



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC

Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Sharon Langer & Hal Gibber

Meeting Summary: September 16, 2015

2C LOB

*Next meeting: **October 14, 2015 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB***

Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Hal Gibber (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), Rick Calvert, Jessica Deflumer-Trapp (DMHAS), Terri DiPietro, Judith Dowd, Catherine Foley Geib, Heather Gates, William Halsey (DSS), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Tom Hill, Judy Jordan (DCF), Tom King, Mickey Kramer, Steve Larcen, Steve Merz, Judith Meyers, Marie Mormile-Mehler, Kim Nystrom, Sherry Perlstein, Galo Rodriguez, Knute Rotto, Joseph Sullivan, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Jeff Walter, Beresford Wilson, Valerie Wyzkowski, and Representative Melissa Ziobron

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:07 PM explaining the regular meeting room was booked and she thanked Council Members for their indulgence because the set-up of the hearing room 2C was not ideal for discussions. Introductions were then made. Sharon reminded the Council Members that the meetings were going "Green" and that paper agendas and reports would be limited to the general public and that members should try to review any Council-related documents on-line before the start of each meeting. She then asked for a motion to accept the July summary. Sherry Perlstein made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Steve Larcen. The motion passed with one abstention. **Previously:** 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 these positions. Due to timing of the agenda, the Council's goals and objectives for FY 2015-16 will be tabled until the next meeting in November. Sharon reported that the Governor's Children's Behavioral Health Plan report is due on October 1, 2015 and will be presented to the legislative committees of cognizance by DCF.

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports- **Department of Social Services – Implementation of Behavioral Health Clinic Rate Increases- Bill Halsey (DSS)**



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Terri DiPietro, Co-Chair of the Operations Committee introduced the presentation/discussion by giving the background and history of the implementation of the behavioral health clinic rate increases. She thanked Bill Halsey and all the state partners for their spirit of collaboration. She said that OPM appropriated \$8.3 million to improve the rates for private BH clinics. Over a period of a couple of weeks, DSS worked with providers to get \$2.4 million not specifically identified for certain codes. The whole process was very transparent and Value Options provided a call-in option so that providers could weigh-in without attending the meetings in person. Model 4 of the worksheet (see above) was chosen by the committee for the Council to approve.

Terri emphasized that this model does not apply to hospital based clinics; it is only for private based behavioral health clinics. The rate process for hospitals will be developed soon, in the next couple of weeks. When asked about differential rates for adults and children, Bill Halsey (DSS) replied if Model 4 is adopted, there will be no differential rates between adult and children rates. He also said that there was a group effort by a whole team to develop this model and that credit should go to everyone on the team.

Jeff Walter said that he would like monitoring of this issue and perhaps legislation may be needed to have expansion of access to services for Medicaid by an appropriation of raising group therapy rates for therapy done in substance abuse treatment settings.. Steve Merz asked if hospitals will be reimbursed the same way as private B H clinics. Bill replied that he was not sure yet. That process will begin in October. Steve said that currently, his hospital, Yale-New Haven's reimbursement rates for outpatient B H clinics were at \$28 compared to \$45 -\$90 per med management visit for private clinics and \$100+ for FQHCs. Sherry Perlstein asked if the private B H Clinic rates would be retroactive to July 1, 2015. Bill said that if approved by the Council that day, DSS would craft a state plan amendment to CMS with an effective date of July 1, 2015 to be submitted to CMS by September 30, 2015. Bill was not sure that DSS would implement the new rates prior to CMS approval of the state plan amendment.

