



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Hal Gibber & Sharon Langer
Meeting Summary: December 9, 2015
1E LOB

Next meeting: **January 13, 2016 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), Rich Calvert, Terri DiPietro, Cathy Foley-Geib, Heather Gates, Judith Dowd (OPM), William Halsey (DSS), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Tom King, Mickey Kramer, Stephen Larcen, Stephen Merz, Judith Meyers, Marie Mormile-Mehler, Sherry Perlstein, Ann Phelan (VO), Kelly Phenix, Dr. Bert Plant (VO), Knute Rotto (VO), Dr. Javier Salabarría, Joseph Sullivan, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Susan Walkama, Beresford Wilson, and Valerie Wyzykowski

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:06 PM, Council Members introduced themselves, and Sharon asked them to be sure to sign the attendance list. She then asked for a motion to accept the November summary. Judith Meyers made the motion and seconded by Beresford Wilson. All members voted to approve the summary as written, there were no abstentions. Sharon then spoke about the BHPOC letter that was sent to the Governor concerning the Administration's proposed cut to Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse services. She said that her organization, Connecticut Voices for Children, was pleased that most of the cuts were restored for substance abuse and behavioral health programs. She then asked Judith Dowd from OPM to respond to the letter and explain the impact on the Behavioral Health Partnership of the deficit mitigation bill that was passed the day before by the Legislature in Special Session. Judy confirmed that the September rescissions were undone by the bill. However, there is one portion of the bill allows the Governor to distribute up to \$93 million in unallocated lapses although no more than an additional 1% of the account can be reduced for that purpose and OPM is still working on how the \$93 million in savings is to be achieved. Sharon then raised the issue of when the contract for expansion of emergency mobile psychiatric services (EMPS) will be implemented. Judy did not have an answer but said she will get back to the Council on this. In order to accommodate Bert Plant's presentation, Sharon switched the order of the agenda.

Action Items

None

Presentation on Child and Adolescent Utilization Data (Q1 & Q2 2015) - Bert Plant (VO)



BHPOC12-9-15Youth
Semi-AnnualRpt.pdf



BHPOC12-9-15PRTF
RaceData.pdf

This is a semiannual report on youth utilization data for the first half of 2015. This report has been reported to the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee (see Committee Summary posted on the BHPOC Website) and will be vetted again at the December 16, 2015 committee meeting at Value Options in Rocky Hill, CT. Bert Plant said that Value Options usually uses PowerPoint for presentations but they have recently shifted to a new software system called “Tableau”. It allows data to be presented in a more interactive method.

There were specific questions regarding the racial breakdown of youth receiving care in the community Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF). Karen Andersson indicated that the info was available and would be provided to the Council at or before the next meeting (see above).

The report also included a review of the state’s new program on Autism Spectrum Disorder Services that began last January (2015). Quarterly admissions show 77% of the participants are male Caucasians under the age of six years with some Asian, Black and Hispanic male participants; the next largest percentage are those ages seven to twelve, followed by those ages thirteen to eighteen. There is a lack of providers in the state and there is currently an attempt to identify and enroll more providers. Steve Merz asked about the impact of overstay days on costs to the state and whether the BHP tracks discharge delays for adults to the right level of care too. Bert said that the BHP is looking to compare the utilization data to fiscal costs. Colleen Harrington (DMHAS) said that it is a complicated picture to track delay for adults who can decide for themselves whether to remain in setting or discharge themselves. Bill Halsey (DSS) said that there is a specific code for “delay” on the child side that is not available for the adult side. In thanking Bert for his presentation, Council Co-Chair Sharon Langer commented that it would be helpful to the Council members and others reviewing the slides to provide a summary of the high points data, putting it in language and terms that everyone can understand, e.g., answering such questions as, Are the numbers getting lower/higher?, Are we moving in the right direction? Such information would be helpful to Council Members so they may ask more pertinent questions.

Retirements of Council Members Sherry Perlstein and Steve Larcen

On the occasion of their retirements, the Council presented plaques and Legislative citations to two long standing Members of the BHPOC, Sherry Perlstein and Steve Larcen in honor of the many years of their work, broad contributions to the Council and long and dedicated service on behalf of the many children, adults and families with BH and SA issues in the State of Connecticut. Tributes, accolades and thanks were extended by Council Members to both Sherry and Steve. Both will be missed very much by the Council, and by families and residents of the

state. Sherry and Steve each thanked the Council and said that they hoped they made a positive difference in the lives of Connecticut's citizens and assured the Council that its work will need to go on!

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports-
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Update: On
Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) - Colleen Harrington
(DMHAS)

Colleen Harrington told Council Members that the application for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) was a tri-partnership between the three department agencies of DMHAS, DSS and DCF and that Bill Halsey (DSS) would give the update this month.

Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey (DSS)

Bill Halsey (DSS) gave the update on **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics** (CCBHCs) and said that the agencies met two weeks ago with the six providers who were selected to participate and a Letter of Intent was ready to go out to them for a commitment and participation in a learning collaborative and two of those providers will be selected to be certified in a demonstration. Each agency has had at least two national conference calls in areas of their concern and expertise and they have been in contact with Dr. Morrisette at SAMHSA for clarification. A company called MTM has been contracted to do the learning collaborative on evidence-based practices and Mercer will be doing the rate setting which will be a payment of per member per month (PMPM) mechanism.

In regards to the BHPOC letter concerning **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation**, Bill said that the department appreciated the Council's letter and a letter will be sent back to the Co-Chairs of the Council that DSS has a shared concern about how well the NEMT program has been functioning. The letter will outline what DSS and Logisticare have been doing for the last twelve to eighteen months to improve services. Logisticare management knows that the company's performance has been under very intense scrutiny and that the department has the means to do a procurement for a new vendor if DSS thinks that a contractor or vendor is not meeting the needs of the members. Bill said, "If the level of delivery and performance is not better (in the next four months), then DSS will take action".

Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson (DCF)

Karen Andersson said she had no department update and like Judy Dowd she did not have any additional information on the status of expanded hours of operation for **Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services** (EMPS). Council Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked about the status of the **Access Mental Health** program for families with young children. Karen answered that it was not seen as one of the cuts (at this time). Sharon asked the BHP agency liaisons to provide a written response to the Council's letter to the Administration regarding cuts to BH and SA services. Terri DiPietro also said that the Council would also like to know the future status for **Community Care Teams** (CCTs). Heather Gates asked the Department Liaisons that for the next meeting in January that each department gives an update of rescissions and restorations for

each department. Judy Dowd (OPM) thought that at this time, EMPS and CCTs were untouched by cuts. Sharon asked Judy if she could get back to the Council before the end of the year with a status list of these services. Judy replied that she will try.

Committee Reports:

Coordination of Care: - *Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair, Brenetta Henry, Co-Chair*
Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley reported that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB. There will be a response by DSS to the Mercer Report on NEMT and a discussion will be held to the follow-up on the last Grievance Report given by Logisticare.

*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 reported that the next meeting will be on Friday, December 18, 2015 at 2:00 PM at CCPA in Rocky Hill. The committee will start meeting on the third (3rd) Friday of the month from here on.

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

Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein reported the next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 2:00 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third floor at Value Options in Rocky Hill. Karen Andersson (DCF) invited everyone to attend since the report will be a follow-up to the presentation just given and it will also be Sherry Perlstein's last meeting as Committee Co-Chair.

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

Co-Chair Terri DiPietro reported that due to the New Year holiday, the next meeting will be on Friday, January 8, 2015 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third (3rd) floor at Value Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment



BHP OC 2016
Schedule Template Cc

Co-Chair Sharon Langer extended the Council's condolences to Council Member Beresford Wilson whose parents recently passed away. She thanked the agency partners and Value Options for their reports and presentation and everyone for their participation, patience, and for honoring Sherry and Steve. She reminded members that the new 2016 BHPOC Master Schedule was distributed at the meeting. She then asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing nothing else, she informed Council Members that the next BHPOC meeting will be January 13, 2016 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB and she wished everyone a happy, healthy holiday, restful New Year and then adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB