



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS

March 25, 2013

The Honorable Louis Pate, Co-Chair  
Appropriations on Health and  
Human Services  
Room 1028, Legislative Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2808

The Honorable Ralph Hise, Co-Chair  
Appropriations on Health and  
Human Services  
Room 1026, Legislative Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2808

Dear Senators Pate and Hise:

Enclosed is the interim report from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on the status of Recommendation Three from the *Blue Ribbon Commission on Transition to Community Living Final Report*.

On February 27, 2013, a workgroup convened with representatives from the various long-term supports communities, including self-advocates, family members, provider representatives, state staff, advocacy organizations, Blue Ribbon Commission members, the Senior Tarheel Legislature, the NC Institute of Medicine, and academicians. The vision is to create a seamless array of supports and to ensure community services are as readily available as facility-based options.

If you have further questions or need additional information, please contact Carol Steckel, Medicaid Director, at [Carol.Steckel@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Carol.Steckel@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-855-4100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wos", written over a horizontal line.

Aldona Wos, M.D.  
Secretary

cc:	Susan Jacobs	Carol Steckel
	Patricia Porter	Jim Slate
	Sarah Riser	Adam Sholar
	Kristi Huff	Legislative Library (one hard copy)
	Pam Kilpatrick	



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS

March 25, 2013

The Honorable Marilyn Avila, Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health  
and Human Services  
Room 2217, Legislative Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1096

The Honorable William Brisson, Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health  
and Human Services  
Room 405, Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-5925

The Honorable Mark Hollo, Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health  
and Human Services  
Room 639, Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-5925

Dear Representatives Avila, Brisson, and Hollo:

Enclosed is the interim report from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on the status of Recommendation Three from the *Blue Ribbon Commission on Transition to Community Living Final Report*.

On February 27, 2013, a workgroup convened with representatives from the various long-term supports communities, including self-advocates, family members, provider representatives, state staff, advocacy organizations, Blue Ribbon Commission members, the Senior Tarheel Legislature, the NC Institute of Medicine, and academicians. The vision is to create a seamless array of supports and to ensure community services are as readily available as facility-based options.

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## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS

March 25, 2013

The Honorable Justin Burr, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
on Health and Human Services  
Room 307A, Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-5925

The Honorable Nelson Dollar, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
on Health and Human Services  
Room 307B1, Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-5925

The Honorable Louis Pate, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
on Health and Human Services  
Room 1028, Legislative Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2808

Dear Representatives Burr and Dollar, and Senator Pate:

Enclosed is the interim report from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on the status of Recommendation Three from the *Blue Ribbon Commission on Transition to Community Living Final Report*.

On February 27, 2013, a workgroup convened with representatives from the various long-term supports communities, including self-advocates, family members, provider representatives, state staff, advocacy organizations, Blue Ribbon Commission members, the Senior Tarheel Legislature, the NC Institute of Medicine, and academicians. The vision is to create a seamless array of supports and to ensure community services are as readily available as facility-based options.

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Aldona Wos, M.D.  
Secretary

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**INTERIM REPORT ON  
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY  
LIVING REPORT:  
RECOMMENDATION THREE**



**State of North Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Medical Assistance  
April 2013**

## SUMMARY

This is the interim status report from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on Recommendation Three from the "Blue Ribbon Commission on Transition to Community Living Final Report":

*"The Department shall establish a workgroup including stakeholders, departmental personnel, and unbiased experts, to explore changes to NC's long-term care continuum, including but not limited to: expansion of waiver options and potential new licensure structure, and assuring that individuals are not unduly offered more restrictive placements than needed and are assured of receiving skilled nursing care as designated through assessment"*<sup>1</sup>

## STATUS UPDATE

On February 27, 2013, a diverse workgroup convened with representatives from the various long-term supports communities, including self-advocates, family members, provider representatives, state staff, advocacy organizations, Blue Ribbon Commission members, the Senior Tarheel Legislature, the NC Institute of Medicine, and academicians. The workgroup will integrate similar departmental initiatives, including the NC DHHS *Olmstead* Planning Committee, to minimize the duplication of efforts and to leverage the strengths and resources of all efforts.

The vision is to create a seamless array of supports to ensure community services are as readily available as facility-based options. The final response will also promote person-centered planning, individual choice, individual responsibility and access to safe, affordable housing.

Major objectives of the workgroup include:

1. Define and confirm the current continuum
2. Evaluate barriers for individuals receiving publicly funded long-term care services
3. Explore other states' strategies and synthesize these strategies along with North Carolina's previous initiatives and recommendations
4. Develop recommendations to create a comprehensive plan for Long Term Services in North Carolina

On or before October 1, 2013, DHHS will submit a final report to the General Assembly's Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House Appropriation Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services.

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<sup>1</sup> *Blue Ribbon Commission on Transitions to Community Living*, Final Report. December 19, 2012, page 18.