NC Council on Developmental Disabilities

Helen “Holly” Riddle Award Selection Committee

June 24, 2024

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Pam Shipman to be the recipient of this year’s Holly

Riddle Award.

In the early 80s I served as Pam’s mentor in her Special Education Master’s degree internship at the UNC Division for Disorders of Development and Learning (Now the Carolina Institute

for Developmental Disabilities). She was an exceptional student working within this multi-disciplinary setting. Her compassion and commitment were evident as she worked with individuals with disabilities and their families, and that same compassion has endured throughout her career.

When I served as Chief of Developmental Disabilities for the state, I had the good fortune to work with Pam in several other capacities as she became the Chief Operations Officer at Piedmont Behavioral

Health. PBH was the cutting edge regional BH-IDD program in the state offering unique and research-based services to children and adults. PBH became the model for our current public managed care

system. By all measures, the program Pam operated was held in high regard by consumers and families exceeding all quality goals.

When PBH converted to Cardinal Innovations, Pam became the CEO and guided that program with full attention to the needs of individuals with IDD and their families in an extraordinarily complex environment.

Pam currently serves as a volunteer Advisor to the Innovations DSP Work Group. Her guidance and support are invaluable. Families and individuals frequently call upon her to help them solve issues. Why? Because they understand that she “gets it”!

She is a pragmatic problem solver and her positive contributions to the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families

in the state of NC are immeasurable.

She would be a worthy recipient of this award and I recommend her without reservation.

Patricia B. Porter, Ph.D.

Former Chief of NC Developmental Disability Services

And Senior Policy Advisor to the NC General Assembly