



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

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[www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC](http://www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC)

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*Co-Chairs: Rep. Phil Miller, Hal Gibber & Jeffrey Walter*  
Meeting Summary: July 9, 2014

Next meeting: **September 10, 2014 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

*Attendees: Jeff Walter, (Co-Chair), Dr. Karen Andersson (DCF), Rick Calvert, Sharon Dexler, Terri DiPietro, Catherine Foley-Geib, Bill Halsey (DSS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Steven Kant, Dr. Thomas King, Sharon Langer, Stephen Larcen, Stephen Merz, Judith Meyers, Steve Moore, Nancy Navarretta, Lois Nesci, Kimberly Nystrom, Sherry Perlstein, Kelly Phenix, Galo Rodriguez, Knute Rotto (CEO/VO), Dr. Mark Schaefer (SIM), Maureen Smith, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Joe Sullivan, Susan Walkama, Jesse White Frese, and Beresford Wilson*

### ***BHP OC Administration***

Co-chair Jeff Walter convened the meeting at 2:12 PM by welcoming everyone. He told Council Members that the agenda would be juggled in order to give time to other Member's arrival and to accommodate the presenting guest's schedule. Later, Jeff introduced new Member Joe Sullivan and welcomed him to the Council. He then called for a review and approval of the June summary. Beresford Wilson made a motion to accept, seconded by Sharon Langer. All voted unanimously to approve the summary without revision. Jeff went on to the next item on the agenda which was the close of nominations and the election of the next Council Co-chair. He said the Executive Committee acted as the Nomination Committee, nominating Sharon Langer, Council member from Connecticut Voices for Children. He then opened up nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he asked for a voice vote from Council Members. Beresford Wilson asked if the retirement of Co-chair Hal Gibber from FAVOR would require another co-chair vote in the future. Jeff responded that all Council Members are appointed by various legislators and that Hal's intentions are to remain as Co-chair until at least the end of his legislative appointment. Jeff then asked if there are any other nominations from the floor or questions for Sharon. By voice vote, it was approved without abstentions; Sharon Langer was unanimously elected the new Co-chair of the BHPOC. Upon her election, Sharon said that she was not replacing Jeff Walter but she will continue to lead the Council forward with its agenda. Beresford thanked Jeff for his leadership and saying his particular style of leadership should be modeled and he looks forward to Jeff's continued support. Jeff continued to chair the rest of the Council meeting and Sharon will assume the role of the new administrative co-chair at the Council's September meeting.

### ***Action Items***

No Action Items.

**Committee Reports:** Co-chair Jeff Walter asked Committee Co-chairs to give their reports first, out of order from the agenda.

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

Maureen Smith said that Dr. Donna Balaski (DSS) was put in charge of Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) and the committee was pleased with the approach that Dr. Balaski is taking to resolve the many issues with NEMT. DSS is putting out several new brochures for NEMT and the department has asked for comments and suggestions. Co-chair Maureen Smith has agreed to be the contact coordinator and members should send their comments and suggestions to her before July 30, 2014.

\*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.

Note: Sharon Langer is stepping down as the co-chair now that she will be the administrative co-chair of the Oversight Council. Janine Sullivan-Wiley has kindly agreed to co-chair this committee with Maureen Smith.

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

It was announced that Co-chair Bob Franks will be the new President and CEO of the Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston and therefore is stepping down from co-chairing the committee and his colleague at CHDI, Jeff Vanderploeg will be replacing him on the committee and as co-chair. Council Co-chair Jeff Walter wished Bob well in his new position and thanked him for the many years of service and for the contributions Bob gave to the committee and to the Council. Co-chair Sherry Perlstein reported that DCF presented a report on the Review of Congregate Care, and IICAPS Evaluation: Next Steps for 2014 at the Committee's June meeting. This information will be presented to the whole Council in September. The committee was also given a brief report on the review of the allocation to Child Guidance Clinic funding. Sherry is concerned that this may cause an issue with access to services for families. Janine Sullivan-Wiley said that a legislator had asked her a question on children's congregate residences closing down in their district and that they were not made aware of it until after the fact. Karen Andersson (DCF) said that a majority of juveniles who come out of residential care would be going to community-based services. Sherry Perlstein affirmed that community-based services cannot handle the amount of juveniles coming from the closure of residential care facilities. These closures occur quickly but often there is a lag in coordination of getting these juveniles to community-based services. She asked, "What is the plan? Is there something that can be done with the savings for the continuum of care?" Steve Larcen said that he would like to see the data on this issue every month or on a quarterly or even a yearly basis. Beresford Wilson, has a new position as the Youth & Family Advocate for the ConneCT Grant said that the safe group home where his own child has been since March 2014 (and has not been seen clinically), is set for closure. Karen said that the Congregate Care report that will be presented to the Council in September will have the data. The report itself is currently on-line at:

