



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

Legislative Office Building Room 3000, Hartford CT 06106
(860) 240-0346 Info Line (860) 240-8329 FAX (860) 240-5306
www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC

Co-Chairs: Jeffrey Walter & Hal Gibber
Meeting Summary: January 16, 2013

Next meeting: **February 13, 2013 @ 2 PM in LOB 1E**

Attendees: Jeffrey Walter (Co-Chair), Paul Acker, Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF), Terri DiPietro, Howard Drescher, Dr. Ronald Fleming, Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Jennifer Hutchinson (DMHAS), Thomas King, Mickey Kramer, Sharon Langer, Steve Larcen, Dr. Sabina Lim, Judith Meyers, Lois Nesci, Kimberly Nystrom, Kelly Phenix, Sherry Perlstein, Galo Rodriguez, Dr. Javier Salabarría, Lori Szczygiel (CTBHP/VO), Susan Walkama, Jesse White Frese, Alicia Woodsby, and Rep. David Zoni

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair, Jeff Walter convened the meeting at 2:06 PM and asked the Council Members to re-introduce themselves to the Council. He then welcomed Representative David Zoni who is on the Public Health Committee. He then asked for approval of the December BHP OC meeting summary. The Council unanimously approved the summary without changes. Jeff told the Council that appointment letters went out to legislators who have new roles to fill within the BHPOC. He talked about how some Council members might change since their original appointers may have not returned to the Legislature this year. He suggested that if members wanted to stay on the Council, they should get in touch with the Legislator or new Legislator who designates that appointment.

Action Items

There were no action items this month.

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports

Department of Social Services

Bill Halsey of DSS gave an update on how the Governor's and the Legislature's Special Budget Session on deficit mitigation will affect the Department. He said the impact of the rescissions will be significant. The changes, mostly in services, can be found in HB 7001. He said that a \$1.3 million Medicaid reduction eliminates the pay for performance initiatives this year. There are also reductions that affect equipment, home-based services and the ASO contracts (due to underruns). There is an additional \$13 million payment reduction to hospitals. Bill noted that

these cuts are only for the present fiscal year. He said that the Department is still paying for Medicaid services and paying settlement to hospitals for the previous fourth quarter of the year. Steve Larcen said the cuts were not as visible in December as they are now. He raised the issue of paying for quality and pay for performance over volume. He passed out a chart that was distributed to the Council in December that referred to a savings of \$6 million in the cost of in-patient psychiatric hospitalizations for children, due to the pay for performance program.



20130125150223434
.pdf

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Jennifer Hutchinson of DMHAS spoke of a memo that went to providers from the Department stating that the Agency will find ways to achieve budget reductions without significantly affecting community-based services.



DMHAS SFY2013
Rescissions letter 01 :

Department of Children and Families

Lois Berkowitz of DCF did not have specifics, but stated that services are not impacted from the rescissions.

Agency Presentation-Value Options Overview of ASO Performance Standards



VO11-14-12Copy of BHPOCVOPerforman
Performance Standar ce Stnds(2)20121-16

Lori Szczygiel, CEO of Value Options, gave the presentation on the ASOs performance standards. (For Standards, charts, and graphs, see above documents.) As a follow up, she noted that the increase in medical necessity denials is accounted for by the increase in adult denials specifically. This is due to the significant increase in adult authorizations with the inclusion of the MLIA and FFS adult members (increase in authorizations assumes that there would be a subsequent increase in denials) who joined the BHP in 2010. The increase in administrative denials are driven by home health, outpatient and intensive outpatient services. Administrative denials occur when concurrent review processes are not followed, and in the case of home health services, the provider requesting mental health authorizations when it appears to be more medically driven. In the report, there is a significant decrease in call volume in 2010 - this is accounted for by a change in how VO calculated the phone calls, assuring that they were unduplicated (i.e., one call recorded for calling in vs. one call for customer service, a second call logged for a transfer to clinical, etc.). The significant bump in call volume and crisis calls is accounted for with the new business (MLIA and FFS). The crisis calls in particular were misdirected calls and changes in VO's phone menu, the volume was driven by providers, not crisis.

Committee Reports

Coordination of Care: - Sharon Langer, Maureen Smith, Co-Chairs

Sharon Langer reported that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. Topics will include transportation (NEMT) issues and an update from DSS on processing and renewals.

Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy: – Sherry Perlstein, Hal Gibber, and Robert Franks, Co-Chairs

Committee Co-Chair, Sherry Perlstein reported that the Committee did not meet in December and the next meeting was going to be on January 18, 2013. The presentation would be given by DCF Deputy Commissioner Janice Gruendel and Michelle Sarofin, Superintendent of the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center on the overview of the consolidation of Riverview Hospital and Connecticut Children's Place into the Solnit Center. The program will be a review of the status of the campus consolidation and plans for future programming. There was a brief discussion of children's Emergency Room Delay (ED) around the Christmas holiday. It only increased from 162 patients to 164 but looking at the data, it is unclear why it is centered on CT Children's Medical Center (CCMC). Events of the previous week could have raised the amount of emergency room visits. Mickey Kramer (OCA) asked if this was first-time children in the ER and the answer is that there are many unknowns in scope, needs, and problems at this time.

Adult Quality, Access & Policy: - Howard Drescher, Heather Gates, and Alicia Woodsby, Co-Chairs

Co-Chairs Alicia Woodsby and Howard Drescher reported that the Committee is continuing its work with DMHAS on the design and development of the Behavior Health Home. They have also developed a service definition and quality measures for the Health Neighborhoods. Howard said that he would like to see the format of the committee's agenda change to have data presented one month and the next month would be the interpretation with the design in answering that age old question, "Are people better off?" The next committee meeting will be Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 2:30 PM at Value Options in Rocky Hill.

Committee Reports

Operations: – Susan Walkama and Terri DiPietro, Co-Chairs

Susan Walkama reported that the Committee's January meeting focused on following CPT billing code changes and the DSS system that was modified to pay under the new codes. Bill Halsey of DSS reported to the Committee that he will get back to committee members on the many questions they had. Outpatient services authorization with new coding units seem to be a big concern. There was a question of whether or not new Enhanced Care Clinic providers (ECC) can be approved and if an ECC can change locations?

Adjournment

Co-Chair Jeff Walter asked for further comments, questions, or other business. The question came up on who will be the Council's next Legislative Co-Chair? Jeff said that it was still under discussion and an announcement will be made soon. He then thanked Representative David Zoni again for attending his first meeting and adjourned the Council meeting at 3:46 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB