



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: Rep. Phil Miller, Hal Gibber & Jeffrey Walter

Meeting Summary: May 14, 2014

*Next meeting: **June 11, 2014 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB***

Attendees: Rep. Phil Miller (Co-chair), Hal Gibber (Co-chair), Jeff Walter, (Co-chair), Dr. Karen Andersson (DCF), Rick Calvert, Terri DiPietro, Howard Drescher, Catherine Foley-Geib, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, Bill Halsey (DSS), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Thomas King, Mickey Kramer, Sharon Langer, Stephen Larcen, Stephen Merz, Judith Meyers, Steven Moore, Nancy Navarretta, Lois Nesci, Kelly Phenix, Knute Rotto (CEO VO), Dr. Jeffrey Shelton, Maureen Smith, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Dennis Torres, and Alicia Woodsby

BHP OC Administration

Co-chair Jeff Walter convened the meeting/public forum at 2:12 PM. He welcomed everyone and asked for questions, comments, additions, deletions, or corrections about the April BHPOC Summary. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously in favor to accept the summary as written. Steve Moore, Value Options Chief Operating Officer, introduced Knute Rotto, Value Options new Chief Executive Officer. He comes from the provider community primarily in Indiana but with offices in Washington, D.C., Louisiana, and Maryland before coming to Connecticut to accept the position of CEO of Value Options. Everyone joined in and welcomed him to the council. Knute said that he looks forward to getting to know the council, how it affects change, and what the issues are in Connecticut. Co-chair Jeff Walter then had all the members introduce themselves.

Action Items

No Action Items.

Public Forum on the Access to Services and Quality of Care in Connecticut Summary of Issues

- Walls of Sigma have not come down yet
- HIPPA laws prevent providers to communicate effectively and efficiently
- Sign language translators are not provided for the deaf and hard of hearing population
- Multi-issues and lack of services for the blind-deaf and schizophrenic population
- No effective treatment or services for Reactive Attachment Disorder population
- Some services are not effective and consistent, i.e., IICAPS
- Educated Schizophrenic population cannot find viable employment

- Autism Spectrum services are limited
- More services and specialized care are needed for inner city youth with BH issues
- More support and help for youths transitioning from DCF care to DMHAS services
- More healthcare coordination is needed between medical doctors and mental health professionals
- More assistance is needed in obtaining medications and therapy
- Assistance is needed in obtaining a primary care physician to resolve health problems for people with BH issues
- Healthcare system only focuses on what healthcare will pay for and not the patient
- People with MH issues are still treated like social pariahs
- Family advocates for people with BH issues are ignored or seen as being difficult
- The terrible toll that an out-of-control family member/ child can take on families
- The lack of services for people who have particularly unique or multiple needs (e.g. schizophrenia plus blind or deaf)
- Need for recognition of and supports for the children of people with severe mental illness (e.g. trauma)

There were nine members of the public who testified. Testimony was either on behalf of a family member and/or themselves. Copies of the testimony can be obtained by contacting David Kaplan, BHPOC Administrator at david.kaplan@cga.ct.gov Co-chair Representative Miller who moderated the public forum asked for any other testimonies from audience members or questions from council members. Co-chair Hal Gibber thanked everyone in the room for coming and for their participation. Representative Miller then concluded the public forum by asking for any new business or comments. Janine Sullivan-Wiley said that it would be great if problems could be solved on a pragmatic level but problems are individual. Judith Meyers said that there are four remaining hearings on the Children's Mental Health Plan.

Children's Behavioral Health Plan Open Forums

The Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI), along with external consultants, is seeking input on children's behavioral health issues from parents, mental health experts and community members at six open public forums across the state. The forums are designed as listening sessions to help guide the development of a statewide children's behavioral health plan (as mandated by P.A. 13-178).

The remaining four forums will be held in New London, New Britain, West Haven, and Stamford. **They are open to the general public and members of the media.** They will be hosted in a similar style to legislative testimony sessions.

Note: Due to time constraints, there will be a limited number of 3-minute time slots for speaking available. Pre-registration is required to both attend and be eligible to speak. Speaking assignments will be given out at the event sign-in table on a first come first serve basis. Comments can also be submitted [online](#).

The first two open public forums were held on March 26 in Hartford, CT and May 8 in Waterbury. The events were filmed by CT-N.

Tuesday, May 20 - New London

6:00 PM-8:00 PM (doors open at 5:30)
Connecticut College, Cummings Evans Hall
270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT

Wednesday, May 28 - New Britain

6:00 PM-8:00 PM (doors open at 5:30)
New Britain High School
110 Mill Street, New Britain, CT

Thursday, May 29 - West Haven

6:00 PM-8:00 PM (doors open at 5:30)
The University of New Haven (Dobbs Hall, Buknall Theater)
300 Post Road, West Haven, CT

Tuesday, June 3 - Stamford

6:00 PM-8:00 PM (doors open at 5:30)
Academy of Information Technology & Engineering
411 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT

Other Business/Adjournment

Co-chair Representative Phil Miller thanked everyone for coming and reminded Council Members that the next meeting will be June 11, 2014 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB and he adjourned the public forum at 3:47 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB