

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Devika Rao

678-384-7836

devika@oneillcommunications.com

New Podcast Brings Attention to Unmet Needs Crisis for North Carolina's Disability Community

North Carolina (September 8, 2022) - The Waiting Room is the new podcast launched by Meet The Need NC, an initiative funded by the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD). This initiative is changing the intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) landscape across the state as well as recognizing systemic change for I/DD community services and supports.

[“The Waiting Room”](#) podcast shines a light on the ever growing Medicaid waitlist and unmet needs of people with I/DD in North Carolina. Currently, there are approximately 15,000 people on the Registry of Unmet Needs in this state. People on waitlists for Medicaid Waivers in other states in the U.S. have an average wait time of over two years. In North Carolina, the wait can be up to 12 years or more.

The podcast launched its first episode on September 8 with guests Talley Wells, Executive Director of The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Program Director for Meet The Need NC, Beth Field. Host of the podcast is Kenneth Kelty, an award winning motivational speaker, author and disability activist. The Waiting Room will feature new episodes twice a month, with the second one on September 22 featuring host Kenneth Kelty's story. People can access the podcast on the [Meet The Need NC website](#), [Spotify](#), or [YouTube](#).

Meet the Need NC is driven by the Leadership Alliance for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LAND), a program of the 501c3 nonprofit, Mental Health Transformation Alliance (MHTA). LAND is an advocacy organization made up of family members with I/DD “lived experience” and other professionals dedicated to improve the lives of those with I/DD and their families. The goals of the grant are not only to increase the number of waiver slots to assist more people with I/DD, but to also advocate for other ways the state can address the unmet needs of people who are on the Registry.

###

About Meet The Need NC: Meet the Need NC's mission is to change the intellectual and/or other developmental disabilities (I/DD) landscape across the state through a common agenda. The initiative's vision is to meet the service and support needs of the I/DD Community in North Carolina through: Increased services and supports, Reduced wait time on the Registry of Unmet Needs, Create informed families, Ensure equitable access, and Expand awareness and understanding.

About the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities: The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) works to assure that people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity and inclusion in all areas of community life. Through its Five-Year State Plan, the Council identifies and funds innovative projects and initiatives that promote the goals of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) for all North Carolinians.