



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

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford CT 06106-1591  
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[www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC](http://www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC)

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 and receive behavioral health care that is coordinated with their medical (primary and specialty care), dental, pharmacy, and transportation services.

Co-Chairs: Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Sabra Mayo and Kelly Phenix  
MAPOC & BHPOC Staff: David Kaplan

**Wednesday, September 28, 2022**

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**Via Zoom (hosted by Beacon Health Options)**

**Present on call:**

Present on call:

Staff: David Kaplan (BHP-OC)

Co-Chairs: Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Kelly Phenix, Sabra Mayo, Rep. Jonathan Steinberg

Other participants: Lois Berkowitz (DCF), Carlos Blanco (Beacon, translation services), Neva Caldwell (Chair-CFAC), Jamie Dudyak, Bill Halsey (DSS), Robert Haswell (DMHAS), Brenetta Henry, Kristin Hunter (DSS), Yvonne Jones (Beacon), Tanja Larsen (CCGC), Althea Mabayoje, Ellender Mathis, Quiana Mayo, Hope Mitchell-Williams (DSS), Kate Parker-Reilly (CT Dental Health Partnership), Lisa Rodgers (Community Health Network of Connecticut /CHNCT), Carmen Teresa Rosario, Erika Sharillo (Beacon Health Options), Sheldon Toubman (Disability Rights CT), Benita Toussaint, and Mark Vanacore (DMHAS)

**1. Introductions and Announcements**

- Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley convened the meeting at 1:05 PM via Zoom.
- Spanish translation was available and the process described. All were advised that the meeting was being recorded.
- Rep. Steinberg was welcomed; he was again able to be present as the legislative session was ended. He commented that he was impressed by the various agencies' focus on programs affected by COVID, performance and effectiveness. They spent scarce funds wisely.

## **2. Update on Public Health Emergency (PHE) – Bill Halsey, DSS:**

While nothing formal had as yet been received by the Federal government, Bill anticipates that the Public Health Emergency will end in January. He detailed several implications for what that will mean:

- DSS has been working for months on public flyers regarding re-determination; that will impact all individuals on Medicaid over twelve months. They call it “the Great Unwinding.” It was agreed to have at the next meeting an update on all the DSS programs that will change as a result of the PHE ending.
- There are some programs that will end immediately, others within a month, others within the quarter.
- Everyone on Medicaid will be subject to re-determination. This will especially impact people who were not terminated due to the PHE but would have been otherwise. Part of the DSS process will be to help identify other programs they might be eligible for.
- Letters will be sent out to everyone affected. When will depend on the end of the PHE.
- Bill will check on the impact of wage increase on Medicaid.
- Toubman thought that up to 42% of the people now eligible will lose that after the PHE is over, especially those in the “modified adjusted gross income” group.
- Teresa was concerned that the format in which this information is given to people might be confusing but hoped it would not. Bill said he will ask his team to speak to that at the November meeting.
- Althea noted that there has been a lot of staff turnover at the social clubs in Connecticut – historically a key source of information about issues such as this. Robert Haswell and Mark Vanacore of DMHAS were asked and agreed to get the notice about the November Coordination of Care/Consumer Access meeting and the content to be covered sent out to all the social clubs.

## **3. NEMT/Veyo general update: Bill Halsey, DSS**

Bill said that DSS is working on finalizing the flyer about the in-person and virtual town hall meeting being held about NEMT on 10/27, from 1-2:30 PM. It is for people who use NEMT. DSS is seeking feedback, questions and suggestions. Several points were clarified:

- There will be interpreters.
- There will be more such town hall meetings; it will move to locations around the state. They hope to have one in each region.
- They are unrelated to the RFP.
- This forum is NOT for feedback on the NEMT contract as that RFP was already released. It will not impact the decision on the vendor but could impact the contract that is drawn up.
- The winning vendor is expected to start in April.

Later in the meeting it was noted that Veyo is now MTM. There were also some questions about the bidding process, and if having two companies was considered. It was not. Sheldon again noted his concerns about having a capitated contract.

#### **4. Conversation on Community Outreach:**

The Rev. Robyn Anderson, expected to give background and lead this conversation, was unable to attend due to a personal emergency.

Kelly Phenix then provided background from the last meeting. There was interest in how providers and agencies are doing outreach, including to traditionally underserved populations, and different environments such as rural and in cities. She asked those present to further define what members would like to know. How they are doing outreach, including to communities of color? Brenetta emphasized the question: How are they dealing with DEI? This is crucial as people of color are being offered and getting different care. How are they connecting with the grassroots groups in the community?