Beresford Wilson asked how the rate increases will help families. Bill replied that it will improve timely access to services for families by increasing the amount of money paid for psychiatric services. Sherry Perlstein said that rates are currently flat if not down and the new rate system may not be enough to add more clinical services but will pay to maintain current access. Heather Gates said the new rate system will prevent erosion of access to services but will not expand resources for families. It will hold the system in place. Rick Calvert echoed what Sherry and Heather stated: the rate increase slows the erosion to access but will not expand services. Council Co-Chair Sharon Langer said that once the rate increase is implemented, after a period of time, the Council or the Operations Committee should review the process and

determine what affect – if any - it has on access to services. In terms of accessing services via private clinics or hospitals, Representative Ziobron asked Bill Halsey to send that information on geo-mapping to her office. Terri DiPietro concluded the discussion by saying that it is important for people to attend and participate in the Operations Committee meetings.

Action Items

Heather Gates moved the question to approve Model 4; Implementation of Behavioral Health Clinic Rate Increases. Galo Rodriguez seconded the motion. All voted in favor with one abstention. The motion passed.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – State Budget Update: Implementer Bill and the CTBHP- Colleen Harrington (DMHAS)



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Colleen Harrington said that Behavioral Health Homes are moving forward with CMS and will have a start date on October 1, 2015 (billing will begin). BHHs will receive \$10 million in both FY -16 and FY -17. General Assistance Managed Care, also known as the Behavioral Health Recovery program has a 4% caseload increase growth. Nine Community Care Teams (CCTs) will be funded in FY-16 with \$1.5 million and nineteen teams in FY-17 with \$8.3 million. (For a full report- see above.)

Department of Social Services – Bill Halsey (DSS)



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https://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/agbs/2016AGBS-20150716_Social%20Services,%20Department%20of.pdf

Bill Halsey gave an update on the DSS FY-16 and FY-17 State Budget (see above). He also reported that the Autism Spectrum Coverage was annualized which began in January 2015. In addition, he gave the website link for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (see above).

Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson (DCF) and Judy Jordan (DCF)



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Judy Jordan stated that there are many accounts impacted by the Governor's rescissions (see above).

Update on SAMHSA: Federally Qualified Behavioral Health Clinic Demonstration Grant Opportunity- Jessica Deflumer-Trapp (DMHAS)



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<http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=4769&Q=569882>

Together, DSS, DMHAS and DCF put in an application for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) to SAMHSA/CMS in August. No decision yet from the federal government on the application. In the meantime, the state agencies issued an RFA to providers for learning communities that would lead to certification; applications are due on September 24, 2015. Six to twelve agencies will be selected for the first round; however, ultimately, only six agencies will be certified.

Discussion:

Jeff Walter (CCPA) mentioned that CMS and SAMHSA should make a decision by October 17, 2015 on which states will receive the grant. He is concerned about the state and non-profit community mental health clinics competing against one another for federal grant money. He suggested that since this grant is Medicaid related, he strongly supports the BHPOC act as an advisory council. He emphasized that this grant should not be a competitive procurement from within the state.

Committee Reports:

Coordination of Care: - Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair, Brenetta Henry, Co-Chair
Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley reported the next meeting will be on September 30th at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB and the main discussion will focus on NEMT and the Logisticare report. Also to be discussed: Committee membership expansion for more geographic state representation.

*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
Co-Chair Heather Gates said that the September meeting was canceled due to the Operations Committee meetings and the next meeting date will be determined.

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

Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein explained that the committee last met on July 15, 2015. There was a report on Inpatient Discharge Delay Data that can be found on the BHPOC Website. The next meeting will be October 21, 2015 at 2:00 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third (3rd) floor at Value Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

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

Co-Chair Terri DiPietro reported the next meeting is on October 2, 2015 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third (3rd) floor at Value Options in Rocky Hill, CT. The discussion will center on the new period of call time (10 PM to 12 AM) reported by DCF for EMPS expansion.

Other Business/Summer Meeting Announcement/Adjournment

Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Beresford Wilson congratulated Knute Rotto (VO) and the Consumer Access Committee for having a successful and outstanding conference at the Hartford Collective last week. He also made a motion to adjourn. Hearing nothing else, Sharon adjourned the meeting at 4:05 PM.

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