



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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Co-Chairs: Rep. Phil Miller, Hal Gibber & Jeffrey Walter
Meeting Summary: March 13, 2013

Next meeting: **April 10, 2013 @ 2 PM in LOB 1E**

Attendees: Hal Gibber (Co-Chair), Rep. Phil Miller (Co-Chair), Jeff Walter (Co-Chair), Dr. Karen Andersson (DCF), Roderick Bremby (DSS Commissioner), Rick Calvert, Judy Dowd (OPM), Howard Drescher, Terry Edelstein, Dr. Ronald Fleming, Catherine Foley-Geib, Senator Terry Gerratana, Dr. Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington, Dr. Charles Herrick, Sharon Langer, Steve Larcen, Kate McElvoy, Rep. Sandy Nafis, Lois Nesci, Kimberly Nystrom, Sherry Perlstein, Kelly Phenix, Pat Rehmer (DMHAS Commissioner), Galo Rodriguez, Dr. Javier Salabarria, Maureen Smith, Janine Sullivan Wiley, Lori Szczygiel (CTBHP/VO), Susan Walkama, Jesse White Frese, and Beresford Wilson

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Jeff Walter convened the meeting at 2:08 PM and introductions were made. Guests of the Council included Roderick Bremby, DSS Commissioner, Pat Rehmer, DMHAS Commissioner, and Terry Edelstein, Non Profit Liaison to the Governor. He then asked the Council to approve the February summary, hearing no objections; it was unanimously approved without any corrections needed. Jeff thanked members who went to the Legislative hearings and testified against HB 6367 that proposes the elimination of the BHPOC. He asked for any additional comments on any of the legislation that touches on Council business. Kelly Phenix had concerns with SB 654, the First-Aid Mental Health Bill. She said that some people had some confusion with the bill and she thought that clarification was needed. (See discussion of this bill in the 2013 February summary).

Action Items

No Action Items this month.

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports **Department of Social Services (DSS)**



BHPOC3-13-13Draft
Costs for Low Income



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Bill Halsey deferred to the report that Kate McElvoy would give later in the meeting. Janine Sullivan Wiley had a question for Bill on Smoking Cessation coverage. She said that the smoking rate of people who have behavioral health issues is very high. Her concern is group treatment is currently not a coverage rate (therapy code) at that paradigm. Sharon Langer and Maureen Smith added their concerns, with Sharon noting that Massachusetts showed how cost effective such treatment is. Bill said that he did not have the expenditures to smoking cessation but he would look into it to see what the cost was to the Department and check with Judy Jordan and he would get back to her. Janine asked if she could use another therapy code for the interim. Bill said that not at this time, could he give her a date for the group code authority, additional analysis needed to be done for group codes. Currently, there are only individual codes.

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Karen Andersson said that on Friday, March 15, 2013 at the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy meeting at Value Options in Rocky Hill, the department would give a report on Children 12 and Younger and that anyone can come and see the presentation and take part of the discussion. Deputy Commissioner Gruendel will give the presentation this Friday and on Friday, April 12, 2013 the Department will have a question and answer session for members and the general public who have interest on this topic.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Colleen Harrington said the Department continues to work with the Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee on the Behavioral Health Home Initiative and they hope to have a report by Mid-Spring.

Presentation and Discussion

Behavioral Health Partnership Milestones- Lori Szczygiel, CEO CTBHP/Value Options



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At the December Council meeting when the agencies presented the annual statistical reports (as required by legislation), many people were looking for the meaning in the numbers. As one participant asked, “Is anyone actually getting better?” Trying to answer that question is an important goal of the Council. Discussion centered on identifying relevant data and the next steps to take. Lori Szczygiel, CEO of Value Options said that VO has developed a compelling presentation based on seven years of data on children’s programs. There is now almost two years’ worth of data on the adult program that can contribute to a better level of understanding and indicate where gaps may be. DMHAS and VO will also be able to analyze data across different data sets to improve results. Lori said that the age old question of “Are people getting better?” can be analyzed and evaluated through the data from the last seven years of the Behavioral Health Partnership’s story and from the data the question can be answered (see above document for the report). Overall, the BHP has saved about \$41 million in expenses between 2007 and 2012 but with the ASO costs, the net savings are \$14.8 million realized. Given the rate of inflation, this amounts to an 11.4% decrease in BH costs since 2007. Beresford Wilson asked,

“How are families getting better?” Lori said that families are getting better because they are getting to use the system, access is better, and the data shows that costs are down and quality of healthcare has gone up. Dr. Charles Herrick asked in terms of costs and quality, is VO able to identify a program that is working well as far as outcomes are concerned? VO is still formulating methodology to see if the elements in the data that is measured are right and then they will be able to pinpoint programs that are exemplary. Lori said that consumer satisfaction was over 85% in a survey that was conducted a few years ago.

Health Care Reform Update- Kate McElvoy, Acting Medicaid Director- DSS



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This lengthy report is a snapshot of the integration of an individual's health in the State of Connecticut.

Committee Reports

Co-Chair Jeff Walter said that due to length of the previous agency presentations, the Council will forego the Committee reports and they will be given first at the April Council meeting.

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

Sharon Langer reported that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 27, 2013. Topics will include transportation (NEMT) issues and other updates.

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

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

Committee Reports

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

Adjournment

Co-Chair Jeff Walter asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing nothing, he adjourned the Council meeting at 4:07 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB