



***Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council***  
**Coordination of Care Committee**  
***Council on Medical Assistance Oversight***  
**Consumer Access 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](http://www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC)

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Co-Chairs: Christine Bianchi, Sharon Langer & Maureen Smith  
BHPOC & MAPOC Staff: David Kaplan and Olivia Puckett

The Committee will work with the Departments of Social Services, Children and Families, and Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the administrative services organizations that administer medical, behavioral health, dental and non-emergency transportation, to identify and monitor key issues that may impact whether individuals and families in the HUSKY Health program and Charter Oak Health Plan receive person-centered coordinated services. The Committee and its partners, along with parent and community input, will seek to ensure that participants in the HUSKY Health program and the Charter Oak Health Plan receive behavioral health care that is coordinated with their medical (primary and specialty care), dental, pharmacy, and transportation services.

**Meeting Summary: April 23, 2014**  
**1:30 – 3:30 PM**  
**1E LOB**

Next Meeting: **May 28, 2014 @ 1:30 PM in Room: 1E LOB**

*Attendees: Co-chair Christine Bianchi, Co-chair Sharon Langer, Co-chair Maureen Smith, Dr. Lois Berkowitz, Jenna Bracey, Cheryl Burack, Bill Halsey, Breneta Henry, Kathryn Britos-Swain, Michael Hoge, Lisa Honigfeld, Sabra Mayo, Hope Mitchell, Allyson Nadeau, Kimberly Sherman, Cheryl Stockford, Benita Toussaint, Barbara Ward-Zimmerman, Michael Weatherington, and Bereford Wilson*

## **Introductions**

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the Coordination of Care Committee/Consumer Access Committee meeting at 1:37 PM, welcomed everyone and asked for all audience members to join members around the table. She introduced herself and explained what the committee does. Introductions were made and then Sharon gave an explanation for the public forum saying that it was an invitation for the public to a facilitated discussion on Coordination of

Care that stems from PA-13-178: The State of Connecticut Children's Behavioral Health Plan.

## Facilitated Discussion on Coordination of Care- Michael Hoge (Yale)



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Michael Hoge of Yale and Bereford Wilson (BHPOC Member and Parent Advocate) in conjunction with the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI) facilitated the discussion by asking committee members and members of the public the following three general questions regarding coordination of health care;

1. **Strengths:** What is working well? What needs are being met?
2. **Concerns:** What are the areas of weakness? What needs are not being met?
3. **Recommendations:** What suggestions do you have for improvement? Who should do what to improve Connecticut's system of care and services?

The State of Connecticut Children's Behavioral Health Plan will be "Comprehensive and integrated and meet the behavioral health needs of all children in the state and prevent or reduce the long-term negative impact for children of mental, emotional, and behavioral health issues". A draft plan will be completed by August and will be made available for public comment. The final plan is due to the legislature in October 2014. A form for submitting written feedback can be accessed at [www.plan4children.org](http://www.plan4children.org) . Email these comments to: [info@plan4children.org](mailto:info@plan4children.org) or mail them to the Child Health and Development Institute, 270 Farmington Avenue, Suite 367, Farmington, CT 06032.

## Discussion

Comments by those attending included:

- There are a lot of programs out there to help individuals and families but it is hard to find out about them and access can be difficult.
- There are many sites for services and some with coordinators but people do not know where to go and how to find them on the Internet.
- Happy that the State of Connecticut was finally engaging families for input, recommendations, and suggestions.
- Families and individuals in the system have no mechanism and cannot give input to the state on what needs to be changed and handled better.
- Children in residential care for behavioral health issues have no means to give input or to have a voice of their own on the direct services they receive.
- Asked for a "One stop shop" that would help children. It was noted that universal screening would be helpful with this.
- Integration of care has to go beyond the medical model.
- The Office of Policy and Management's cuts in BH services in anticipation of other sources of revenue due to the implementation of ACA was way too pre-mature. The return on investment strategy and cost benefit savings were/is not yet being realized.

**Other Business**

Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked Michael Hoge and Bereford Wilson for facilitating the open forum. She also thanked people for coming and sharing their issues, recommendations, and suggestions. She then asked for additional comments or new business. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 3:27 PM.

**Next Meeting: May 28, 2014, Room: 1E LOB 1:30 PM-3:00 PM**