



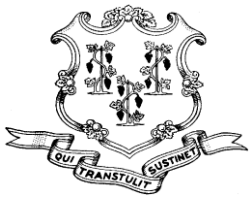
BHP Operations Sub-committee - Minutes

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: Date: May 1, 2020 Time: 2:30 - 4:00 Location: Via Zoom	Internal	External	Recorder: Jen Kurowski, Beacon Health Options	Draft	Final
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TOPIC	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION				
1. Telehealth a.Can we expect it to continue after June? b.How is it working? c.What will the rates be after June?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open to suggestions in terms of what is going well and what we should continue.• Will try to give providers ample time to wind things down that are not being covered. Will likely issue a bulletin when the public health emergency declared over.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bill to forward link to 3/13 provider bulletin 2020-09 to David Kaplan to send this out to this group. This is a good baseline to start from.○ Bill will actually send the FAQ from the CMAP website, which includes links to all the bulletins.• The first bulletin that was issued remains in effect. If we turned off all the COVID policies today, we would still have telemedicine in effect.• Please keep track of comments, feedback, challenges, etc., including feedback from clients.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Consider a formal survey of agencies, who can also survey their staff.• Terri is seeing that the Dual Diagnosis population does not like telehealth.• Terri mentioned that many patients also do not have smartphones, but some of the soup kitchens now have them. The state issued flip phones will not work for telehealth.• Bill does not anticipate telehealth rates changing after June.				
2. Telephonic Treatment a. Can we expect it to continue after June?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Susan Kelley asked about Governor’s executive order of 7FF, which expanded telehealth to audio only in addition to synchronized audio for new and established clients.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bill indicated that DSS has bulletins currently being reviewed by the Commissioner, which would allow new patients on the medical and BH side to allow audio only telehealth. Will go back to using traditional BH telephone codes and this bulletin will be out next week.○ Susan mentioned that Bulletin 23 stated that certain OT/PT and speech pathology services were for synchronized telemedicine but evaluations and reevaluations were not eligible for telemedicine. It could be interpreted that there was no telemedicine allowed at all for evaluations and reevaluations. There seems to be some confusion between the terms telemedicine or synchronized telemedicine.○ Bill clarified that telemedicine is referring to synchronized audio and video telemedicine. Telephone is audio only.○ Bill clarified that the executive order must be followed-up by a bulletin indicating that this has been implemented by Medicaid.○ Bill does not have a good read as to whether telephonic will continue after the public health crisis ends. This will be dependent on the state.• Heather mentioned that some of the more challenged clients can only access services via telephonic support, so this is a very important option to consider keeping in place.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Marie Mormile-Mehler agreed.○ Bill indicated that we may be able to consider where this may be appropriate for established patients.				



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Heather also commented that this solves transportation barriers.○ Susan Kelley commented that Clifford Beers' experience is that the no show rate is significantly decreased now that telehealth is in place.○ Linda Russo agreed that the audio only has been helpful in removing barriers and would be helpful to keep this in place.
3. Status of Planning Process for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bill commented that we held several focus groups prior to the COVID challenges.● Working with Beacon on this.● Continuing to consider how the planning grant can inform the SUD Demonstration Waiver.● Beacon put together a great document for DSS on this grant. Considering a ppt presentation that Beacon could give to one of the subcommittees on their findings. This is currently a draft being reviewed as a deliverable, but it will become a public document after it is finalized. DSS needs to provide feedback to Beacon for revisions, etc. Potentially end of May, but this is dependent on time for DSS to review and Beacon to complete all revisions.● Heather asked if all revisions need to be completed prior to sharing this document and prior to a presentation taking place for the subcommittee? Bill said that yes, he would like to get the review completed and all revisions made. Bill said DSS will finish their review and see how long Beacon needs to finish the revisions.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bill to take this back to the state agencies to discuss timing.
4. Status of Housing State Plan Amendment (SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bill needs to get an update on this before speaking to this due to missing the latest CHESS meeting.● Bill can send an update on this via email.
5. New Business and Announcements / Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Questions relating to Waiver of the authorization process?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bill indicated that any new services starting on 4/1 don't require authorizations.○ Intention is to lighten the burden of providers.○ When this is over, DSS will issue another bulletin indicating that authorizations will be re-instituted and that all authorizations will be prospective.○ Doug Dorman spoke to this – want to be sure they understand correctly: for the new clients whose authorizations expired during the waiver period, is it correct that we will need to get new authorizations once this waiver is lifted? You would be going in to get new authorizations. If you are not submitting auths during this waiver period, Beacon will be unable to get any counts to determine when an auth will run out. All authorizations will need to be prospective. Bert Plant provided some clarification on this process and the effect this will have on Beacon's reporting abilities for this period of time.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ May need to consider staggering implementation of new auths.● Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.
6. Upcoming Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Possible meeting in July – date TBD● September 4, 2020 at 2:30 PM via ZOOM



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