



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

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*Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Sharon Langer & Hal Gibber*  
Meeting Summary: May 13, 2015

Next meeting: **June 10, 2015 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

*Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), Rick Calvert, Terri DiPietro, Heather Gates, Cathy Foley Geib, Susan Gallagher, Dr. Steven Girelli, Bill Halsey (DSS), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Steve Kant, Beth Klink, Steve Merz, Judith Meyers, Marie Mormile-Mehler, Sherry Perlstein, Kelly Phenix, Bert Plant (VO), Knute Rotto (VO), Joseph Sullivan, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Dennis Torres, Susan Walkama, Jeff Walter, Beresford Wilson, and Valerie Wzykowski*

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

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:03 PM and introductions were made. Sharon then asked for a motion to accept the April 2015 Council summary. A motion was made by Steve Merz to accept the summary as written, seconded by Janine Sullivan-Wiley. The vote was taken and passed unanimously in favor to accept the summary without changes. Sharon told the Council that due to family considerations, long-time Council member and Co-Chair of the Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee Howard Drescher has stepped down from both the Council and committee. His Co-Chair, Heather Gates said that Howard will be missed very much and that he was a delight to have as a member of the Council and Co-Chair of the Committee. She noted that he was always the first to ask, "What is changing and are people getting better?" Sharon told Council members that there are a few consumer representation openings on the Council and if anyone has any suggestions or recommendations, they should contact Council Staff, David Kaplan with names to fill the positions.

### ***Action Items***

None.

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

Colleen Harrington announced that the \$18 million cut to DMHAS is being restored into the budget. The Behavioral Health Home initiative is taking off and still being discussed with CMS about the State Plan Amendment which should be accepted soon.

## **Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson (DCF)**

Karen Andersson said that there is no new report on activity for the remainder of the Legislative Session. Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair of the Coordination of Care Committee said that she was aware of two group homes being closed. She is concerned about the disruption in the lives of the youths and about the reduction of capacity of level of care the closings would have upon the system. The closings also affect providers who own the properties and the state would be hard pressed to get community residential program capacity back if needed.

## **Department of Social Services - Bill Halsey (DSS)**



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011ExpenditureSlides ng-Utilization-2012-2013



Bill Halsey reported his correction and update in the April Summary about the BH clinic dollar rate increase. DSS has confirmed with OPM that the dollars to increase the behavioral health clinic rates are in the current proposed DSS budget. DSS still needs to receive approval from CMS on the 2012 rates before it can increase the rates. Bill also provided (after the meeting) the expenditure and utilization reports that DSS is required to give to the legislative committees of cognizance (see above).

## **Provider Perspective on Challenges and Opportunities in Providing Behavioral Health Services- Steve Merz (VP of Behavioral Health Services, Yale New Haven Hospital) and Beth Klink (Yale New Haven Hospital)**



BHOC5-13-15YNHPH  
UpdtPresentationv4.1

### **Discussion:**

Dr. Chuck Herrick from Danbury concurred with Steve Merz's presentation that all hospitals in the state are facing the same type of events and it is not just limited to the larger hospitals in the state like Hartford and Yale New Haven Hospitals. For future presentations, he said that he would like to learn more about the psychiatric and medical levels of care (bed availability) that other hospitals are experiencing in the state.

## **Connecticut Medicaid Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic Services: A Clinical Study- (Dr. Bert Plant, Sr. VP of Quality & Innovation, Value Options)**



BHPOC5-13-15OPCII  
nicalStdyAbridged.pdf

\*NOTE: This version, as well as the longer version of the PowerPoint and the full report, are also available on the BHPOC Website. Bill Halsey introduced Bert Plant (VO) who gave the report last month at the joint meeting to the Operations, Adult, and Child/Adolescent Quality,

Access & Policy Committees. The discussion focused around examples of evidence-based practices and outpatient behavioral health clinic services. Beresford Wilson requested that data on racial and ethnic differences in utilization and outcomes be included in these types of reports in the future.

## **Committee Reports:**

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

Janine Sullivan Wiley reported that the next meeting will be on May 25, 2015. Topics will include the NEMT Quarterly Grievance Report from January to March 2015 and a review of the medical spend-down (a process by which individuals become financially eligible for Medicaid when their countable income exceeds the Medicaid eligibility standard; spend-down is similar to an insurance deductible in commercial insurance plans).

\*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.

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

Co-Chair Heather Gates reported that there was a meeting the week before where the following topics were discussed: VOI on Data Reports and Discussion about Next Steps, Report on Behavioral Health Homes (BHH) Implementation, and Outpatient Redesign Process.

### **Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy:** – *Sherry Perlstein, Hal Gibber, and Jeff Vanderploeg, Co-Chairs*

Sherry Perlstein said the next meeting will be on May 20, 2015 where two reports will be given: a Review 2013 In-Patient Data to be presented by Robert Plant (VO), and a report on the Distribution of Reinvestment in Community-Based Mental Health Programs and Child Protective Services Programs, to be presented by Cindy Butterfield (DCF).

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

Terri DiPietro, reported that the Committee discussed the Outpatient Report and the plan for the next two years to clarify and move forward on changes to outpatient clinic services and reimbursement. Also discussed and reviewed: IOP Audit Report Summary, Status of ECCs in CT, Rate Increase Update, update on Network Development Autism Services, and DSS Re-certification Delays.

## **Other Business/Adjournment**

Co-Chair Sharon Langer told members that the next meeting will be on June 10, 2015 and asked for agenda suggestions and recommendations for appointments for open Council positions. She then asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing none, Sharon adjourned the meeting at 3:59 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB**