



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

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

Legislative Office Building Room 3000, Hartford, CT 06106  
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**[www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC](http://www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC)**

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*Co-Chairs: Steve Girelli, Jeff Vanderploeg & Hal Gibber*

**Meeting Summary**  
**Wednesday, April 20, 2016**  
**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Beacon Health Options**  
**Rocky Hill, CT**

**Next Meeting: May 18, 2016 @ 2:00 PM**  
**at Beacon Health Options, Rocky Hill**

**Attendees:** *Steve Girelli (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), Dr. Kathleen Balestracci, Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF), Dr. Eliot Brenner, Sean Cronin, Samantha Forbes, Elizabeth Garrigan (Beacon), Mikaela Honhongua, Dr. Irvin Jennings, Danielle Knox, Mary Anne O'Neill, Kim Nelson, Heather Paluso, Ann Phelan (Beacon), Donyale Pina, Maureen Reault, Gregory Simpson, Janessa Stawitz, Kimberly Turner-Haugabook, and one more*

### **Introductions:**

Co-Chair Steve Girelli convened the meeting at 2:05 PM. He explained that his Co-Chair, Jeff Vanderploeg was away at a conference. He asked members to be sure to sign the attendance list and introductions were made. He then introduced Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF) for the first presentation of the meeting.

### **Federal Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) Grant – Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF)**



ChildAdol4-2016Certi  
fied Community Beha'

Dr. Berkowitz gave the background for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics. She said it stemmed from the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) of 2014 Section 223 that authorized the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish CCBHCs. Connecticut was one of 24 states awarded a one-year planning grant by SAMHSA. Department criteria to certify the program is that it must be a Life-Span demonstration program model with prospective per member per month (PMPM) payment system. The lifespan requirement has posed a particular challenge, since Connecticut is one of only five states that have a distinct children's mental health system. Originally the Federal Government had \$2 million for initial grants for planning purposes for twenty-four states but that was pared down to \$1million. The grant funding is equivalent to the CHIP program for children. DSS is the lead applicant with

partners of DCF and DMHAS. In August of 2015, the state agency partners sent out an RFA asking providers to be certified as a CCBHC. It resulted in six providers being accepted out of which only two will be selected to be part of the state's application in October of this year to be one of eight states to receive a federal two-year Demonstration Grant. The beginning of that grant has been pushed back from January to July of next year.

For full report- see above.

## **Summary of the CHA Youth Emergency Department Forum and Recommendations- Mary Anne O'Neill and Sam Forbes (Beacon)**



ChildAdol4-2016 ED  
Child Forum Summary

Samantha Forbes and Mary Anne O'Neill both from Beacon Health Options presented the summary of the CHA Youth Emergency Department Forum that was held at the end of January 2016. This forum included 100 participants, representing 14 hospitals, as well as State Department of Education, EMPS programs, and other stakeholders.

The **Purpose** of the forum was to align stakeholders in a mutual effort to improve and coordinate system responses to children in behavioral health crises. The **Goals** of the forum:

- to raise awareness regarding pediatric behavioral health ED utilization
- Identify and highlight the characteristics of children and youth that have multiple ED visits (Frequent Visitors)
- Brainstorm strategies, resources, measures, and barriers for improving crisis response and ED utilization

### **The four areas of concern with Pediatric BH ED Utilization**

- High Volume
- Frequent Visitors
- "Stuck" Children
- Poor Care Connections

They particularly highlighted and entertained discussion and questions regarding **Suggested Strategies from Break-Out Groups** (slide 15 of PowerPoint) and added to those suggestions targeting outreach to schools that make disproportionately high ED referrals.

See above for the full report.

### **New Business and Announcements**

Co-Chair Steve Girelli reminded the committee that the next meeting is on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 2:00 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill. He asked for any new business or announcements. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 3:27 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 @ 2:00 PM, 3rd Floor, Hartford Conference Room, Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill**