



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

### **Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee**

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

#### **Meeting Summary**

**Friday, April 19, 2013**

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Value Options**

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

### **Next Regular Meeting: Friday, May 17, 2013 @ 2 PM at Value Options, Rocky Hill**

*Attendees: Co-Chair Hal Gibber, Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein, Karen Andersson, Dr. Kathleen Balestracci, Jennifer Barba, Lois Berkowitz, Jennifer Bogin, Carrie Bourdon, Sharon Dexter, Jessica Dubey, Mary Gratton, Bill Halsey, Irvin Jennings, Allyson Nadeau, Joan Narad, Ann Phelan, Kathy Schiessl, Dr. Laurie Van Der Heide, and Jeff Vanderploeg, plus four unidentified others*

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

Co-Chair Hal Gibber commenced the meeting at 2:09 PM. Members and guests of the committee took their seats and introduced themselves.

#### **Autism Feasibility Study by Jennifer Bogin- DDS Director, Division of Autism**



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#### **Discussion**

Connecticut does not currently have a comprehensive coordinated service system to address the needs of individuals with autism or their families. Services are available through individual school districts, small programs in state agencies

and private practitioner, but these are inconsistent in approach and quality and do not meet the level of need. Co-chair Hal Gibber spoke about how many of his friends and colleagues have family members who are on the Autism Spectrum. Jennifer Bogin, DDS Director of the Division of Autism and presenter said that unfortunately, many children are not eligible for services because their IQs are above 69. Bill Halsey of DSS summarized saying that the Autism Feasibility Study began with a law passed, Section 27, Public Act 11-6 that required a study of issues related to the needs of persons with ASD, including the feasibility of a Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. The study began in May 2011 led by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and included the Departments of Developmental Services (DDS), Mental Health and Addiction services (DMHAS), Education (SDE), Children and Families (DCF) and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) as well as providers, academics, advocates, and consumer representatives. Areas that were examined were the need of services for this growing population, non-coordinating and gaps in the service system, national prevalence, key findings and recommendations on evidence based practices.

The **Goals** that were identified:

1. Improve and Expand Access to Qualified Professionals and Effective Services (Clinical Interventions and Community Support Services)
2. Improve and expand Access to Training, Consultation, and Learning Opportunities for Providers, Professionals and Families
3. Improve and Expand Access to a Comprehensive Service Resource Guide
4. Implement Effective Services
5. Analyze Public and Private Reimbursement for ASD services

The official start date is set for July, 1, 2013.

### **Follow-up of BHP 2011 & 2012 Hospitalization Data for Children 12 and Under and Summary of Discussion of DCF April 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Karen Andersson (DCF) said that Step Two took place on April 12, 2013 when DCF listened and took questions in an open mike session with about 50 participants from a wide array of parents, advocacy groups, providers, and state agencies for a public conversation that will be reported and summarized in a wrap-up session by Deputy Commissioner Gruendel for the next committee meeting on May 17, 2013. DCF found that that there were more children in the state under 12 who were getting services outside of Solnit than the 22 person cluster that Solnit had in DCF care. Issues that was re-enforced:

1. Role of Schools- broaden the net-how to help schools address the needs of early intervention.
2. Commercial Insurance-how to address this need for children.
3. What to do with needy children under age 12? Who are they, what services are needed to meet their needs? Six months of intervention is not enough.

4. Unique children with unique problems.
5. Therapeutic foster care-what training is needed for parents, etc., what is not working?

Co-chair Sherry Perlstein requested that a pro-active group be put together for recommendations for some real services that can do something for the 12 and under population in the state. Karen said that she would bring this request back to Deputy Commissioner Gruendel and Robert McKeagney, DCF Administrator for Clinical & Community Consultation & Support.

### **New Business and Announcements**

Hearing no new business, comments, or issues, Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein reminded the committee that the next meeting will be on Friday, May 17, 2013 at 2:00 PM in the same room at Value Options. She thanked Jennifer and Bill for their presentation and Karen for her follow-up and she adjourned the meeting at 4:02 PM.

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