



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

Child/Adolescent 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

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

Meeting Summary
Friday, May 17, 2013
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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

Next Regular Meeting: Friday, June 21, 2013 @ 2 PM at Value Options, Rocky Hill

Attendees: Co-Chair Robert Franks, Co-Chair Hal Gibber, Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein, Dr. Kathleen Balestracci, Jennifer Barba, Jamey Bell, Lois Berkowitz, Christine Dauser, Jessica Dubey, Jacquelyn Farrell, Elizabeth Garrigan, Stuart Greenbaum, Dep. Comm. Janice Gruendel, Bill Halsey, Colleen Harrington, Jennifer Hutchinson, Colleen Kearney, Mickey Kramer, Kate Maldonado, Tim Marshall, Robert McKeagney, Stephen Merz, Joan Narad, Lisa Niman, Kelly Phenix, Yann Poncin, Joni Beth Roderick, Gary Steck, Lori Szczygiel, Dr. Laurie Van Der Heide, Susan Walkama, and Dr. Rose Yu-Chin, plus seven unidentified others

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Co-Chair Robert Franks commenced the meeting at 2:05 PM. Members and guests of the committee took their seats and introduced themselves.

Responding to the Mental Health Needs of Ct's Children: follow-up on Inpatient Rates of Children Age 12 and Under, and Feedback Provided to DCF from Stakeholders Regarding Related System Issues – Janice Gruendel, DCF Deputy Commissioner and

Robert McKeagney, DCF Administrator Clinical & Community Consultation & Support



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Discussion

Deputy Commissioner Gruendel talked about the policy changes for emissions to the Solnit Center and how DCF is “fixing the holes in the system” by incorporating the participants’ comments and questions from the April 12, 2103 discussion forum (see above document). Currently there are 551 children age 12 and under with 1187 adolescents with hospitalizations statewide with a 90% to 93% no discharge delay and a 70% to 71% no current DCF involvement and with primary diagnoses ranging from; mood disorders, disorders first diagnosed in childhood to anxiety and stress disorders. Kelly Phenix said that she would like to see a “10 Step Transition List” provided for 18 year olds who will transition from the DCF system to the DSS or DMHAS systems. Emergency room delays were discussed and Lori Szyczgiel said that everyday her organization (VO) calls hospitals to monitor EDs and asks the hospitals if VO can do anything to help them. Many times it is reported that there is no ED and yet VO finds out weeks later EDs do exist in those hospitals. She said it may be a cultural difference in recognizing and determining ED. She would like the Child/Adolescent Quality Access & Policy Committee to invite these hospitals to come to a meeting so that the topic of ED can be discussed. Lisa Niman, Child Psychiatrist at CCMC talked about re-evaluations and said the conversation with the hospitals could focus on why “kids are stuck” in EDs? The conversation continued with a lengthy discussion of Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS) on why ED is occurring for children and adolescents. Co-chair Bob Franks summed it up by saying that a short-term strategy is needed as well as a long-term solution. He said that the BHP continues its pledge to work cooperatively along the side of DCF. He indicated that the committee is open for more future conversations around this topic.

Information Regarding the Federal Requirements to Include Lifespan (all ages) in the Health Home Model

Jennifer Hutchinson (DMHAS) spoke about the adult and the child systems of the Behavioral Health Home model and what solution would work best for both populations. To date, the governor’s budget includes \$10 million to DMHAS for the implementation of Behavioral Health Homes which would require a state plan amendment. Co-chair Bob Franks asked if the two models for adults and children were separate, parallel or the same. That answer is under review. Kelly Phenix told the committee that she was recently appointed by Representative Larry Cafero to the Mental Health Task Force that has been mandated under the recently passed SB 1160, now PA 3-13. Adult Quality, Access & Policy

Committee Co-chair Heather Gates said that her committee sub-grouped has spent eight months working cooperatively with DMHAS on the logistics of the Behavioral Health Home model and hopes that it will be presented to the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council within the coming months.

New Business and Announcements

Hearing no new business, comments, or issues, Co-Chair Bob Franks reminded the committee that at the next meeting on Friday, June 21, 2013 at 2:00 PM in the same room at Value Options, Martha Stone of the Center for Children's Advocacy will give a report on: Disproportionate Minority Contacts of Children in the Juvenile Justice System. He thanked Janice and Bob for their presentation and for the work the Department has done to date in this area and adjourned the meeting at 4:13 PM.

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