

# Meeting Summary for Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee

## Zoom Meeting

Sep 10, 2024 10:19 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada) ID: 999 5563 4159

### Quick recap

The meeting focused on the Behavioral Health program for Medicaid members with complex needs and challenges in serving underserved populations. Discussions included increasing program enrollment, identifying successful and struggling clinics, and potentially expanding eligibility criteria. The upcoming 9th annual ICANN Conference on mental health and addiction recovery was announced.

### Next steps

Fred Morton to send the PowerPoint presentation to the committee members.

Co-Chair Howard Drescher to follow up with Dr. Ece Tek about presenting data on psychiatric outcome measures to the Council in the coming year.

Brenetta Henry to continue organizing the 9th annual iCAN Conference on September 26th, 2024.

DMHAS to explore ways to identify and support similar populations currently being served outside of the LMHA system.

Rob Haswell and Fred Morton to continue efforts to increase enrollment across the state for eligible individuals in the Behavioral Health Home program.

DMHAS to consider exploring psychiatric outcome measures for future tracking in the Behavioral Health Home program.

Committee members to register for the iCAN Conference if interested in attending.

Brenetta to continue seeking vendors and sponsorships for the ICANN Conference.

### Summary

#### Behavioral Health Home Presentation and Updates

The meeting was attended by Neva, Sabrina, Terri, and others, and was recorded for a summary. Howard initiated the discussion, and David confirmed they were not on CTN. Fred agreed to send David the presentation. Fred then presented on the behavioral health home as requested by the committee, and Sabrina thanked him and others for participating.

#### Behavioral Health Program and SPMI Eligibility

Fred Morton, a program manager with DMHAS' office of Commissioner, managed Services Division, discussed the Behavioral Health (BH) program, which aims to coordinate care for Medicaid members with complex needs. He highlighted the prevalence of co-occurring medical conditions among individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and the underserved nature of this population by primary care. Fred also explained the role of providers in promoting health and providing individual and family supports and clarified the criteria for eligibility for the SPMI program. Howard raised concerns about the underserved nature of the SPMI population and the potential for delayed recognition of health issues, while Brenetta expressed concern about the utilization of medical health homes based on demographics and ethnicity. Fred confirmed that he had data on this and would provide it later. Howard confirmed that the information shared was HIPAA compliant.

#### Addressing Underserved Populations and Data Challenges

Howard, Brenetta, Fred, and Sabrina discussed the challenges of serving underserved populations, particularly those dealing with mental health issues and homelessness. They identified the need for better data on demographics and community-level information to better target services. Fred proposed the idea of investing time and effort into neighborhood-level data to identify areas of need. Howard and Fred also discussed the limitations of the current system, noting that it only serves patients currently being served by the LMHAs. Sabrina raised the question of whether similar support could be provided to populations outside of the LMHA system, and Rob confirmed that this was a guiding principle in Fred's presentation.

#### Increasing Program Enrollment and Eligibility

The meeting discussed the need to increase the number of people admitted into the behavioral health program, particularly focusing on those who are eligible but not currently enrolled. The team also discussed the importance of identifying who is doing well and who is struggling within the clinics, and how to utilize this information to increase enrollment across the state. The conversation also touched on the potential for expanding the program to include individuals who may not meet the current \$10,000 spend limit but have specific diagnoses that could benefit from the program's support. The team also discussed the need to streamline the process for providers to determine eligibility and the potential for revising the \$10,000 spend limit. Lastly, the meeting highlighted the importance of understanding demographic differences within the program to better serve the population.

#### Behavior at Home Program and Annual Conference

Dr. Ece Tec and Fred Morton discussed the 'Behavior at Home' program, which aims to maximize health, prevent diseases, and reduce healthcare costs. Ece questioned the tracking of psychiatric outcomes, but Fred clarified that the program focuses more on physical health outcomes. Jeannie from Caroline joined the meeting and discussed the suite of measures used annually, including process and outcome measures, with a focus on reducing higher levels of care usage and tracking preventative care measures. Ece acknowledged the similarities between their approach and Jeannie's measures and expressed interest in presenting their outcomes at a future meeting. Howard suggested that Ece's presentation could be valuable for the Council. Brenetta then announced the upcoming 9th annual iCAN Conference, focusing on mental health and addiction recovery.