



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee

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www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC

Co-Chairs: Steve Girelli & Jeff Vanderploeg

Meeting Summary
Wednesday, January 18, 2017
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Beacon Health Options
Rocky Hill, CT

Next Meeting: February 8, 2017 @ 2:00 PM
at Beacon Health Options, Rocky Hill

Attendees: *Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg (Co-Chair), Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF), Rick Calvert, Sarah Crowell, Beth Garrigan (Beacon), Susan Graham, Bill Halsey, Jo Hawke, Lisa Honigfeld, Dr. Irvin Jennings, Yvonne Jones (Beacon), Susan Kelly, Evelyn Melendez, Kim Nelson, Ann Phelan (Beacon), Donyale Pina (DCF), Heidi Pugliese, Maureen Reault (DSS), Dr. Sherrie Sharp (Beacon), Janessa Stawitz (DOJ), and Beresford Wilson*

Introductions:

Co-Chair Jeff Vanderploeg convened the meeting at 2:06 PM and introductions were made.

Access Mental Health Annual Report- Beth Garrigan, LPC (Beacon) Director, Access Mental Health CT



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CESS Mental Health pCESS FY'16 Annual R

Beth Garrigan (Beacon) reported that there are twenty-seven (27) states nationwide that have a program similar to Connecticut's *Access Mental Health*. Connecticut's program is based on the Massachusetts program. Beth began her presentation by stating that one-half of people with mental illness showed symptoms by age fourteen (14) and that there is a significant shortage of Child/Adolescent psychiatrists, with only 8,300 nationwide (ratio of clients to psychiatrists is 1 for every 1800 youth in need). The Access Mental Health program enhances access to child/adolescent psychiatry by enrolling eligible pediatric primary care practices to receive free consultation from three Access Mental Health hubs across the state. The three hubs are operated by Hartford Healthcare, Wheeler Clinic, and Yale New Haven Hospital, and each hub covers approximately 272,000 youth. At this point, 83% of the state's pediatric primary care practices are enrolled in Access MH, which includes 1,504 prescribing physicians. At the end of two years of the Access Mental Health program, 69% of all enrolled practices contacted their hub at

least once. A total of 11,081 consults have been provided to date, for 2,331 unique youth. For the full report, see icons above.

Access to Child and Adolescent Psychiatry- Rick Calvert MSW, LCSW Chief Executive Officer (Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT)



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Rick Calvert (Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT) presented on the topic of, “*Meeting Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Service Demand in Connecticut: Challenges and Possible Strategies.*” For the full report, see above icon.

Discussion

The focus of this presentation was on the shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists in Connecticut, the possible inclusion of telemental health services in Connecticut’s Medicaid state plan, and the possibility of an expanded scope of practice for psychiatric nurse practitioners to include such functions as signing off on treatment plans. There was a question to clarify what a Medicaid “state plan amendment” is, and what would be required. Bill Halsey described it as a contract between Connecticut and the federal government (The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, or CMS) for the delivery of Medicaid-covered services. Submitting a Medicaid state plan allows for CT to receive a federal match of approximately 50% for all claims submitted, which comes back to Connecticut. Any changes made to the plan require a state plan amendment, a process which may take years from the point of development and submission, to final approval by the federal government. Mr. Halsey explained that the federal government will not provide a match for any service that is not included in the plan, and approved by CMS. Mr. Calvert was asked if telepsychiatry was cost-neutral. He said he did not believe it would be a cost-neutral service, but it would improve access to psychiatry which is limited already.

Update from Consumer and Family Advisory Council: Sarah Crowell, Yvonne Jones (Beacon), and Sue Graham (Family Champion)

Yvonne Jones (Beacon), Sarah Crowell, and Sue Graham provided an update on the proceedings of the Consumer and Family Advisory Council (CFAC), and their work to increase communication between their group and the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council and its committees. The group will be initiating a suggestion/question box for members of both councils. A brochure is currently being reviewed and edited to attract more people to the CFAC. Currently there are 40 to 50 members, mostly from the central part of the state. Membership recruitment is needed from regions around New London, Willimantic, and Litchfield. Transportation is a problem for many would-be members. Car-pooling and busses would help significantly in obtaining more diverse representation on the CFAC. A liaison to the BHPOC is being assigned from the CFAC.

New Business and Announcements:

Co-Chair Jeff Vanderploeg asked for any question, comments, new business, or announcements. He announced a change in the date of the February 2017 meeting to Wednesday, February 8,

2017 at 2:00 PM at Beacon Health Options on the third (3rd) floor. He thanked Beth and Rick for their presentations and for everyone's participation in the discussions. Hearing no new business, he adjourned the meeting at 4:05 PM.

NOTE: Meeting Date changed: Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 @ 2:00 PM, 3rd Floor, Hartford Conference Room, Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT