columbus County.



Managing Behavioral Healthcare for the Citizens of Bladen, Columbus, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Lenoir, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Wayne, and Wilson Counties

Doing right by our members requires Eastpointe and the Commissioners to work through our differences before making decisions that affect the continuity of their care. We need to make sure these decisions help those in need, rather than just hoping to do no harm.

We urge the Commissioners to reconsider this decision to disengage.

Respectfully,



Rob Boyette
Chair, Eastpointe Human Services Board of Directors
Wilson County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Honorable Brenden H. Jones
Honorable Danny Earl Britt, Jr.
Honorable Amon E. McKenzie
Honorable James E. Prevatte
Honorable Giles E. Byrd
Honorable P. Edwin Russ
Honorable Trent Burroughs
Honorable Ricky Bullard
Honorable Charles T. McDowell
Eastpointe Board of Directors
Eastpointe Provider Network
Eastpointe Provider Council
Eastpointe Consumer and Family Advisory Committee
Eastpointe Employees