There was interest in hearing about these and more, including identifying innovative and effective practices.

Some agencies/groups suggested to come and be part of the presentations included:

- Reverend Anderson
- CHR (east Hartford, adults)
- Wheeler (west Hartford, adults)
- Wellmore (much of Region 5)
- Charter Oak
- CFIC (in Danbury, adults and children, behavioral and medical health)
- Clifford Beers (children)
- Catholic Charities (they provide a lot of services to the Latino community)
- Children and Families/ The Village (Gallo Rodriguez)
- Kate Parker-Reilly, as the Director of member care, CT Dental Health, volunteered to present. She replaced Marty Malkovich after his retirement.
- What about eye care?
- What about medical care? FQHCs might be good for this as they often provide both medical and behavioral health.
- Nutrition
- Youth
- Detox
- Mobile vans

Kelly said it might be done in groups of two or so providers per meeting for the next several meetings. Teresa thought it might be good to divide them by type of work done, for example mental health clinics one meeting. Consider providers which are state-wide as well as local.

The goal: to identify good and innovative practices, for providers to learn from us. Janine suggested it would be possible to collect all of the ideas generated and pull them into a single document.

#### **5. Update on – BHP Consumer/Family Advisory Council:**

Brenetta commented on how the iCAN Conference was wonderful. She thanked all who participated. Janine agreed, and especially liked the opportunity at the end to hear summaries of all the workshops. Brenetta noted that was Neva's idea.

## 6. Other and New Business:

### Announcements:

- Kelly spoke about the upcoming “2022 Connecticut Candidate Forum on Disability Issues” to be held on Wednesday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> 3-7 PM. It is free. She will send information to David to send out.
- Erika and Yvonne shared a flyer about the 10/4 meeting.
- The Prime Time House Walk to Recovery will be on 10-12 and include the walk, music and lunch.
- Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP) recognized former presidents and others at its recent event.

Brenetta expressed her thanks to David for all of his help and support. All agreed.

## 7. Adjournment:

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM upon a motion by Sabra, seconded by Althea.

### Useful or shared links and information from this meeting:

- Contact information: Kristin Hunter DSS: [kristin.hunter@ct.gov](mailto:kristin.hunter@ct.gov).
- Contact information: Sheldon Toubman, DRCT, 475-345-3169, [sheldon.toubman@disrightsct.org](mailto:sheldon.toubman@disrightsct.org)
- Bill Halsey: Bulletin on non-citizen coverage:  
[https://www.ctdssmap.com/CTPortal/Information/Get-Download-File?Filename=pb22\\_34.pdf&URI=Bulletins/pb22\\_34.pdf](https://www.ctdssmap.com/CTPortal/Information/Get-Download-File?Filename=pb22_34.pdf&URI=Bulletins/pb22_34.pdf)
- Click the following link to register for the HUSKY Health All ASO Benefits and Services community meeting. October 4th at 6PM. Includes Dental, Medical, Behavioral Health and Transportation. Registration Link:  
[https://beaconhealthoptions.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvd--grDIrH9DZ\\_38oVp8dyQIw9uJJk\\_mJ](https://beaconhealthoptions.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvd--grDIrH9DZ_38oVp8dyQIw9uJJk_mJ)
- Sheldon Toubman, DRCT is 475-345-3169 and email is [sheldon.toubman@disrightsct.org](mailto:sheldon.toubman@disrightsct.org)  
Please contact me if you think someone has been cut off of Medicaid anytime between 11/6/20 and now.
- Link regarding the Affordable Connectivity Program:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Communications/Affordable-Connectivity-Program>
- Kate Parker-Reilly-CT Dental Health Partnership [kate.parkerreilly@ctdhp.com](mailto:kate.parkerreilly@ctdhp.com)  
Website is <https://ctdhp.org/>  
Access our dental provider locator tool at <https://ctdhp.org/find-a-dentist/>  
or call us at 855-283-3682. We also accept referrals from community partners for our Oral Health Navigation Team. To sign up to be a community partner (you need to work for a community organization) go to <https://ctdhp.org/refer-a-client/>.

**Next Meeting:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM, **TUESDAY, November 22, 2022 via Zoom**

**NOTE:** this meeting is being held a day earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving

**holiday.**