



***Behavioral Health Partnership  
Oversight Council  
Coordination of Care Committee  
Council on Medical Assistance Oversight  
Consumer Access***

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford CT 06106-1591  
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Co-Chairs: Christine Bianchi, Brenetta Henry, Janine Sullivan-Wiley & Benita Toussaint  
BHPOC & MAPOC Staff: David Kaplan

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: February 25, 2015**  
**1:30 – 3:30 PM**  
**1D LOB**

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, March 25, 2015 @ 1:30 PM in Room: 1E LOB**

*Attendees: Co-Chair Christine Bianchi, Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Michelle Chase, Jessica DeFlumer-Trapp (DMHAS), Michael Harris, Olivia Hathaway, Brenetta Henry, Ellen Mathis, Quiana Mayo, Sabra Mayo, Linda Pierce, Trevor Ramsey, Eunice Stellmacher, Sheldon Toubman, and Benita Toussaint*

### **Introductions**

Co-Chair Christine Bianchi convened the Coordination of Care Committee/Consumer Access Committee meeting at 1:47 PM, a little later than usual to give members time to find parking. She then welcomed everyone and committee members introduced themselves.

### **Election for New Co-Chairs**

Michelle Chase nominated Brenetta Henry for Co-Chair of the Coordination of Care committee, seconded by Trevor Ramsey. All voted in favor of the nomination with no nays or abstentions. Sabra Mayo nominated Benita Toussaint for Co-Chair of the Consumer Access Committee, seconded by Michael Harris. All voted in favor of the nomination with no nays or abstentions. The new Co-Chairs then took their places at the head of the table.

## **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Update – Discussion and Review of Draft Comments for New Regulations**

Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley started the dialog. She told committee members that they were not alone in their tracking of NEMT issues. The Eastern part of the state is also tracking data on NEMT issues. She also referenced a letter written by Bonnie Roswig of Hartford Legal Aid citing that consumer members were not invited to meeting with DSS regarding new NEMT Regulations back last spring.

Newly elected Co-Chair Brenetta Henry asked to talk about transparency of the committee and its leadership. She wants consumers to be full partners in the committee. Newly elected Benita Toussaint said the DSS NEMT regulations need to be overhauled because problems existed even before the appearance of Logisticare as a consolidated Administrative Service Organization (ASO). Michelle Chase referred to the letter that consumers sent to the MAPOC leadership back in April 2014 that it was never responded to. She said that a response is needed so the committee can move forward with its work and mission. She, too, wants transparency and trust. Sheldon Toubman wants to include some history in the NEMT regulation comments presented to DSS. He talked about forming a Medical Transportation Board to oversee NEMT issues. It was then mentioned that is what the committee is supposed to do. He also spoke about the importance of hearing consumer voices and bringing up their issues to light, like the letter that was written eight months ago and not getting a response from it.

Co-Chair Christine Bianchi is concerned that the comments on the regulations will not be addressed if emphasis is placed on not getting a response from the letter. Co-Chair Brenetta Henry said it is a “slap in the face” if not response is given to the April letter, hear us, listen to us, and respond to us. Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley asked where do we want to spend our energy. What about the rest of the comments, issues, and problems on the regulations? Janine has spoken with many consumers who use NEMT and none of them say that it is working right. She preferred to see the focus on the suggested changes to the regulations rather than on past events. There was further discussion about the wording of the beginning of the document only. Sheldon moved to put two paragraphs regarding the April letter as he had suggested earlier included into the comments. Benita seconds the motion to include the two paragraphs into the comments. There is a proposed change in the language of the comments for clarification. Sheldon modified the third sentence slightly, and added a following sentence to read: “Prior to publication, a draft was shared with the committee co-chairs at a meeting, but on the condition that it not be shared with anyone not at the meeting. No consumers were present at the meeting.” Ellen Mathis seconds the change. All voted in favor, with Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley voting nay, and no abstentions. Motion carries for the change in language.

Co-Chair Christine Bianchi said the DSS hearing was canceled. Should the comments be sent to DSS now or should it wait until another hearing notice goes out. Co-Chair Benita Toussaint said that it should be sent now to DSS so the comments can be considered for inclusion into the new proposed regulations. Michelle Chase made a motion to approve the comments and Sabra Mayo seconded it. All voted in favor to approve and send it to DSS

with Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley abstaining.

### **Other Business**

Co-Chair Christine Bianchi asked for new business. In planning for the next meeting and beyond for 2015, she said that she would like to invite Logisticare to come and present a report on the On-line work that Logisticare has done. Co-Chair Brenetta Henry wants to know about how the budgets cuts will affect NEMT. Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley said the budget cuts will affect consumer access to services. She urged consumers to pick their top three issues and to write to their legislative representatives about their concerns in terms of Behavioral Health, consumer access and all health related issues connected with the coordination of care. Janine told the committee of the proposal to close the Torrington DSS Office. Christine said that the Appropriations Committee was having a hearing on the DSS budget on Friday, February 27, 2015 at 5:00 PM in 2C LOB. If anyone could attend and testify, consumers would certainly be heard. Christine then adjourned the meeting at 3:09 PM.

**Next Meeting Date:** 1:30 PM, Wednesday, March 25, 2015  
Rm. 1E LOB