[www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC](http://www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC) under the presentations for the June Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee. Sherry would like to have Council Members to review it before the next Council meeting so members can have their questions ready when the report will be

presented. Judith Meyers said that the CT Mirror has a new article coming out on the hospital emergency departments (EDs). Karen replied that the ED Utilization Report would have been shared at the July Council meeting but will instead be presented at the next meeting. With all the closings of the residential treatment facilities, data from the summer months will be included into the report. Karen said that most kids in the EDs are coming from home and not from the residential congregate care settings. Sherry raised the issue that EMPS has no new monies being invested into the system. It is her understanding that money was returned by DCF this year. Can this money be re-invested into EMPS? Karen said that money had been previously returned by the department but not this year. Perhaps this can be done by fee for service, grant or other means. People need to be hired to answer the increase of calls. Beresford said that respite services should be added to EMPS.

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

The committee met on Thursday, June 26, 2014 at 3:00 PM at CCPA in Rocky Hill. The topics included an Update on Behavioral Health Homes (BHH), a discussion on Medicaid Eligibility, and a follow-up on the State Partner Agencies' Priority List for 2014-2015 as it relates to the Committee's Scope of Work.

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

Co-chair Terri DiPietro reported at the May Operations Committee meeting, they discussed Add-on codes. For the upcoming July meeting, a discussion will be led by Bill Halsey (DSS) on new criteria for licensing of LMSWs. Co-chair Susan Walkama said that Value Options will review the new Precept Rule for hospitals.

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

Bill Halsey opted to wait to give a report until the presentation of the State Innovation Model (SIM) initiative is given. Janine Sullivan-Wiley expressed disappointment because the Hospital Group Smoking Cessation Code (rates) did not go through but she remains hopeful that it will soon. Bill responded that he had hoped that DSS could find a single revenue center code that hospitals could use for the smoking cessation group counseling, making the state plan amendment reasonable simple. The federal Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has dramatically increased the scrutiny of state plan amendments and there are a number of SPAs pending. For example, he said that the Upper Payment Limit demonstration, as part of the behavioral health clinic state plan amendment was still under review and CMS has not gotten back to DSS's Rate Setting Unit. Since the State Plan Amendment has not been approved to date, there is no indication when the new clinic rates could be implemented. Bill hopes by the next Council meeting in September, he will be able to have an answer for Council Members and provide more detail on the status of the clinic state plan amendment. Steve Merz (YNHH) asked who at DSS is managing the state plan process. Bill said that Chris Levine of the Rate Setting Department and Joel Norwood from our legal unit are primarily responsible for the state plan process. He added that if CMS accepts the methodology, then DSS would approve the rate increases.

## **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)**

Nancy Navarretta gave the report for the Department. They are still waiting to hear back from CMS on the Behavioral Health Home (BHH) initiative. DSS is currently in negotiations with the successful bidder for the role of the Administrative Service Organization (ASO) for BHHs. As a result, the agencies were not able to release the name of the ASO contractor yet.

## **Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

Karen Andersson said that a review on Congregate Care and Utilization (reports) would be presented to the Council at its September meeting.

## **Medicaid Strategies in the State Innovation Model Initiative (SIM) – Bill Halsey (DSS) and Dr. Mark Schaefer, Director of Medical Innovation**



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Bill Halsey (DSS) gave a review, background and the reasons why the State was going after the grant for the State Innovation Model initiative and how it would have implications on Medicaid (see pages 6-9 in above report). The overall goal of SIM is to:

- Establish a whole-person centered health care system that improves community health and eliminates health inequities
- Ensure superior access, quality and care experience
- Empower individuals to actively participate in their healthcare
- Improve affordability by reducing healthcare costs

He said that SIM seeks to involve all healthcare payers in Connecticut to align incentives to meet the above goals. With regard to HUSKY clients, the SIM model would affect “single eligible” (an individual who is eligible only for Medicaid and not Medicare). The “Triple Aim” is that providers must meet quality measures, to improve outcomes, and reduce total cost of care for members. This is a shared savings model, meaning if the state saves money, the state shares a percentage of those savings with the providers. During the life of the four-year grant it would be determined how to best impact social determinants that affect healthcare. Steve Larcen asked about the 1/1/16 target date and what are the expectations this will be done by then? Bill replied that the application date is 7/15/14 and the procurement should be done by the fall of 2015. He added that trying to improve the whole care experience for the member is a prime goal of the SIM Innovation.

### **Other Business/Adjournment**

Co-Chair Jeff Walter thanked Dr. Schaefer for his time and for the update on SIM. He also thanked everyone for coming and for their kind words about him. He also reminded members that the Council will **NOT** meet in August. He asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 4:06 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 @ 2:00 PM**  
**1E LOB**