



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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Co-Chairs: Rep. Phil Miller, Sharon Langer & Hal Gibber
Meeting Summary: September 10, 2014

Next meeting: **October 8, 2014 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

Attendees: Representative Phil Miller, (Co-chair), Sharon Langer, (Co-chair), Howard Drescher, Terri DiPietro, Heather Gates, Bill Halsey (DSS), Peg Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Stephen Larcen, Stephen Merz, Judith Meyers, Steve Moore, Nancy Navarretta, Kimberly Nystrom, Sherry Perlstein, Dr. Bert Plant (VO), Lynne Ringer (VO), Galo Rodriguez, Knute Rotto (CEO/VO), Kristina Stevens (DCF), Joe Sullivan, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Dennis Torres, Susan Walkama, and Alicia Woodsby

BHP OC Administration

Co-chair Representative Phil Miller convened the meeting at 2:08 PM by welcoming everyone. Council Members then made their introductions. He then asked members for a motion to accept the July BHPOC summary. A motion was made, seconded, and accepted unanimously without changes. Sharon Langer gave the opening remarks as the new Administrative Co-chair of the Council. She told Council Members to feel free to email or to call her on issues to be addressed by the Council. Phil then advised members to prepare for more time in advance of Council meetings in order to accommodate the LOB's new security measures.

Action Items

No Action Items.

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



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Bill Halsey gave a report on the Department of Social Services Medicaid State Plan Amendments (see above report for details). Janine Sullivan-Wiley expressed that she understands and is pleased with the department's presentation. Due to timing, Co-chair Sharon Langer told Council Members that if they had any further comments or questions for Bill that they should forward them to any of the co-chairs or Executive Committee members and they would be forwarded to Bill for answers and he would briefly address them at the October Council meeting.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Colleen Harrington gave the report for the Department. Although CMS has not approved the Behavioral Health Home (BHH) proposal as of yet, the department is helping providers, non-profits, and LMHAs by giving them technical assistance when they join the BHH initiative. The Administrative Service Organization (ASO) for BHHs is currently being established.

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Kristina Stevens said the draft plan for the *Connecticut Behavioral Health Plan for Children*, PA-13-178 <http://www.plan4children.org/draft-plan/> is out and posted for public comment and the department will have a follow-up meeting in the next couple of weeks. Steve Merz asked why there was such a short public feedback comment period. Kristine responded that it was a matter of timing within the process. However, she endured the Council that comments and feedback will be incorporated and attention will be paid to additional comments that come in after the deadline. Judith Meyer pointed out that the 32 comments and feedback received so far will be posted on the website for review.

Congregate Care and Residential Treatment Centers 2009-2014– Dr. Bert Plant, VO Senior Vice President of Quality and Innovation and Lynne Ringer, VO Assistant Vice President of Quality Management



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Dr. Bert Plant and Lynne Ringer, both of Value Options, gave the report on Congregate Care and Residential Treatment Centers 2009-2014 (see above for full details). Dr. Plant explained that all data comes by means of VO Authorization Information and DCF Risk Management data. In regards to this report which was presented earlier in the summer to the Child/Adolescent QAP Committee, Sherry Perlstein, Co-chair of that committee, had forwarded to DCF a list of six (6) questions for VO and DCF to answer at today's Council meeting (see above).

Susan Walkama asked about the number of denials for congregate care. Dr. Plant responded that the VO data reflects that information. Dr. Charles Herrick was concerned about the 54% reduction of state beds available in residential treatment centers. He asked where the kids are going when they leave DCF facilities; are they going to the Juvenile Justice System? Kristina Stevens responded no, many of them are going to next to kin and kinship families are taking in these kids and receiving Intensive In-Home Services.

Heather Gates asked if kids are getting the level of care that they need. Dr. Plant said that data can be pulled to get that answer. Kristina said that no data suggests that kids are not getting the level of care that they require. They are getting customized services. Steve Merz asked about adequacy in the system. Dr. Plant said that the data comes from when referrals are made, how long it takes and admissions are accepted. Another question was asked about length of stay for kids who go to out-of-state facilities. What is that level and why cannot Connecticut handle these levels. Dr. Plant responded that many of these clients have neuro-psych issues combined with other medical problems. The next question was how to build capacity so that such a

population can be handled within the state. Kristina emphasized that kids will do better when they live near and have easy access to their families. Janine Sullivan-Wiley said that the data may not tell the whole story because some kids are not being counted in terms of unmet need because their families have been told that there is no residential care available.

Committee Reports: Co-chair Sharon Langer asked Committee Co-chairs to give their reports last, out of order from the agenda.

Coordination of Care: - *Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair*

Council Co-chair and former Co-chair of the Coordination of Care Committee Sharon Langer informed Council Members that due to on-going health concerns, her Co-chair of that committee, Maureen Smith has decided to take her retirement from state service effective October 1, 2014 and has stepped down from the BHPOC. At the next BHPOC meeting on October 8, 2014 Maureen will be honored by the Council for her support and state service. Many members wished Maureen well and thanked her for her dedication and work for the people of Connecticut. In addition, Council Member Janine Sullivan-Wiley has replaced Sharon Langer as Co-chair of the committee and with Maureen's retirement, the committee is looking to replace her as well. Any Council Member interested to become co-chair of the committee should contact any member of the BHPOC Executive Committee or David Kaplan, staff to the BHPOC as soon as possible. September 23, 2014 will be the next committee meeting and new non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) proposed regulations will be discussed.

*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 Jeff Vanderploeg, Co-Chairs*

Co-chair Sherry Perlstein informed Council Members that there will be a presentation on ED and EMPS Data at the October 1, 2014 (*NOTE* Date Change) committee meeting at 2:00 PM at VO in Rocky Hill.

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

Co-chair Heather Gates said the committee did not meet this summer but the next meeting will be on Thursday, October 2, 2014 (*NOTE* Date Change) at 3:00 PM at CCPA in Rocky Hill.

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

Co-chair Susan Walkama reported that the September Operations Committee meeting included a discussion about how the new LMSW Licensure will be incorporated into the DSS regulatory process. There was also a discussion on how By-pass Hospitals get service authorization from one hospital to another. There are some communications issues associated with this. This issue will be brought before the CT Hospital Association meeting to get clarification. Smoking Cessation codes will go into effect on October 1, 2014. Another discussion focused on the re-tooling for the payment methodology and outpatient level of care. It was recommended that VO

do a study on other parts of the country and produce a White Paper by the end of the year to see what other states are doing in this area (payment methodology).

Other Business/Adjournment

Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked Dr. Plant, Lynne Ringer and Kristina Stevens for their presentation and said that the Council is looking forward to seeing the ED presentation next month on October 8, 2014 in 1E LOB. She then asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing none, Sharon adjourned the meeting at 4:05 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2014 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB