1. **The RFP states Mecklenburg County, however, can this be done in other counties as well?**

   **A:** In this RFP we are asking for Mecklenburg County or within 45 minutes of Charlotte for both the Co-occurring Mental Health and Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (MH/I/DD) diagnoses program, and the Mental Health/Substance Use Disorders (MH/SUD) program.

2. **If you have an 18 to 21 transitional home that is connected to an existing 10 to 17 residential program; can you utilize the same ratio structure for both?**

   **A:** We only are planning youth between 10 and 17 with most being 13-16. We are referring to transition as preparation for a longer term treatment plan.

3. **How flexible is the Board-Certified ABA requirement? (Can a qualified MSW perform this function)**

   **A:** We are requiring the half time BCBA due to the numbers of youth in DSS custody who present to an emergency department who have an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. A BCBA is well trained in applied behavior analysis (ABA) and can assist in developing and teach staff to use individualized behavior intervention plans.

4. **Can you have a contract directly with DSS and the provider for this RFP?**

   **A:** Because this program is set as cost based, the entire program is fully covered in the rate. DSS contributions are with the start up portion of the program, however the contract for this program is with Alliance Health.

5. **What are you looking for in the budget besides the standard Level III staffing and program?**

   **A:** We are asking you to submit a budget on what running a program as described in the RFP scope will take. We anticipate that the population(s) are likely to need additional supports due to the high incidence of trauma and high needs for youth in need of immediate treatment, in lieu of a non-therapeutic setting or an emergency department.

6. **Any other restrictions or considerations?**

   **A:** A consideration providers may give to their proposals is to factor in that all youth will not be enrolled in school and will need temporary instruction. You may want to consider some educational supports virtually using organized programs.

7. **Can we hire a tutor since kids get behind in transition?**

   **A:** Hiring a tutor was not a part of the scope, but if you believe it to be important to the program, put it in your proposal and the budget with your rationale.