



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee

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www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC

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

Meeting Summary

Friday, March 15, 2013

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Value Options

**500 Enterprise Drive, 3rd Floor Hartford Conference Room
Rocky Hill, CT**

Next Regular Meeting: Friday, April 19, 2013 @ 2 PM at Value Options, Rocky Hill

Attendees: Co-Chair Hal Gibber, Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein, Karen Andersson, Muhammad Wadar Azeem, Dr. Kathleen Balestracci, Jennifer Barba, Sarah Becker, Lois Berkowitz, Lindsay Betzendahl, Carrie Bourdon, Liz Bryden, Rick Calvert, Jessica Dubey, Elizabeth Garrigan, Steve Girelli, Hector Glynn, Mary Gratton, Stuart Greenbaum, Janice Gruendel, Bill Halsey, Peg Hardy, Kim Haugabook, Christy Jackson, Irvin Jennings, Colleen Kearney, David Klein, Beth Klink, Mark Krutzman, Robert McKeagney, Elizabeth Murdoch, Allyson Nadeau, Joan Narad, Joan Neveski, Stella Ntate, Ann Phelan, Kelly Phenix, Dr. Yann Poncin, Heidi Pugliese, Lynne Ringer, Joni Beth Roderick, Alyssa Rose, Cheryl Smith, Maureen Smith, Karen Stillman, Lori Szczygiel, Hillary Teed, Laurie Van Der Heide, and Mark Van Soost

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein commenced the meeting at 2:02 PM. Members and guests of the committee introduced themselves. Sherry noted that today's review of BHP 2011 and 2012 hospitalization data for children age 12 and under was suggested by DCF Deputy Commissioner Gruendel in follow-up to the January discussion of the committee regarding the planned closing of the beds for young children at the Solnit Center. She thanked the BHP for the tremendous strides in advancement in healthcare. For April, Deputy Commissioner Gruendel has suggested the committee co-host a joint meeting with DCF and key constituents, including hospital representatives, to further discuss issues related

to the hospitalization of children age 12 and under. **This meeting will be on April 12, 2013 in the Hartford Conference Room on the third floor at Value Options in Rocky Hill at 2:00 PM.**

Review of BHP 2011 & 2012 Hospitalization Data for Children 12 and Under –DCF Deputy Commissioner Janice Gruendel

- Inclusive of the Solnit Center and all other Hospitals with Psychiatric Beds for this Age Group
- Developing a Better Understanding of the Service Needs of this Population and their families



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Deputy Commissioner of DSS, Janice Gruendel said this document is about data and she thanked the Committee for working together. This presentation was a first of a three-part process of where DCF needs to be. She thanked the Value Options staff for their hard work and effort in putting together this report. She emphasized that this is not a picture of where the (DCF) children have been before they were involved in the system. This report does not tell what happened after they were dismissed from the system- only what happened to them when they were in the system. Step Two will take place on April 12, 2013 when DCF will listen and take all questions to bring back for a public conversation sometime in May. Karen Andersson presented the report entitled: **Young Children and Inpatient Care: An Analysis of HUSKY Data.**

Discussion

Many questions were taken from the large diverse audience on diagnosis, hospital and emergency room delays, systems of care coordination, acute in-patient units, and discharge planning. Deputy Commissioner Gruendel talked about the MCPAP program and she said no one mentioned race in terms of children being serviced. Follow-up to all questions will be done sometime in May. Robert McKeagney, DCF Administrator for Clinical & Community Consultation & Support summarized by saying the questions that need to be asked include: 1.) With 700 kids going to hospitals and emergency rooms each year, what is happening, what is going on, what to do about it? 2.) What is missing from the system, what is needed to be put in place for support-crisis respite programs? 3.) With 20 children at Solnit each year, how to deal with their exceptions compassionately, what type of safety valve program, participant driven is needed?

Consumer, Youth and Family Advisory Group:



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Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein recognized her Co-chair Hal Gibber to talk about a new initiative for a consumer forum to be known as the **Consumer, Youth, and Family Advisory Committee**. Hal said that this would be an ad hoc committee of the CT Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council. Its *Purpose* is to strengthen the voice and influence of consumers, youth and families in the work of the BHPOC to guide policy and action on behalf of the public. Through a process of regular outreach, education and feedback, the committee will seek several *Outcomes*:

- Greater awareness among consumers, youth and families of the mission and work of the BHP and its oversight Council.
- Greater involvement of consumers, youth and families in the BHPOC through feedback to council members, attendance at meetings of the council and its key committees, and recruitment of new council members advocating for these constituencies.
- Formulation of a better-defined agenda for consumers, youth and families as a basis for engagement, and guidance for policy and action.

Co-Chair Howard Drescher of the Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee introduced this new ad hoc committee last month to his committee.

Next Steps would include:

- Creating a core team to work with Hal Gibber and Howard Drescher to prepare presentations and other material to begin outreach and education.
- Designing an initial survey to assess the current state of understanding of the BHP and Oversight Council among consumers, youth and families and gather information about their needs, concerns and key issues for advocacy.
- Identifying key groups to begin outreach, including but not limited to such organizations as RMHBs and CACs, advocacy organizations i.e. affiliates of NAMI-CT and FAVOR, and other interested groups.

This new ad hoc council committee will strengthen the voice of consumers, youth and family in the work of the council. Hal is seeking input from the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee to help this group to develop key points to describe the work of the Oversight Council to outside audiences. 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.

New Business and Announcements

Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein reminded the committee that the next meeting in this series with DCF will be on April 12, 2013 and announced that the next regular meeting for the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee would be

on Friday, April 19, 2013 at 2:00 PM in the same room at Value Options. She thanked Deputy Commissioner Gruendel and Robert McKeagney for their attendance and for giving the presentation. Upon hearing no comments or questions, she adjourned the meeting at 3:43 PM.

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