



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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Co-Chairs: Rep. Phil Miller, Sharon Langer & Hal Gibber
Meeting Summary: January 14, 2015

Next meeting: **February 11, 2015 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

Attendees: Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Hal Gibber (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), Tim Blevins, Rick Calvert, Howard Drescher, Terri DiPietro, Catherine Foley-Geib, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, Bill Halsey (DSS), Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Thomas King, Stephen Larcen, Steve Merz, Judith Meyers, Nancy Navarretta, Lois Nesci, Kimberly Nystrom, Sherry Perlstein, Kelly Phenix, Knute Rotto, Joseph Sullivan, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Dennis Torres, and Alicia Woodsby

BHP OC Administration



BHPOCStatutoryAuthorityrev1-2015.pdf

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:05 PM by welcoming everyone and members introduced themselves. She then asked if there needed to be any changes for the December 2014 Council Summary. Heather Gates asked for a re-write as a correction for her Adult Quality, Access & Policy report: “The rate increase will go into effect on 1/1/15 if the State Plan Amendment is submitted by 3/30/15”. The summary will be amended to include this language. At the last Council meeting, Sharon said there was going to be a review of the Council goals. Given the start of a New Year and new legislative session, the Council agreed that it made sense to review the Council’s statutory authority. To that end, Council staff emailed the relevant statute to members and Sharon created a condensed outline of the relevant provisions which was handed out at the meeting (see above). The Council had an opportunity to review each provision of the statute and discuss its relevancy to the Council’s current operations.

Action Items

None.

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

Colleen Harrington gave an update on Behavioral Health Homes (BHH). (See <http://www.ct.gov/dmhas/cwp/view.asp?a=2900&Q=528136&PM=1> for more information about BHH). She said that contracts have been sent out to all of the designated BH providers. Service

codes are being finalized and getting ready to be launched and there will be trainings for providers regarding these service codes that count toward BHH services. Implementation sessions are continuing on a bi-weekly basis. There is an enrollment package that has been drafted and is now being reviewed by a DMHAS attorney that includes the release of information and beneficiary opt out information. The private nonprofit providers have started hiring and the Department is moving forward while still waiting for final approval on the fiscal model from CMS.

Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson (DCF)

Karen Andersson talked about the Governor's Children's Mental Health Plan and what type of responsibility the Council has to this plan. A small group met with Senator Bartolomeo who had introduced the legislation that formed the mental health plan and a list of participants is being put together for an Implementation Committee that will aid in moving forward with all the regulations to implement the plan. It is hoped to get greater representation from consumers and parents for outreach. The group will meet monthly to bring the recommendations forward. There may be some overlap with some Council members being named to the Implementation Committee.

Department of Social Services - Bill Halsey (DSS)

Bill Halsey's report is similar to the Operations Committee report so the agency report and the committee report were discussed together. He said that at the operations committee meeting, quite a bit of time was spent discussing the clinic rates and what DSS is doing about gaining approval from CMS concerning the clinic rates by providing the federal government documentation as to how the proposed rate methodology is within the Medicare Upper Payment Limit. As a result DSS is not prepared to release the proposed rates to the Council at this time. They are hoping that CMS acknowledges that the DSS UPL demonstration is valid so DSS can move forward. The 2012 State Plan Amendment relating to BH services is still pending approval by CMS. The State Plan Amendment is a priority for DSS. Tied up with this are Cost Reports for methadone maintenance. Bill acknowledges that his report may not sit well with many people on the Council but as soon as CMS approves the SPA and DSS receives authority to modify the rates, DSS will release the rate structure and will not implement new rates without sharing it first with the Council.

After a long discussion about rates, Heather Gates mentioned the cuts in the DHMAS budget and said that something needs to be done about it. Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked for a motion to have the Executive Committee have an emergency meeting asking the Chairs of the legislative committees of cognizance, the Governor, and Secretary Barnes (OPM) to do something, perhaps allow DMHAS to deficit spend and not to make things worse. Sherry Perlstein made and moved the motion and Hal Gibber seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions. The Executive Committee shall meet and formulate a letter on behalf of the BHPOC to the Office of Policy and Management and other relevant agencies and/or lawmakers.

Provider Network Adequacy Report- Knute Rotto- CEO/VO



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Knute Rotto, CEO of Value Options gave the presentation, see above report.

Committee Reports: Due to a lack of time, Committee reports were deferred to next month.

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

Due to inclement weather, the next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 1:30 PM in 1E LOB.

*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*

At the next meeting on January 21, 2015 at Value Options, Kristina Stevens will give a report and update on the implementation of the Children’s Behavioral Health Plan, focusing on Plan items not included in the Governor’s Emergency Service Action Plan.

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

Co-Chair Heather Gates reported that the next meeting will be February 5, 2015 at 3:00 PM at CCPA in Rocky Hill.

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

The next meeting will be on February 6, 2015 at 2:30 PM at Value Options in Rocky Hill.

Other Business/Adjournment

Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked everyone for their reports and presentations. Kelly Phenix asked the Council to support the implementation of the Young Adults Behavioral Health Plan that was released in June of 2014. Next, Sharon asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing none, Co-Chair Hal Gibber made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded, and accepted by everyone. Sharon then announced the next meeting will be on February 11, 2015 in 1E LOB and adjourned the meeting at 4:06 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB