

Connecticut

Medicaid Managed Care Council

Behavioral Health Subcommittee

Legislative Office Building Room 3000, Hartford CT 06106

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Behavioral Health Sub-Committee

Priorities Workgroup/Outcome Studies Committee

Notes of February 9, 2001 Meeting

1: 15-2: 30 PM LOB Room 2600

Present: Jeff Walter, Mindy Haddad (Consensus), Lois Berkowitz, Tom Lipscomb, Vicky Aldrich, Susan Walkama, Judy Jordan, Mark Schaeffer, Ann Bonney, Jim Gaito

The focus of the meeting was to discuss the Outcomes Study and address problems with agencies not submitting OTRs.

Lois reported that the behavioral health services provided to BlueCare Family Plan members are provided by the following providers, by type:

1. 46% clinics (of all types)
2. 26% PCPs (probably med. Mgmt only)
3. 20% private practitioners
4. 5% hospitals
5. 5% other entities

The group identified the following problems/issues/barriers that may be contributing to poor response from clinics and other programs:

1. Incentive money is too little, too late

2. Clinical and support staff are over-stretched, and cannot prioritize the task
3. Lack of consistent emphasis from agency heads
4. DCF workers are not signing consent forms
5. Agencies are experiencing difficulty tracking clients to assure that discharge forms are sent
6. Clinical staff don't understand the purposes or importance of the study
7. Even a concerted effort by one major clinic (Wheeler) has only yielded app. 10 OTRs per month.

The group identified the following ideas for addressing these problems:

1. Work with DCF on problem with case workers; address the monthly DCF advisory meeting.
2. Work with Alan Kazdin to re-examine study design to see if any modifications are possible that would ease the problems.
3. Focus outreach on high volume providers.
4. Give \$ to agencies up front.
5. Modify the "end point" of the process by replacing discharge summaries with special OTRs completed when a given time period from admission has elapsed (6 months?). Discharge summaries would continue to be used for clients discharged within the 6 months (or whatever time period is chosen).

Action Steps:

1. Jim will do the following:
 - a. Talk to Karen Andersson to address item 1 above.
 - b. Talk to Mari T. to assure transfer of information from PRO to VOI.
 - c. Talk to A. Kazdin to discuss using research asst. to help with outreach; and to discuss feasibility of study design modifications.
2. CAMHCC and FSA will "exhort" the troops.
3. Meet again on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 2 PM.

Recorded by Jeff Walter