



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

### **Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee**

Legislative Office Building Room 3000, Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 240-0346 Info Line (860) 240-8329 FAX (860) 240-5306  
[www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC](http://www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC)

---

*Co-Chairs: Paul Acker, Dr. Frank Fortunati, and Heather Gates*

#### **Meeting Summary**

**April 10, 2018**

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor CCNA**

**35 Cold Springs Road Suite 522, Rocky Hill, CT**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 @ 3:00 PM at CCNA,  
Rocky Hill**

*Attendees: Co-Chair Heather Gates, Alyse Chin (DMHAS), Bill Halsey (DSS), Colleen Harrington, Beth Klink, Sara Magistro, Mariette McCourt, and Bert Plant (Beacon)*

#### **Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Co-Chair Heather Gates convened the meeting at 3:09 PM, welcomed everyone and introductions were then made. She said that the meeting was focusing on reconvening and discussing topics that would be of concern to the best interests of the consumers in the behavioral health system.

#### **Outpatient Service Engagement**

Co-Chair Heather Gates commenced the discussion on getting people discharged and getting them connected to services. If they are immediately connected, they may go once or twice but may not continue because they are not engaged in their own treatment. It is critical that no more than 48 hours pass before they seek treatment otherwise, they may not seek treatment. This causes problems because relapse will likely result. For opiate addicts, continuing treatment means keeping them alive. The discussion focused in on what are the obstacles. Same day induction was also talked about then people are more likely to return to treatment for a third, fourth or fifth time. Bill Halsey (DSS) said that patients who are enrolled in Behavioral Health Homes have a better track record of

returning for treatment and medication adherence. Bert Plant (Beacon) conferred that they have a better record staying in connection to treatment. Heather said these are the people with diagnostic severe and persistent depression, schizophrenia. Heather suggested it may be a capacity and not an engagement issue. Bert said that it is important not to forget about alcohol addiction. The Opioid Crisis is getting much more attention these days.

### **Opioid Dependent Treatment and Follow-up from October Presentation –General Discussion**

There was a short discussion on the Methadone Program versus Suboxone Treatment. This report may be given to the full BHPOC at a later date in the year.

### **Emergency Department Issues- Specifically related to Lack of Housing**

This discussion was postponed for a later date due to lack of time.

### **New Business, Announcements, and Adjournment**

Co-Chair Heather Gates thanked everyone for the thoughtful discussion and asked for new business or announcements. Hearing nothing else, she announced the next meeting is Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at Alliance Office in Rocky Hill. She then adjourned the meeting at 4:34 PM.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 @ 3:00 PM at CCNA (formerly CCPA), Rocky Hill, CT**