

Meeting Summary for Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee Zoom Meeting

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Quick recap

The team discussed the funding and services of Urgent Crisis Centers (UCCs) and the upcoming changes in Medicaid funding for children's mental health services. They also reviewed the presentation of the Child and Adolescent Quality Access and Policy Committee for the Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board and planned for the annual iCAN conference on mental health and addiction recovery. Lastly, they addressed some confusion regarding the rate increase for behavioral health services and the accessibility of certain codes in the policy bulletin.

Next steps

Ken Misogland to provide clarification on whether UCCs can see emergencies for children in other programs like outpatient clinics or ICAPS.

Fatmata Williams (DSS) to send the Provider Bulletin to David for posting on the BHPOC Website.

Co-Chair Steve Girelli to obtain permission to share the Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board meeting summary and post it on the BHPOC website if approved.

David to distribute CFAC conference sponsorship and advertising information once received from Yvonne Jones.

Summary

Steve requested attendees to introduce themselves in the chat with their title and organization. Additionally, Steve mentioned sharing a PowerPoint presentation from the Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Board after the meeting.

UCC Funding and Medicaid Changes

Steve and Dr. Irv Jennings discussed the ongoing issue of funding for Urgent Crisis Centers (UCCs) and whether they could provide emergency services for children in other programs. Irv brought up a ruling that UCCs couldn't see emergencies for children in outpatient clinics or other programs, but this was being looked into by Ken Misogland. Steve agreed to seek clarification on this matter for their next meeting. The main presentation then shifted to Medicaid funding changes for children's mental health services, with Fatmata presenting specific information on this topic.

Children's Behavioral Health Services Rate Increase

Fatmata presented an overview of the recent increase in rates for children's behavioral health services, implemented as part of Public Act 23204. The \$7 million appropriated for DSS in the fiscal year 2025 will be used to increase provider rates for behavioral services to children, including case management and family psychotherapy. The rate increase, targeted to specific procedure codes, will be effective from July 1, 2024, and will apply to various provider types. However, there was some confusion about whether the rate increase also applies to adult services, which Fatmata clarified is not the case. Hector Massari then provided examples of codes that will be impacted by the rate increase, including those used by physicians, psychiatrists, and behavioral health clinicians.

Clarifying Policy Bulletin Accessibility

Hector clarified the accessibility of certain codes in the policy bulletin, which Irv still found unclear. Fatmata then explained that the bulletin was a high-level overview and offered to send it to David for further access. Steve suggested that the bulletin should be made available to all meeting participants, to which Fatmata agreed. There was also a discussion about the percentages provided in the first slide of the bulletin, which Fatmata and Hector confirmed referred to specific codes seeing an increase, not 15% of the 7 million dollars.

Behavioral Health Clinic Reimbursement Increase

Steve asked Hector and Fatmata about the increase in reimbursement for behavioral health clinics and whether it applies to both enhanced care and non-enhanced care clinics. Hector confirmed this and gave an example using code 90791. maria asked about the implementation of the new system, and Hector clarified that the system would automatically handle any necessary claim reprocessing, so providers wouldn't need to pull claims back and rebuild. Steve then asked about the studies related to the increase in reimbursement, and Fatmata confirmed his understanding that the first study was underway, and the second study was planned for early next calendar year.

Child and Adolescent Quality Access and Policy Committee Presentation

Steve presented the activities of the Child and Adolescent Quality Access and Policy Committee to the Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board, focusing on key topic areas such as inpatient psychiatric utilization, emergency department utilization, intermediate levels of care, and outpatient services. He also highlighted the challenges faced, including data limitations and workforce issues. Melissa expressed hope for expanded partnership opportunities resulting from the connections made during the meeting. Steve agreed to post the presentation on the BHPOC website, pending permission from the Advisory Board.

Annual Conference on Mental Health and Addiction Recovery

Steve, David, Miss Neva, Ellen Mathis, and others discussed the upcoming annual conference on mental health and addiction recovery, which will take place on September 26, 2024, at the Artist Collective in Hartford. Miss Neva provided updates on the conference, including the lineup of speakers, panel themes, and workshop topics. Steve suggested promoting sponsorship and advertising opportunities for the conference, which Miss Neva agreed to. The group also reminded everyone that the next meeting would be on September 18, 2024 at 2 PM.