



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee

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Co-Chairs: Sherry Perlstein, Hal Gibber, & Robert Franks

Meeting Summary

Friday, June 15, 2012

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Value Options

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

**Next Meeting: Friday, August 17, 2012 @ 2 PM at Value Options,
Rocky Hill**

Attendees: Co-Chair Robert Franks, Co-Chair Hal Gibber, Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein, Karen Andersson, Sarah Becker, Lois Berkowitz, Sarah Brdar, Alyse Chin, Jacquelyn Farrell, Elizabeth Garrigan, Steve Girelli, Scot Greco, Irvin Jennings, Marcy Kane, Colleen Kearney, Beth Klink, Mickey Kramer, Steve Moore, Ken Mysogland, Paul Piccine, Lynne Ringer, Hillary Teed, Robert Tencza, and, Laurie Van Der Heide

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Co-Chair Robert Franks commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone and introductions were made.

Quality and Access Data

Review of Enhanced Care Clinic Data- Laurie Van Der Heide, Value Options

Review of outpatient ECC (Enhanced Care Clinic) Data and Update on activities ECC and other Outpatient Utilization Comparison was presented by Dr. Laurie Van Der Heide. Laurie explained that ECCs are free standing and hospital clinics. The data from this report goes back to 2011 because that is when HUSKY C & D were included into Medicaid. There are currently 34 ECCs and secondary sites in Connecticut. The ECC designation applies to providers only. By meeting certain goals and saving costs, ECCs qualify for 25% more of rates from the State. Because of limited resources, there are no immediate plans to expand ECC sites. The data presented indicated the ECCs appear to be

meeting their goals and expanding access to behavioral health services for children and families across the state



Microsoft PowerPoint
Presentation



Adobe Acrobat
Document



Adobe Acrobat
Document

Laurie also gave the presentation on an Upcoming Survey of ECC Performance on Policy Transmittal Issues Web Registration Responses. Co-chair Robert Franks gave a brief history on the Registration Templates and Laurie pointed out that some information is really non-actionable; it's Quality Improvement versus Utilization Data.

Policy

Foster Care and Adoption Services- Ken Mysogland, Department of Children and Families



Microsoft PowerPoint
Presentation

Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein introduced Ken Mysogland, MSW, DCF Director of Office of Foster Care and Adoption Services. Ken presented an overview to the foster care initiative “We All Need Somebody: Supporting Children, Families and the Workforce in Connecticut’s Foster Care System”. He provided preliminary data on progress made on the goals of this DCF priority initiative, and the policy and practice changes implemented in the Foster Care System to support success. He emphasized the connection between this initiative and the department’s new Mission: *In partnership with families and the community, all children and youth served by the Department will grow up healthy, safe, smart, and strong.*

DCF has moved towards a more flexible approach to background checks and other standards for approving and licensing foster care families, with a particular emphasis on trying to make accommodations needed to qualify close relatives and families in the child’s natural network of support. He noted that issues in the background of a potential foster family, is not always an indicator of how well foster parents will do in the future. Ken spoke candidly of the burden on DCF staff when “things go wrong,” and the tendency to be risk averse. Training for supervisors and managers at all levels are emphasizing the agency’s goals and the importance of trying to work more collaboratively and share risk in decision making. At the beginning of DCF involvement and at the time of placement, wrap around services will aid and assist families with pro-active tangible supports that will prevent problems down the road.

He discussed research findings that demonstrate when a child is originally placed with family or a close relative, there is a better chance the child will not have to

be moved to another foster placement and overall outcomes for the child are more successful than when placed in stranger-care. He noted there is a retention problem for qualified foster families and the Department is conducting targeted recruitment of foster families for newborns, adolescents and medically complex kids.

Discussion

The report was well received. Questions were raised about whether these changes were slowing down the placement process, whether it takes too long for non-traditional things to get approved, and whether the requirement that children stay in their home school district was another barrier. Committee members emphasized the importance of continuing to track key data noting, the bottom line is: are these youth going to be better off? It was suggested that the Department look at their own outcomes with family vs. stranger foster care.

New Business and Announcements Co-Chair Hal Gibber thanked Ken for his presentation calling him the right man for the right job and urged DCF to continue tracking of the youth in their care and custody. He then thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. Upon hearing no comments or questions, he adjourned the meeting at 4:12 PM.

****Friday, August 17, 2012 @ 2 PM at Value Options, Rocky Hill (Cancelled). Next Meeting: Friday, September 21, 2012 @ 2 PM at Value Options, Rocky Hill**