



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, Sharon Langer & Hal Gibber
Meeting Summary: November 12, 2014

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

Attendees: Representative Phil Miller (Co-Chair), Hal Gibber (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), Jennifer Bogin, Rick Calvert, Terri DiPietro, Judith Dowd, Howard Drescher, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, Bill Halsey (DSS), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Steven Kant, Dr. Thomas King, Stephen Larcen, Jack Lu, Tim Marshall, Judith Meyers, Dr. Steve Moore (VO), Nancy Navarretta, Lois Nesci, Sherry Perlstein, Kelly Phenix, Dr. Bert Plant (VO), Galo Rodriguez, Knute Rotto, Joseph Sullivan, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Dennis Torres, Jeff Vanderploeg, Vicki Veltri, Susan Walkama, Jeff Walter, Alicia Woodsby, and Dr. Robert Zavorski

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Hal Gibber convened the meeting at 2:06 PM by welcoming everyone and congratulated BHPOC Co-Chair Representative Phil Miller upon his successful re-election victory. Co-Chair Miller announced that he has heard from the re-elected bi-partisan leadership and Governor's Office that all state programs and policies shall proceed and the mission, role, and work of the Council is affirmed and the Council will continue to improve behavioral health for the people of the state. He then thanked everyone and Council Members introduced themselves. After which he made a motion to accept the October BHPOC summary and seconded by Judith Meyers. All voted unanimously to accept the summary as written without changes.

Action Items

None.

Committee Reports:

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

Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley reported that the DSS hearing that was scheduled for new Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) regulations that was set for October 29 was postponed to give the department more time for extensive revision and more community input. She felt it was positive to postpone the hearing date. The next meeting will focus on medical and dental coordination and an election of new consumer co-chairs.

*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 at the last committee meeting that they focused on the detailed descriptions in Governor Malloy's Children's Behavioral Health Plan. Attendees at the meeting wanted to know if private insurance companies will sign on. They also discussed DCF's plans to expand EMPS by adding three additional clinicians, and additional resources (beyond clinicians) in the ED regions that experience a high percentage of children seeking services through the ED. There will be an RFP process to implement 23-hour beds for evaluations. Such a process should help reduce the number of children in waiting in the ED, to keep them safe and avoid ED and admissions where they are not needed. The November meeting was canceled and the December meeting was changed to Wednesday, December 3, 2014 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 there was no report because DSS and VO were not yet ready to release the presentation on Adult ED. The next meeting was changed to December 9, 2014 at 3:00 PM at CCPA in Rocky Hill. At that time, the committee will get a report on Behavioral Health Homes, the Adult ED, and EMPS usage. Bill Halsey of DSS will also provide a report on rate setting for methadone treatment by Bill Halsey of DSS.

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

The committee is still seeking clarification on new licensure rules for LMSWs. Medicaid regulations are being drafted and will be published in a few months. Until then, LMSWs will be treated like an Allied Health Professional. There was an update on the out-patient rate increase and the upper payment limit (UPL) and how that will be billed. There was an update on how VO is finalizing DSM-V codes and VO seeks a launch date for January 2015. They will make an announcement and will provide training to providers on how to implement the new codes. Also, VO is doing a study on the level of care for out-patients. This report is due out at the end of December 2014. EMPS billing codes can only be billed on follow-ups by hour increments and not in fractions of an hour. Bill Halsey will explore if there are any other codes that may be used for incremental billing.

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports-
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Colleen Harrington said that the Department has heard back from CMS on the Behavioral Health Homes (BHH) Fiscal Model and is requesting information on the initial State Plan Amendment draft. The answers to these questions will be sent back to CMS but meanwhile, DMHAS is progressing with ASO contract and hoping to have a document to present soon. The staggered implementation will no longer be needed for the state operated and private non-profit sector. The implementation of BHH services in both sectors will be delivered at the same time.

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Karen Andersson said the update had already been given by Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein when she gave the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee report.

Department of Social Services (DSS) Hospital Payment Reform: Transition to Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) Payment Methodology- Bill Halsey (DSS) and Dr. Robert Zavorski (DSS)



BHPOC11-12-14CON
APRDRGHospitalPayn

Bill Halsey gave the report and presentation on Hospital Payment Reform (see above presentation).

Discussion

Steve Larcen explained the difference between the per diem rate and the DRG payment. Overall, he feels this is a positive change. Dr. Charles Herrick talked about acuity levels and diagnosis. Bill said that he can find out about Dr. Herrick's question and will get back to the Council on this.

Proposed Plan to Cover Autism Services under Medicaid- Bill Halsey (DSS) and Jennifer Bogin (DSS)



BHPOC11-12-14Autis
mSpDsdr-DRAFT-prop

Bill Halsey also gave the report along with Jennifer Bogin of DSS on Autism Services under Medicaid (see presentation above).

Discussion

Bill Halsey noted that the Department of Social Services is trying to implement the autism services program immediately and welcomed feedback from the Council.^[MSOffice1] Jennifer Bogin said that licensed professionals and Board Certified Analysts will participate in programs for Autism Services. Susan Walkama asked about provider qualifications and the network: Will a qualified provider who is not working at a qualified facility, be reimbursed under this program? Bill replied yes, they will be covered. These codes may go with the clinic fee schedule, he replied. Susan said that these services were very exciting and of tremendous need. Sherry Perlstein asked about the role of the Council in reviewing this information. Bill replied that the Department would welcome feedback on this draft proposal from members.

Continuation of Discussion regarding Pediatric Emergency Department Utilization and EMPS Presentations from October Council Meeting – Dr. Bert Plant, VO Senior Vice President of Quality and Innovation, Tim Marshall (DCF), Jeff Vanderploeg and Jack Lu- CHDI

Dr. Bert Plant of Value Options gave a recap of the discussion from last month's Council presentation on Pediatric Emergency Department Utilization PT 2013. Jack Lu of CHDI and Tim Marshall came to answer any questions that Council members still had. Sherry Perlstein also gave more details of the discussion, explaining the differences between congregate care/beds and ED and EMPS usage. Janine Sullivan –Wiley once again brought up the topic of families fearing for and from their child with BH issues. Dr. Plant said that once called, EMPS develops a crisis plan for the family and it is immediately mobilized, always determining what is the true risk and what precautions the families should take. Schools have Memos of Understanding (MOU) and are trained on when and why EMPS should be called in.

Other Business/Adjournment

Co-Chair Hal Gibber thanked Bill Halsey and Jennifer Bogin for their presentations and he also thanked Dr. Plant, Jeff Vanderploeg, Tim Marshall, and Jack Lu for returning to provide follow-up details and answering Council Members questions on their presentations on Children's ED and EMPS. He then asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing none, Hal adjourned the meeting at 4:09 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB