

Item Title: Amend Resolution Supporting Involuntary Commitment Transportation Services with UNC Healthcare System at WakeBrook

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners adopts the amended resolution supporting involuntary commitment transportation services with UNC Healthcare System, a state agency and affiliate entity of UNC on behalf of UNC hospitals, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.

Item Summary:

North Carolina General Statute 122C-251(g) provides that the Wake County Board of Commissioners may adopt a plan for transportation of respondents in involuntary commitment proceeds pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 122C of the North Carolina General Statutes.

One June 17, 2013, the Board of Commissioners approved the most recent Wake County Plan for Transportation of Wake County Involuntary Mental Commitment Respondents (attached). The State statutes allows the Board of Commissioners to designate trained law enforcement personnel, volunteers or other public or private agency personnel to provide all or parts of the transportation services required by involuntary commitment proceedings, provided such designated persons are trained to ensure the adequate safety and protection of both the public and the respondent.

In January 2015, Wake County authorized UNC Healthcare System, a State agency and affiliate entity of UNC on behalf of UNC hospitals to utilize its law enforcement officers and security personnel for this function at their own expense. UNC is authorized to transport respondents between the Wake Brook facilities, Holly Hill Hospital, and UNC Hospital's Chapel Hill facility. UNC requests that the Board of Commissioners expands this authority to include transports to Strategic Behavioral Health in Garner, NC. Strategic Behavioral Health provides inpatient care to adolescent patients. Authorizing UNC personnel to provide transportation to the facility would assist UNC with linking young people in crisis to appropriate care in a timely manner.

The amendment would become effective upon adoption and would be at no cost to Wake County. The Wake County Sheriff's Office is responsible for the Wake County Plan for Transportation of Wake County Involuntary Mental Commitment Respondents and is supportive of this request.

Attachments:

1. Amendment to the Resolution Supporting Involuntary Commitment Transportation Services with UNC Healthcare System at WakeBrook
2. Original Resolution approved January 5, 2015
3. Wake County Plan for Transportation of Wake County Involuntary Mental Commitment Respondents