



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: Steve Girelli & Jeff Vanderploeg

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 2:00 PM at Beacon Health Options in the Litchfield Room- Suite 3D, Third (3rd) Floor in Rocky Hill, CT

Attendees: *Dr. Steve Girelli (Co-Chair), Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg (Co-Chair), Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF), Dr. Eliot Brenner, Erin Byrne, Michelle Chase, Mara DeMaio, Tammy Freeberg, Beth Garrigan (Beacon), Brenetta Henry, Beth Klink, Christy Knowles, Mickey Kramer (OCA), Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kelly Phenix, Erika Sharillo (Beacon), Melissa Sienna, Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF), and Valerie Wyzykowski (OHA), plus one other*

Comments and Discussion from the May Meeting

Co-Chair Jeff Vanderploeg convened the meeting at 2:09 PM and introductions were made. There were no follow-up questions or comments to the last CAQAP meeting in May 2019. He then announced that going forward, the meeting agendas will be sent with the previous meeting's summary.

ASSERT Update- Melissa Sienna (UCONN), Erin Byrne (CT Junior Republic), and Christy Knowles (Wheeler)



ChildAdol6-19-19ASS ChildAdol6-19-19ASS ChildAdol6-19-19ASS
ERTContracted Servic ERTATM Trifold Broch ERTATM Trifold Broch



Melissa provided an overview of the ASSERT Treatment Model (ATM), indicating that it is a program for youth through age 21 who have an opioid use disorder. ATM combines three services:

- Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT), a family-centered approach that lasts between 4 and 6 months providing weekly in-home services to the youth and his/her family.
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), a combination of medication and behavioral therapies, and
- Recovery Management Checkups and Support (RMCS), a system of check-ins that starts during MDFT and lasts for up to 12 months.

ATM was launched in February of 2018 under a 4-year federal grant, year 3 of which starts on October 1. It is available in DCF Regions 3, 4, 5, and 6. The model utilizes existing MDFT teams in part to enhance the sustainability of the program after the federal grant has ended. The service is available to youth and families whether or not they are Medicaid members and participation can be funded through private insurance, Medicaid, or state grant funds. Inability to pay is not a barrier to participation. Exclusion criteria include psychosis and actively suicidal behavior.

Utilization has not been as high as hoped. ATM is not seeing youth with opioid use disorders in great numbers, and a number of potential contributing factors were identified. One consideration is that an in-home approach may be less attractive to a population of adolescent and young adult opioid users than would be services provided in a clinic setting. Also, referral sources that most commonly refer to MDFT services may not be encountering potential ATM recipients in great numbers. ATM does compete for referrals from inpatient settings with those hospitals that provide outpatient substance abuse services. Finally, a participant suggested that there may be a stigma attached to services that may be associated with DCF.

ASSERT and ATM service providers do a great deal of outreach, including to middle and high schools, other youth-serving organizations, corrections, etc. UCONN collects monthly outreach reports. The O'Donnell (marketing) Company, which produced the LiveLoud campaign under contract with DMHAS, will be conducting youth and family focus groups starting in September, seeking to reduce stigma and increase referrals to ATM services. A suggestion was made to target high end youth athletes, who are at risk of injury and subsequent opioid treatment misuse. Currently there are gaps in services for youth who are not identified as having a substance abuse problem until it's very severe and harder to treat. There is a need for better early identification and services available to treat lower levels of acuity (e.g., OPCs). Also, many youth are getting services privately and are therefore not integrated with other service types (e.g., substance abuse, psychotherapy).

Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) will be rolled out to promote training for family-to-family support. This training will be free to families and providers.

Update from Consumers and Families, CFAC, and Joint Workgroup- Michelle Chase and Brenetta Henry

Michelle Chase reported the fifth annual iCAN conference is scheduled for Sept. 26 at the Artist's Collective in Hartford from 8:00 to 2:30. The theme will be "Enhancing Communities and Sustaining a True Partnership." There are currently six breakout sessions planned with more planning to occur. They are still looking for sponsorship and vendors. She also said that Bill Halsey (DSS) presented a tele-health video to CFAC members at the last meeting. Brenetta Henry said that the DCF and DMHAS Commissioners will have a meet and greet and address consumers on their perspective agencies at an upcoming meeting.

New Business, Announcements, and Adjournment

Hearing no new business or concerns, Co-Chair Jeff Vanderploeg announced the next meeting will be on July 17, 2019 and then he adjourned the meeting at 3:18 PM.

Next Committee Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 2:00 PM in the Litchfield Room- Third (3rd) Floor, Suite 3D, Beacon Health Options, Rocky Hill, CT