



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

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*Co-Chairs: Rep. Phil Miller, Sharon Langer & Hal Gibber*  
Meeting Summary: October 8, 2014

Next meeting: **November 12, 2014 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

*Attendees: Representative Phil Miller, (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer, (Co-Chair), Hal Gibber (Co-Chair), Paul Acker, Karen Andersson (DCF), Catherine Foley-Geib, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, Bill Halsey (DSS), Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Dr. Thomas King, Mickey Kramer, Stephen Larcen, Jack Lu, Tim Marshall, Stephen Merz, Judith Meyers, Dr. Steve Moore (VO), Nancy Navarretta, Sherry Perlstein, Dr. Bert Plant (VO), Galo Rodriguez, Kristina Stevens (DCF), Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Dennis Torres, Jeff Vanderploeg, Vicki Veltri, and Jeff Walter*

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

Co-Chair Representative Phil Miller convened the meeting at 2:05 PM by welcoming everyone and Council Members were introduced. He then talked about the Legislative Citation introduced by the Public Health Committee for the retirement of Maureen Smith who has been on the Council for thirteen years and seven years as Co-Chair of the Coordination of Care Committee and asked for comments of tribute for Maureen. Vicki Veltri, Healthcare Advocate, talked about how Maureen helped launch the Office of Healthcare Advocate and how her background and experience benefited all the people that she was able to help over the many years. Vicki added that Maureen was irreplaceable and would be greatly missed. Jeff Walter explained that Maureen was an original member of the Council and how she has a unique way of getting to the crux of the human issues and perspectives and how she felt the Council can help the people of the State of Connecticut. He wishes her well for her retirement. Sharon Langer spoke of co-chairing the Coordination of Care Committee with Maureen and how Maureen was able to explain the issues at the human and practical level to get to the root of the problems in the healthcare delivery system. She told the Council that that prior to Maureen joining the Office of Healthcare Advocate, Maureen was the RN in charge of the neo-natal unit in Hartford Hospital for many years. She concluded that Maureen will be greatly missed and she wished Maureen a speedy recovery from her latest illness. Steve Larcen talked about how he and Maureen worked together before the creation of the BHPOC and how greatly she will be missed on the Council.

Representative Miller thanked members for their comments and then made a motion to accept the September BHPOC summary, Co-Chair Sharon Langer seconded. All voted to accept the summary as written.

## Action Items



CoordCareDSSNotice  
Intent9-23-14.pdf



CoordCareDSS9-23-  
14NEMTRegulations.f

Co-Chair of the Coordination of Care Committee Janine Sullivan-Wiley gave the background for the need for Council comments for the October 29, 2014 DSS hearing on new Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) regulations. Council Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked for a motion for the Council to give official comments, Co-Chair Hal Gibber made the motion for Janine to make recommendations on behalf of the Council at the 10/29/14 DSS hearing and Paul Acker seconded the motion. All voted in favor with no opposition.

## Pediatric Emergency Department Utilization PT 2013 Report – Dr. Bert Plant, VO Senior Vice President of Quality and Innovation



BHPOC10-8-14Abrid  
gedPediatricEDUtilPT2



BHPOC10-8-14CTBH  
PPediatricED1-pagerF

Sherry Perlstein as Co-Chair of the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee introduced Dr. Bert Plant of Value Options who gave the report on Pediatric Emergency Department Utilization PT 2013 (see above for full details). Dr. Plant explained that all data comes by means of VO Claims Authorization Information and he thanked Dr. Laurie Van Der Heide of VO for putting together this data information. He said this report tracks the 3 to 17 year old population in the state. Dr. Plant also referred to the Governor's Press release (10/08/14) that addresses Child BH issues as presented in the *Connecticut Behavioral Health Plan for Children*, PA 13-178.

## EMPS Data Report-Jeff Vanderploeg and Jack Lu- CHDI



BHPOC10-8-14EMPS-  
EDpresentFINALv5.pr



BHPOC10-8-14Q&AE  
D-EMPSpresentation.

Jeff Vanderploeg of the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) gave the background how EMPS is mobilized (see report above). Jack Lu said the time period for this report was FY 2011 to FY 2014 (July 1-June 30). 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 a list of five (5) questions to have answered at the Council meeting (see above). Kristina Stevens (DCF) answered the questions for her department. Dr. Bert Plant and Karen Andersson (DCF) assisted her in answering. Karen said that again, this data is limited to Claims data for the HUSKY and DCF data for ED information. The EDs must do consecutive data sets this would include information about children who are covered by commercial insurance and/or who are uninsured to get a clearer picture.

## **Discussion**

Mickey Kramer asked about the larger hospitals use of ED data but also wanted to know if all hospitals need to collect this data too. Dr. Plant said that there is a cost associated with collecting data. Maybe a compromise could be made but he would rather see all hospitals collect (ED) data. Sherry Perlstein asked if the state can compel and require that EDs collect and provide this data. Bill Halsey (DSS) said that this is claims data. Bert said the Connecticut Hospital Association does collect data and they could probably be persuaded to share this data. Vicki Veltri had a question on self-reporting and/or provider reporting on race data. Jeff Walter said that all data is based on self-reporting from the hospitals. Janine Sullivan-Wiley wants to see data of BH kids going to the EDs because of fear of physical harm to the family and members of the families. She wants to know how to address this fear. Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked about the time(s) that EMPS is called, what happens after hours? Jeff Walter said that most families do not call at night because they know that EMPS is not available. Steve Larcen asked Dr. Plant if there was any relationship in the VO ED dataset regarding the impact of EMPS services on Pediatric ED utilization. Dr. Plant responded that EMPS service utilization did not have a statistically significant impact ED utilization among children and adolescents. Then Steve asked if the discussion on the Children's ED and EMPS reports could be tabled to next month. Judith Meyers asked how substance abuse is noted- All of that is included in the diagnosis. Heather Gates said that the discussion should include what is actually being done for kids with BH issues. Tim Marshall (DCF) said EDs are not the best alternatives for kids with BH issues. He will have a report "Crisis Services: Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, and Funding Strategies" to send out to the Council that will provide a background for the discussion next month. Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked Bert, Jack, and Jeff for their presentations.

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

Bill Halsey said that he had no formal report. He referred to the Governor's Press Release on Children's Behavioral Health. He also said that on October 22, 2014 at the Autism Spectrum Council in the LOB, draft plans and recommendations will be released. This report will be presented to the Council in November.

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

Colleen Harrington gave an update on Behavioral Health Homes (BHH). The Department has secured and identified provider's rosters for LMHAs, who to use and has identified positions for staffing. National Council of Care to provide training for providers in Physical Health and Behavioral Health cultural changes-helping staff to identify care management and care coordination. The \$10 million will provide staff to get up and running and is ready to go.

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

Karen Andersson said that the presentations covered her update and report and the discussion will continue into the next meeting.

**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

Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley gave her update and report with the Action Item.

\*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 said her committee will focus on clarification in the Children's Behavioral Health Plan.

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

Co-chair Heather Gates said the committee will get a report on Behavioral Health Homes, the Adult ED, and EMPS usage. New dates for the committee meeting will now be the first Thursday of the month at 3:00 PM at CCPA in Rocky Hill, CT. The committee will be getting a report on rate setting for methadone treatment by Bill Halsey of DSS.

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

No Co-Chair was present for an update and report.

**Other Business/Adjournment**

Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked Dr. Plant, Jeff Vanderploeg, and Jack Lu for their presentations and said that the Council meeting will continue the conversation on Children's ED and EMPS. She also said the Council is looking forward to seeing the Adult ED and EMPS presentations next month on November 12, 2014 in 1E LOB. She then asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing none, Sharon adjourned the meeting at 3:55 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB**