



## Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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

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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*

**Meeting Summary**

**Wednesday, May 18, 2022**

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Next Committee Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 2:00 PM via Zoom**

**Attendees:** *Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg (Co-Chair), Ruth Alvarez, Dr. David Aversa (Beacon), Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF), Alissa Brunk (DSS), Barbara D'Addio, Jaya Daptarder, Cheryl D'Argento, Ken DiCapua, Tammy Freeberg, Marissa Glaude, Andrea Goetz (Beacon), JoShonda Guerrier (DCF), Jessica Guite, Brenetta Henry, Dr. Irv Jennings, Yvonne Jones (Beacon), Erin Jourdre, Sean King ((OHA), Beth Klink, Tanja Larsen, Ellen Mathis, Elizabeth Murdoch, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Lisa Otto, Kelly Phenix, Suzanne Prevuznak (DSS) William Savanelli, Erika Sharillo (Beacon), Amy Soto (DPH), Howard Sovronsky, Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF), Ari Steinberg, and Rod Winstead (DSS)*

### **Introductions**

Co-Chair Jeff Vanderploeg opened the meeting at 2:00 PM and welcomed the participants. He notified participants that the meeting was being recorded and requested that all introduce themselves with name and organization using the chat function.

### **Comments and Discussion from the April 2022 Meeting**

There were no comments or questions from the April 2022 meeting.

### **Medicaid 101- Suzanne Prevuznak (DSS) and Alissa Brunk (DSS)**



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Suzanne Prevuznak (DSS) and Alissa Brunk (DSS) presented an Overview of Public Assistance Programs from the Connecticut-Department of Social Services (see icons above). All person-centered programs focus on the well-being of the residents. Dr. Deidre Giffords is the Commissioner of DSS. Her mission and vision are reviewed. DSS's business models have changed since 2013 to meet the needs of customers. There are now Service, Processing and Benefit Centers available to help clients navigate through the system. The DSS Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system is reviewed. It is available by calling 1-855-6-CONNECT. There are also My Account videos on medical programs available. Medicaid is only for the elderly (65 and older) and for the disabled.

MED-CONNECT is Medicaid for employees with disabilities and is referred to as an S05 program. To be eligible, one must be between 18-65 years of age, disabled and employed. HUSKY C is a step-down program where participants have to spend down any assets but there are deductibles. There is retroactive coverage and DSS cash programs: TANF, State Supplement, SAGA Cash (for those without children). The Temporary Assistance Program has a 21-month limit, however, one can apply to get a 6 month extension if qualified (must have barriers to employment). It has a 60-month life-time limit. State Administered General Assistance (SAGA Cash) is for non-family, elderly or disabled persons for assistance and is solely state administered. These are programs of last resort and are financed by the State of Connecticut. Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) is what was formerly known as food stamps. It is for Home Care and has financial eligibility requirements of assets and income. There are Waiver programs for Home & Community Based Services. Ways to contact DSS through My Account and how to access forms and documents are reviewed. DSS works with over one million residents in all 169 municipalities. To receive SAGA, one must first go through SSDI and SSI and must be paid back. For more information, contact below:

Financial Operations Centers

<https://www.lisc.org/connecticut-statewide/our-priorities/community-economic-development/financial-opportunity-centers/>

## **A Consumer's Perspective on Enrollment and Membership in the HUSKY Program- Cheryl D'Argento- CFAC Member**

Cheryl D'Argento (CFAC) introduced herself and her son, Michael to Committee Members. She said that her son is on the Autism Spectrum. She spoke about the services he receives and the services that he does not receive primarily after school hours and because of this, she is unemployed taking care of Michael's needs as his mother and prime care-giver.

## **Overview of the CT BHP Behavioral Health Services and Program - Yvonne Jones, RSS, Director of Diversity & Community Engagement, Beacon Health Options**



CT BHP Behavioral  
Health Services.pdf

Yvonne Jones (Beacon) gave the presentation for Behavioral Health Services provided by Beacon Health Options the Administrative Service Organization (ASO) for the State of Connecticut. See icon above.

## **Consumer Family Advisory Council (CFAC) Update**

Ellender Mathis provided the update from CFAC. She said that Rev. Anderson spoke to CFAC members on health and quality at their last meeting. She said save the date for the CFAC iCAN conference that is being planned for September 22, 2022. They are developing six work shops and the conference will be virtual.

### **Other Business, Announcements, and Adjournment- Jeff Vanderploeg**

Co-Chair Jeff Vanderploeg thanked DSS, Suzanne, Alissa, Cheryl, and Yvonne for their presentations and thanked all participants for their questions, support and input into the discussions. He announced the next meeting will be on June 15, 2022 at 2 PM and then adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

*Purpose Statement: This committee brings together family members, advocates, providers, state agencies, and other partners to maximize the combined impact of services and supports funded by Medicaid and managed by the Behavioral Health Partnership (BHP), and other grant funded services within the children's behavioral health service system. The CAQAP identifies and addresses key issues of concern to consumers and providers with a focus on enhancing quality and access to services. The committee reviews data that measure the effectiveness of the initiatives, policies, and services of the behavioral health system under the BHP and addresses the needs, strengths, and gaps in the behavioral health service system. The committee reports to the Council on findings and issues and makes recommendations within the purview of the Council's authority. The CAQAP, in collaboration with the Adult QAP Committee, also works through the Council to provide input to the State's plan for federal health care reform and other emerging mental health policy and program developments.*

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