



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Sharon Langer & Hal Gibber
Meeting Summary: June 10, 2015

Next meeting: **July 8, 2015 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), Rick Calvert, Terri DiPietro, Dr. Steven Girelli, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Steve Larcen, Kate McEvoy (DSS), Steve Merz, Judith Meyers, Kim Nystrom, Sherry Perlstein, Kelly Phenix, Bert Plant (VO), Maureen Reault (DSS), Knute Rotto (VO), Joseph Sullivan, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Beresford Wilson, Roderick Winstead (DSS), Valerie Wzykowski, and Rob Zavoski (DSS)

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:04 PM and announced that the order of the agenda would be flipped and the Committee reports would be done first in order to facilitate some members' schedules. Introductions were then made. Sharon then asked for a motion to accept the May 2015 Council summary. A motion was made by Kelly Phenix to accept the summary as written and seconded. The vote was taken and passed unanimously in favor to accept the summary without changes. Once again, Sharon told Council members that there are a few consumer representation openings on the Council. Members can check the BHPOC Website for openings and descriptions and contact Council Staff, David Kaplan with suggestions and recommendations of names to fill the positions.

Action Items

None.

Committee Reports:

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

Janine Sullivan Wiley reported that the next meeting will be on July 22, 2015. Topics will include a presentation on NEMT 101 and an update on the ASO for Transportation, Logisticare. A review of 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) was given by DSS in May and can be found on the BHPOC Website.

*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: -Heather Gates, and Alicia Woodsby, Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs were not present to give a report and update. The July 2, 2015 committee meeting is canceled.

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

Sherry Perlstein discussed the 2013 Child Inpatient Data report that Bert Plant (VO) presented in summary form to the Council at today's meeting. (The full report previously had been presented to the Committee). She mentioned that the system must do better job of helping consumers make a smooth transition to and from hospitals to avoid ED delays. Also, she stated that there are issues in capacity of outpatient levels of care, making it difficult for patients to leave the hospital. Rick Calvert also stated that outpatient clinics for children are bearing the brunt of reducing higher levels of care, particularly residential treatment and the volume has been rising over the years. He added that there is a strong justification that grant funding (from DMHAS) be stretched to do the best to enhance the system. Funding cycles try to preserve the best that (we have) to show client outcomes. The data from the Intensive Out Patient report shows positive outcomes but each source of data has its' existing problems. Not included in the data are core measures like school performance, how well children are doing at home, Socially Emotional Adjustments, recidivism, and other sources combined should show the full picture and much more of the story of what is really happening. Terri DiPietro suggests that the hospitals be a part of this discussion. The next committee meeting will be on June 17, 2015.

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

Terri DiPietro reported that both Bert Plant (VO) and Lynne Ringer (VO) presented a report on Intensive Outpatient Retrospective Chart Review for 2014-2015 and addressed IOP Percentage of Charts that met expectations by IOP Program Types (both can be found on the BHPOC Website). Also discussed was a presentation on the Medicare Savings Program. There were also brief and separate discussions on the impact on services that VO has on consumers, and issues with Re-determination and Logisticare issues. Kate McEvoy (DSS) reminded members that Dr. Donna Balaski is the DSS contact person for NEMT. Kelly Phenix said that she had a three to four hour wait time to re-submit for Re-determination with DSS. Kate McEvoy said that she regrets the delay but additional staff members have been re-visiting this area to ameliorate this problem. Performance statistics in the process are making information for consumers difficult to assess. Kelly asked, how long is the back-log for re-determination, 15, 30, 45 days? In the meantime, delay in the re-determination decision means that another bill from a medical provider arrives. She, herself, knows how to handle the problem but she is concerned for other consumers who do not know the system as well as she does. Kate said that DSS is having a presentation at the MAPOC meeting which is an open forum for consumers on July 10, 2015 at 9:30 AM in 1E LOB to discuss all of these concerns.

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

Colleen Harrington announced that the \$17 million cut to DMHAS is being restored into the grant accounts. The Department is waiting for the Special Session for the Implementer and then it will have more information about program status. Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked if the \$17 million was for each year of 2016-17 and Steve Larcen said it was for each year and that was good news. Council Co-Chair Mike Demicco credits the Appropriations Sub-committee on Human Services for restoring the funding to DMHAS.

Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson (DCF)

Karen Andersson said that the DCF is also looking at the budget. There are no major cuts impacting behavioral health but the Department is also waiting to see what the Implementer Bills to be taken up in the Special Session will include.. Last month, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair of the Coordination of Care Committee said that she was concerned about two group homes being closed. Karen said that the closures were based on labor and performance analyses for therapeutic group homes which included vacancy rates. Janine asked about the Court Monitor schedule and the discussion in closing the homes. Karen said that the youth who are in congregate care are all monitored by the Court Monitor every 6 to 12 months. Karen does not have a specific evaluation but part of the analysis in the determination of closing down homes is how kids in the system are doing. Janine asked for a report from the Court Monitor. Karen replied that this was not part of the review and it is a randomized sample but not specific to therapeutic group homes. Co-Chair Sharon Langer commented that the question was what does the Council want and what is important. The Council can get reports if desired by the members.

Department of Social Services – Maureen Reault (DSS)

Maureen Reault reported in lieu of Bill Halsey and mirrored the reports of her agency colleagues that DSS is still analyzing the budget and projections may change after the Special Session that will be held at the end of June. Council Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked about provider rate being cut and HUSKY income eligibility percentage getting rolled back. Kate McEvoy said the budget is still being analyzed. She then introduced new DSS employee, Roderick Winstead, describing him as uniquely qualified (formerly of DDS) who will be assisting Bill Halsey in behavioral health. Kate gave some good news that the UPL demonstration was finally approved by CMS on Monday, June 8, 2015. It was a lengthy process and still has some procedural areas to be moved forward. As soon as he is allowed, Bill Halsey will report on this in the near future. The UPL is not retroactive but will take effect on July 1, 2015. Steve Larcen asked how the \$10 million Medicaid rate reduction to providers will be implemented. Will it be on a pro-rata basis? Kate replied that the focus on maintaining rates was on primary preventative care for Behavioral Health. She is no sure how final cuts will be implemented. Steve then asked that BH service cuts for hospitals be exempted. He said that the bulk of BH services that (we) provide are through community hospitals in the northwest and eastern parts of Connecticut. Kate then went over who in HUSKY will be affected by new cuts in this year's budget.

2013 Child Inpatient Data-(Dr. Bert Plant, Sr. VP of Quality & Innovation, Value Options)



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Discussion:

Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein asked if diagnosis is made prior to admission. Dr. Plant said, yes, in many cases it is. Karen Andersson (DCF) said that diagnosis in children is very fluid and there are so many variables to consider, like developmental issues. DCF is looking at other variables other than diagnosis. Sherry responded that diagnosis in out and inpatient changes when relationships and observations happens over time. Also, many times, substance abuse is underreported. Beresford Wilson is concerned that African-American data is often underreported. He also said that kids of color are not getting comparable access to services of those offered to white kid. Bert said that data is important and analysis answers the best strategies for performance. Janine Sullivan-Wiley is concerned with the number of children receiving anti-psychotic medications. Steve Larcen would like more timely data and a completed report that is nearer to real time. Also, he would like the Council to get the PARS data. Steve Merz asked when the second part of the presentation would be given. Bert said that within six months he could report again. Valerie Wyzykowski asked if secondary insurance coverage shows up in the data for voluntary services. Bert was not sure if VO gets information on secondary insurance for the eligibility files he but he said he can certainly inquire and look into this.

Expenditure Reports-



Expend5-13-15Final2 Util5-13-15BH-Spendi
011ExpenditureSlides ng-Utilization-2012-20

Discussion:

Council Members who have questions and comments on these reports should send them directly to Bill Halsey (DSS) at William.Halsey@ct.gov. Bill is expected to address the questions and comments at the July Council meeting.

Other Business/Summer Meeting Announcement/Adjournment

Acting Co-Chair Representative Terri DiPietro told members that the next meeting will be on July 8, 2015 and the August 12, 2015 meeting is **CANCELED**. She reminded members for recommendations for appointments for open Council positions. She then asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Judith Myers (CHDI) had copies of Arielle Levin Becker's report: *Starting Early: The Long Reach of Childhood Trauma* that she did for The Connecticut Mirror. She highly endorsed it. Hearing nothing else, Terri adjourned the meeting at 3:55 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 2015 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB