



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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Co-Chairs: Rep. Phil Miller, Hal Gibber & Jeffrey Walter
Meeting Summary: June 11, 2014

Next meeting: **July 9, 2014 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

Attendees: Representative Phil Miller (Co-chair), Hal Gibber (Co-Chair), Jeff Walter, (Co-Chair), Dr. Karen Andersson (DCF), Dr. Donna Balaski (DSS), Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF), Rick Calvert, Terri DiPietro, Howard Drescher, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, Bill Halsey (DSS), Robin Hamilton (Logisticare), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Sandra Iwaniec (Logisticare), Sharon Langer, Stephen Larcen, Stephen Merz, Judith Meyers, Steve Moore, Knute Rotto (CEO/VO), Nancy Navarretta, Lois Nesci, Kimberly Nystrom, Sherry Perlstein, Kelly Phenix, Maureen Smith, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, and Eddie Tosado (Logisticare)

BHP OC Administration

Co-chair Representative Phil Miller convened the meeting at 2:08 PM by welcoming everyone. He immediately went into the meeting agenda and asked for a motion to approve the May 2014 Public Forum summary. A motion was made to accept, seconded by Maureen Smith, and approved unanimously in favor to accept the summary as written. He then told Council Members that the order of the agenda would be switched in order to accommodate presenters' schedules. Next, Co-chair Miller read aloud a Governor's Statement and a Legislative Citation honoring Co-Chairman Jeff Walter for his duty, commitment, honor, and leadership to the people of the State of Connecticut and to the BHPOC upon his retirement. There was a round of applause from Council Members. Co-chair Hal Gibber then presented Jeff two framed photographs of the Council with Jeff chairing the meeting with a plaque included: BHPOC 2005-2014 and the other was a montage of photos from a Council meeting. Howard Drescher, Council Member and Co-chair of the Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee thanked Jeff on behalf of families for all his work he has done for them. With all the honorary accolades, Jeff responded that he was speechless. He was able to say that the BHPOC is part of his cause and he "knows that the next Co-chair will lead the Council well into the future because the issues are not going away." Jeff plans to stay with the Council until his co-terminus appointment is through in December.

Co-chair Walter then opened up the nominations from the Council for his replacement as Co-chair telling members to submit names by June 27, 2014 to BHPOC Administrator David Kaplan. David will then give the Executive Committee that is acting as a nominating committee, the names that he received to be considered for new co-chair. The nominating committee will then bring the names forward to Council Members at the July meeting so that members can vote

for and elect a new co-chair at that meeting. Jeff will then step aside and the new co-chair will immediately take the reign of leadership that day.

Action Items

No Action Items.

Non-Medical Emergency Transportation (NEMT) -Dr. Donna Balaski (DSS) and Robin Hamilton, Sandy Iwaniec, and Eddie Tosado of Logisticare



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Robin Hamilton of Logisticare, General Manager (NEMT ASO) introduced her team of Sandy Iwaniec, Program Manager and Eddie Tosado, Director of Operations to the Council. Together, they gave the presentation (see above report). Maureen Smith, Co-chair of the Coordination Committee, gave the Council the background on why NEMT is a topic for Logisticare to present at the Council meeting. Dr. Donna Balaski (DSS) now oversees and coordinates NEMT for the Department. She presented the program evaluation of NEMT and Logisticare (see above report).

Discussion

Logisticare focused on telephone-based issues, such as the goal to answer calls was 45 seconds. Providers can be penalized by receiving 40% less business from Logisticare if providers are not performing satisfactory. The abandonment rate is tracked to 5% of calls that are answered. Currently, the wait time for clients calling for rides is 2 minutes and 50 seconds for wait time. Janine Sullivan-Wiley sees problems with NEMT more centered on pick-up and drop-off times. When clients are late for appointments, or are not picked up by transportation providers, they are deemed as “No-show” patients and are penalized or even dropped by their medical providers. Some medical providers do not schedule their last appointments of the work day for clients who utilize Logisticare for their transportation. Steve Merz of Yale New Haven Hospital asked what has changed since February and March. His reply was that the phone time wait has improved. Both Maureen Smith and Steve Larcen said they were very impressed with the new data that Dr. Balaski presented and told her they were optimistic that she would be able to handle and resolve the issues that come with NEMT. However, Council members did raise significant concerns that the reality “on the ground” to BH providers and consumers is not as positive as the data may suggest. Council members expressed concern that there are still significant problems with NEMT but they recognized the earnest efforts that Logisticare is making to improve the service. Both the Council and the Coordination of Care Committee will continue to monitor and track NEMT issues and keep it in the forefront of priorities of concern.

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports- Review of State Agencies’ Budgets and Other Relevant Legislation and Biennial Budget Adjustments **Department of Social Services (DSS)**



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3)AgencyRpts.pptx

Bill Halsey gave the presentation for DSS (see above report). He said hospital payment methodology to pay for services will be done through the Rate Setting Unit of the Department. This will be fast-tracked to allow HUSKY clients over the age of 21 to see private practitioners by July 1, 2014. He said the Department is obligated by legislative action (last year) to come up with a \$1 million savings. He indicated that savings can be found within the NEMT budget by allowing clients and in particular, methadone maintenance clients, to go to providers who are closer (within 15 miles) to their residences. Dr. Herrick asked how will ICU work? Bill replied that standards for ED and hospital patients who require frequent visits will remain the same.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Colleen Harrington gave the report for the Department (see Part II of the above report). For the Mental Health and Substance Use Grant Accounts, \$15 million was added back to the budget to reflect the slower pace in which individuals served by DMHAS provider system are moving into Medicaid; \$10 million from the tobacco settlement fund in DMHAS budget and \$5 million for rate increase in DSS budget. For the Governor's Mental Health Initiative, \$3.1 million goes to additional supportive housing slots, specialized residential placements and to an Anti-stigma campaign. Howard Drescher told Colleen that he was happy that the Anti-stigma campaign was launched and that it would be a good start to educate the public on MH awareness and issues.

Department of Children and Families (DCF)



BHPOC6-11-14DCFS
FY2015BudgetChange

Karen Andersson gave the report for SFY 2015 Budget Changes Impacting Behavioral Health for the Department.

1. \$5.4 million reduction in Grant Congregate Care beds (5 Therapeutic Group Homes and 1 STAR)
2. Various adjustments to 2015 mid-year budget driven by actual caseload:
 - *Reduction in Board and Care Residential: \$11,362,311
 - Increase in Board and Care Adoption: \$1,268,457
 - Increase in Board and Care Foster Care; \$4,001,107
3. Initiative to assist with insurance reimbursement for court ordered Solnit inpatient stays: \$150,000
4. One FTE at Office of Health advocate to assist privately insured families in accessing commercial insurance benefits to pay for medically necessary residential placements: \$75,000

*Reduction the result of *approximately* 43 fewer youth in residential Treatment centers, 30 fewer in Therapeutic Group Homes and 15 fewer in community group homes over the course of the past fiscal year.

Committee Reports: Co-chair Jeff Walter asked Committee Co-chairs to put off their full reports until the next meeting in July because of a lack of time. The committee reports will be given at the beginning of the next Council meeting.

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

A report will be made next month.

*From previously: Consumers who are still experiencing difficulty with transportation appointments can call Logisticare at 1-888-248-9895; HUSKY Health at 1-800-859-9889 for accessing health services, coordination of care, and to file a NEMT complaint.

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

The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 20, 2014 at 2:00 PM at Value Options in Rocky Hill. The topics will be: Review of Congregate Care, and IICAPS Evaluation: Next Steps for 2014.

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

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 26, 2014 at 3:00 PM at CCPA in Rocky Hill. The topics will be: Update on BHH Discussion on Medicaid Eligibility, Debriefing on the May BHPOC Public Forum on Access and Quality to Services in Connecticut.

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

Co-chair Terri DiPietro reported at the May Operations Committee meeting, Value Options has agreed to put off the implementation of DSM-5 until October 1, 2015. A transmittal has gone out to inform all providers of this action.

Other Business/Adjournment



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ForumSummary.doc

Co-Chair Jeff Walter thanked everyone for coming and for their kind words and warm wishes for him and his family. He cited the May Public Forum Summary that was sent out and handed out to Council Members (see above summary). He said that these were some of the issues to keep in mind and to keep track. He also told the members that the Council will meet in July but **NOT** in August. He asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Judith Meyers said that there will be no Public Hearing on the Children's Behavioral Health Plan for Monday, June 16, 2014. Kelly Phenix announced that the Task Force to Study the Provision of Behavioral Health Services for Young Adults that she was a member of will have a press conference on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 3:00 PM in 1D LOB to present its final report and it is open to the public. Jeff then adjourned the meeting at 4:25 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 9, 2014 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB