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**Vaya Health Leaders Address Key Health Care Disparities in North Carolina  
at Statewide Conference**

**RALEIGH, NC** - Vaya Health leaders discussed innovative approaches aimed at improving disparities within areas of North Carolina’s health care system at the i2i Center for Integrative Health Spring Conference, held in Raleigh June 11-12.

During the conference, Dr. Heather Cree, Vice President of Pharmacy Operations at Vaya, shared Vaya’s four-year process concentrated on medication reconciliation and pharmacist review to identify and address prevalent health care disparities in North Carolina.

“I enjoyed speaking on such an essential topic and giving other healthcare professionals insight into the steps Vaya is taking to continue enhancement of our pharmacy review process,” shared Cree, who holds a doctorate in pharmacy. “Having these conversations allows us to advance our process and confront health care disparities in North Carolina.”

On June 11, Vaya’s Child and Family Treatment Continuum Director, Ashley Parks, spoke alongside Benchmark’s Senior Clinical Consultant, Sharron Roberts. They discussed Vaya’s Pathways to Permanency project, an initiative created to address systemic challenges curbing improvement for children and families concerned with child welfare.

“Our partnership with Benchmarks has been an ideal collaboration in sustaining the resources Pathways to Permanency has allowed us to promote,” said Parks. “We are excited to share the advancements that continue to come from these relationships and continue to impact behavioral health and child welfare in North Carolina.”

Vaya's continuous efforts surrounding the state's foster care population come at a critical time, as many families and caregivers face challenges related to care. By putting children, their families, and their health needs first, Vaya Health is helping to ensure that the foster care system remains strong and resilient.

To learn more about the 2024 Spring i2i Center for Integrative Health Conference and those who presented, visit: <https://i2icenter.org/spring-conference-2024>

### **About Vaya Health**

Vaya Health is a specialty managed care organization that oversees publicly funded behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disability services across a 31-county region of North Carolina. Vaya manages Medicaid, federal, state and local funding to meet member and community needs while advancing whole-person health. Together with our members, provider network and local partners, we're moving forward to a healthier North Carolina. Access to crisis assistance is available 24/7 at 1-800-849-6127. Learn more at [vayahealth.com](http://vayahealth.com).

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