



**Behavioral Health Partnership
Oversight Council
Coordination of Care Committee
Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council
Quality and Access Committee**

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford CT 06106-1591
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Chairs: Representative Jonathan Steinberg, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Kelly Phenix & Benita Toussaint

MAPOC & BHPOC Staff: Richard Eighme & 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 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 receive behavioral health care that is coordinated with their medical (primary and specialty care), dental, pharmacy, and transportation services.

Meeting Summary: November 29, 2017

1:00 – 3:00 PM

1E LOB

Attendees: Chair Representative Jonathan Steinberg, Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Chair Kelly Phenix, Chair Benita Toussaint, Lois Berkowitz (DCF), Jason Burgo, Michael Carone (DSS), Mike Finley, Olivia Hathaway, Brenetta Henry, Ellen Mathis, Quiana Mayo, Sabra Mayo, Marty Milkovic, Laura Morris (OHA), Linda Pierce (CHNCT), Sandra Quinn (Beacon), Trevor Ramsey, Cathy Risigo-Wickline, Bonnie Roswig, Kim Sherman (CHNCT), Eunice Stellmacher, Kimberly Sullivan, Sheldon Toubman, Tania Urena, Mark Vanacore (DMHAS), and Rod Winstead (DSS)

Introductions

Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley convened the meeting at 1:06 PM and introductions were made by members. Janine re-introduced Representative Jonathan Steinberg as the new Co-Chair appointed by MAPOC. Representative Steinberg took his Chairmanship by saying that he still had much to learn about the issues.

BHP Consumer/Family Advisory Council Update- Brenetta Henry

Brenetta Henry reported that CFAC added an Adult Sub-committee to its component. The committee will be headed by Kelly Phenix. It will look into issues dealing with HUSKY A and other parts of Medicaid. On December 14, 2017 there will be a first year of celebration of partnership with the BHPOC. The celebration will be at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT and will begin at 10:00 AM. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. On January 11, 2018 from 10:00 AM to Noon, there will be a meeting and training in the legislative process in 1D LOB for consumers. This meeting is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

State Budget Update

Rod Winstead (DSS)



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CoordCare11-29-17 DSS Notification letter

Rod Winstead (DSS) said that the new budget will bring on many changes, two in particular. Public Act 17-2 JSS lowers income eligibility criteria for two services for beginning January 1, 2018. Parental eligibility for HUSKY A will go from 155% to 138% of Federal Poverty Level. Most HUSKY A parents will receive transitional medical assistance for one more year until January 1, 2019. It will not affect pregnant women and children. The other change is that the Medicare Savings Program will be affected by having some enrollees move from one benefit level to another and others will lose program assistance altogether. Notices went out last week with another notice due to go out in mid-December (see icons above). Additional information is also posted on-line on the DSS Website: www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms

Discussion

Sheldon Toubman wanted to note how huge these changes are. He said the HUSKY A parent numbers were between 9300 and 9500 people. Between 500 and 100 of them could be cut off as of Jan. 1st. The Medicare Savings Program changes affects 82,000 people who will lose all coverage and 27,000 people will have lower coverage benefits. In total, 109,000 people will be negatively impacted by this and must pay out-of-pocket for any coverage they once had or they will go without treatment. He said that Legal Services sent DSS a letter last week saying it was illegal to cut Medicaid benefits without notification beforehand and confirmed by the consumer that notice was received. There is a process to be followed and he said that it was not being done. Rep. Steinberg asked when Legal Services had sent that letter. Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley said that these cuts are causing distress to consumers and that there is not a whole lot of time to make alternative plans for replacement coverage. Brenetta Henry asked besides letters being sent out, how else this information is getting out to consumers. Chair Representative Steinberg said that everyone needs to pitch in as well as they can to let the public know (of this change in coverage). He explained the different level changes based on the Federal Poverty Level. Laura Morris (OHA) stated that her agency has other ways to screen to see if a person is losing coverage or is eligible for other programs, and they have fact sheets about options for people. Janine asked to have a follow-up on this topic at the next meeting in January to explain the impact and human cost.

Mark Vanacore (DMHAS)

Mark Vanacore said the DMHAS budget is comparable to last year's budget but with holdbacks. At this point in time, the department is unsure of the outcomes. Chair Representative Steinberg asked about the RFP for the consolidations Regional Mental Health Boards and the Regional Action Councils. Mark said that it was still slated for the end of the year on 12/31/17.

Update on the Status of Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) RFP -Rod Winstead (DSS)

Rod Winstead (DSS) discussed the RFP for Non-Medical Emergency Transportation (NEMT) and the new Administrative Service Organization (ASO), Total Transit, Inc. of Arizona. Logisticare will end its services on 12/31/17 and Total Transit will start on 1/1/18. Negotiations on the contract are ongoing. They are waiting for an agreement on both sides. Transition activities are occurring now. Files are being downloaded and transferred. Customer service representatives are being trained. To request rides for medical appointments that will take place on or after January 1, 2018, the new telephone number to call is: **1-855-478-7350**. This new number will be available starting on December 4, 2017.

All committee members expressed cautious hope that the new ASO would be able to fix the old transportation issues and that they would not be repeated by the new company in charge of NEMT. There was discussion on some of the possible issues with the new contract being under a risk model and where oversight would come from. Sheldon expressed that MAPOC did not have the capacity to be the sole oversight over NEMT. Bonnie expressed concern with the continued negligence and lack of oversight with the last contract and needing to ensure it would not happen again. Co-Chair Representative Steinberg suggested there may be a need to have legislative power to establish further oversight. There were other concerns about the selection process and the process for developing the RFP, including consumer input. A guest spoke of how helpful Rod had been in resolving transportation problems with a sibling and cab ride. He noted that most of the transportation providers as now, with some new drivers to develop more capacity. The new model is changing to a risk model that allows Total Transit to reward providers who give quality service.

It was decided that there would be a general overview of the new contract and vendor at the January meeting with a more detailed presentation in March.

Other Business and Adjournment:

Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley asked for any new business that is actionable. She said the co-chairs of the committee would like to focus on the scope of the combined committees (Quality *formerly Consumer* Access and Coordination of Care). In the following year, they would like to raise issues of the coordination of medical care and behavioral health care. She will check with the full BHP-OC to see where such coordination might already be addressed. There was an issue raised about services, particularly OT, for children who are autistic after they turn 21. This is more cost-effective than using a rehab center.

Chair Benita Toussaint announced the next meeting will be on January 24, 2018 at 1:00 PM in 1E. She then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brenetta Henry made the motion and it was seconded by Ellen Mathis. Benita then adjourned at 2:46 PM.

***NOTE: Change of Room: Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 @ 1:00 PM in Room 1D LOB**