

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

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## Quick recap

The presentation was on data on youth with Medicaid insurance in Connecticut, focusing on emergency department utilization and the role of care coordinators.

## Next steps

Steve Girelli to discuss with Carelon about additional data points that could help round out the picture of ED utilization.

Kate Parker-Reilly to send out the newly approved flyer for the oral health training course to meeting attendees.

Kate to consider updating promotional materials for the oral health training course to appeal to a broader range of mental health professionals beyond social workers.

Meeting attendees to register for the iCAN Conference if interested, as spots are filling up quickly.

Interested parties to check the CTBHP website events section for information on becoming vendors or sponsors for the iCAN Conference.

Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council to explore potential coordination or interface with the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs).

Brenetta Henry to discuss with local Regional Advisory Councils about improving coordination and communication between RACs and other committees.

Kate to develop a substance use treatment provider-focused oral health training course in the future.

## Summary

### Carelon Hospital Data Presentation Meeting

Co-Chair Steve Girelli led the meeting, mentioning that it was being live broadcasted and recorded. He also noted that his Co-Chair, Melissa Green was attending but not on camera due to her participation in a conference. The main agenda item was a presentation on the Caroline Hospital Data, which was to be led by Erica Sharillo and Jackie Cook. Jackie introduced herself as a Senior Vice President for clinical operations and recovery, and a member of the regional network management team at Carelon in the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership. She expressed her team's enthusiasm for discussing data. The conversation ended with Steve passing the floor to Jackie to begin the presentation.

### Youth Medicaid Data and ED Utilization Discussion

Jackie discussed data on youth with Medicaid insurance in Connecticut in 2022, highlighting that the largest clusters were in New Haven, Hartford, and Fairfield counties, with a significant portion housed and only 0.8% identified as homeless. She presented demographic data showing a nearly 50-50 male-female split and a significant portion with unknown race/ethnicity. Jackie clarified that the data only includes youth with Medicaid, not those with secondary insurance. She presented 2023 emergency department (ED) utilization data, showing nearly 50% male youth with 13,000 visits by 8,236 unique individuals, primarily for mental health issues. Erika stated they lack data on volume migrating from EDs to urgent crisis centers, and Steve suggested examining visits to both in a single episode.

### Care Coordination, Family Involvement, and ED Utilization

Erika discussed the role of care coordinators and peers in supporting families during care planning meetings, emphasizing the importance of the family's voice being heard and their control over the process. She also explained the specific role of care coordinators for autism, including understanding of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services and their expectations. Steve raised a question about the correlation between certain diagnoses and high utilization of emergency department (ED) visits, suggesting that other variables such as race, ethnicity, and age might also be predictive. Steve led a discussion about understanding emergency department utilization, considering the potential impact of a successful UCC initiative. Maria suggested capturing data from both urgent care and emergency departments to gain insights into the services being provided.

#### Addressing System Strain for Autism Care

Maria Brereton and Dr. Irv Jennings discussed the strain on the system due to the lack of appropriate care for youngsters, particularly those with autism. Dr. Jennings highlighted the issue of discharge from higher levels of care to lower levels that are not adequate for the child's needs, leading to a bottleneck in the system. Steve agreed with this assessment, noting the high utilization and repeat utilization of services. Maureen O'Neill Davis shared her personal experience as a parent raising a child who needed higher levels of care but couldn't access them, leading to frequent emergency room visits and attempted suicides. The team agreed that the lack of appropriate care for these children is causing a cycle of system impact. Steve proposed to investigate data that could help understand the characteristics of long stays in emergency departments and the factors contributing to repeat utilization.

#### Improving Training Courses and Resources

Kate Parker-Reilly discusses improvements to a training course available on the Academy platform. She mentions plans for a community health worker course in spring 2025. Kelly Phenix asks about the course's applicability, and Kate and Steve agree on its generalizability across fields. They consider broadening the title to "mental health professionals." Kate introduces the community partner website tab for training registration and resources, including a dashboard and referral system. Steve expresses appreciation for the resources.

#### iCAN Conference, Fundraiser, and Collaboration Discussion

Steve expressed gratitude for the informative session led by Kate and encouraged the clinic to make use of the information. Neva Caldwell and Brenetta Henry discussed the upcoming 9th annual iCAN Conference, emphasizing the importance of registration due to the event's popularity. Maureen announced the first fundraiser event for Family Forward Advocacy Connecticut, an advocacy and action luncheon on November 7th. Dr. Jennings raised a concern about the lack of coordination between the Statewide Advisory Committee and the RACs, suggesting a need for better collaboration. Brenetta agreed, suggesting a discussion with local regional RACs to improve cohesiveness. The conversation ended with Steve thanking everyone for their participation and looking forward to the next meeting.