



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee

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Co-Chairs: Howard Drescher, Heather Gates, Alicia Woodsby

Meeting Summary

February 20, 2013

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Value Options

**500 Enterprise Drive, 4th Floor Huntington Conference Room
Rocky Hill, CT**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 @ 2:30 PM at Value
Options, Rocky Hill**

Attendees: Co-Chair Howard Drescher, Teodoro Anderson Diaz, Alyse Chin, Daniela Giordano, Colleen Harrington, James Osbourne, Kelly Phenix, Barry Simon, Lori Szczygiel, Kathy Ulm, and Laurie Van Der Heide

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Co-Chair Howard Drescher convened the meeting at 2:37 PM, welcomed everyone and said that this was the first meeting of 2013 since the sub-group is working with DMHAS on the Behavioral Health Home project, which is taking longer than expected and is still on-going. The focus on Adult Quality, Access and policy will once again be the prime theme of this committee. Introductions were made. Howard then told the committee of the Governor's proposal (HB 6367) to eliminate the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council and of the efforts in trying to save it. He said it is important for members to testify in support of the Council before the Appropriations and the Human Services Committees and advised the group to take quick action for these committees are having hearings at the end of the week and at the beginning of next week.

Discussion

Outcomes and Performance: At the December Council meeting when the agencies presented the annual statistical reports (as required by legislation), many people were looking for the meaning in the numbers. As one participant asked, “Is anyone actually getting better?” Trying to answer that question is an important goal of the committee. Discussion centered on identifying relevant data and the next steps to take. Lori Szczygiel said that Value Options has developed a compelling presentation based on seven years of data on children’s programs. There is now almost two years worth of data on the adult program that can contribute to a better level of understanding and indicate where gaps may be. Kelly Phenix said that if there are any gaps, it could be because not all clients know what services are available to them. DMHAS and VO will also be able to analyze data across different data sets to improve results. On the subject of data analysis, Teodoro Anderson Diaz talked about Scott Miller from the International Center for Clinical Excellence in Chicago and how he has developed his Client Informed Outcome Driven Therapy, in which clients rate success. Alyse Chin said that when people take ownership of their care and are more informed about their medication, this often leads to better outcomes. At the same time, this tends to keep people out of the emergency rooms and hospitals. Value Options will present at the next meeting on the results of the Home Health Initiative, aimed at improving recovery.

Age Appropriate Services for Young Adults: This is an issue raised by the *Keep the Promise Coalition*. According to KTP, “Young adults with mental health needs are especially vulnerable as they age out of DCF and some transition to DMHAS. There is sufficient data to evaluate the effectiveness and long term outcomes of those who transition, as well as those who do not. However, the rising number of homeless young adults raises serious concerns. The state must report on the status and outcomes of these young adults to ensure that all youth with mental health needs receive appropriate supports and services.” There is no clear idea to what happens to children who age out of DCF and how many continue to DMHAS. Dr. Laurie Van Der Heide said about 1000 children annually are referred from DCF to DMHAS for service. Daniela Giordano said there is a great need to engage young adults because they are willing to tell you what their needs are. Lori said that young adults tend to open up and do better when they are in group settings. The committee invited Daniela to report again on the subject after the General Assembly session ends in June.

Enhanced Care Clinics: The issue relates to access Alyse Chin of DMHAS said DSS put a moratorium on new clinic appointments several years ago, freezing at the current number of 34. There are 18 clinics for adults only and the rest are for child and life span. The CT BHP which includes DMHAS, DSS, DCF and Value Options is currently conducting site visits to the ECCs and will finish up in late March. There is information available regarding access for the years 2007 to the present. In 2012, there were 11,000 evaluations done on hospitals, FQHCs and now ECCs that give outpatient services. Access for routine care is measured and more information will be available after the site visits. DMHAS agreed to share reports from these site visits to the committee in September 2013.

Consumer, Youth and Family Advisory Group: A new ad hoc council committee to strengthen the voice of consumers, youth and family in the work of the council is seeking input from the Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee to help this group to develop key points to describe the work of the Oversight Council to outside audiences. One suggestion was to start with the mission statements of each of the Oversight Council's committees to develop an approach to educate clients and the general public about the work of the BHPOC. Value Options has a committee by the same name and is made up of young adults. It has its own organization charter and board. Many of its members come from the Hartford and New Haven communities. Lori Szczygiel has invited members of the BHPOC and its committees to come to any of the VO Youth and Family Advisory meetings and has offered the use of any of its resources. She also suggested that the time the BHPOC meets which is the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00 PM is hard for clients to get to and perhaps a different time of day would be better to get more consumer participation.

New Business and Announcements

Committee member, Teodoro Anderson Diaz announced that this would be his last meeting since he will be starting a new position with First Choice in East Hartford. Other members encouraged him to stay on representing his new position. He said that he would look into it. Behavioral Health Homes will be a major topic for the March Committee Meeting. Hearing no other items, Co-Chair Howard Drescher adjourned the meeting at 4:26 PM.

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