



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Hal Gibber & Sharon Langer
Meeting Summary: January 13, 2016
1E LOB

Next meeting: **February 10, 2016 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), Dr. Eliot Brenner, Rich Calvert, Terri DiPietro, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Tom King, Judith Meyers, Marie Mormile-Mehler, Kim Nystrom, Galo Rodriguez, Knute Rotto (Beacon), Dr. Javier Salabarria, Joseph Sullivan, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Jeff Vanderploeg, Susan Walkama, Beresford Wilson, Valerie Wzykowski, and Dr. Rob Zavoski (DSS)

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:04 PM, and wished everyone a Happy New Year. She welcomed new Council Member Dr. Eliot Brenner of the Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut and informed the Council that former DMHAS Commissioner Pat Rehmer has been appointed to the Council by Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff. Pat will attend her first Council meeting next month. Council Members then introduced themselves. Sharon asked for a motion to accept the December summary. Beresford Wilson made the motion. All members voted to approve the summary as written, no one opposed nor were there any abstentions. Sharon stated that all materials related to Council business can be found on the BHPOC Website for public viewing. Next, Sharon told the Council that as of January 1, 2016, Value Options is now known as Beacon Health Options. Knute Rotto of Beacon Health said that Value Options was acquired last year by Beacon Health Strategy out of Boston and except for the name change, all will be the same.

Action Items

None

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

DMHAS Budget:

Colleen Harrington reported to the Council on the Governor's 1% reduction in services. She said that whenever there are cuts made, the department looks at new money first (money that has not yet been invested into the system) so that the reduction has the least amount of impact on services or operations. In the most recent announced reductions, Young Adult Services (YAS) and the mental health and substance abuse grant lines were among those impacted. The department is continuing to review those reductions but has no intention to pass on the reductions to providers. Unfortunately, new and unallocated monies are impacted and the Community Care Teams (CCTs) come under this category, thus implementation is on hold. Peg Hardy (St. Vincent Hospital) said that she was disappointed that the funding for CCTs was put on hold and Colleen replied that she agreed and that CCTs were very important to Connecticut communities.

CCBHC:

Colleen also reported that the six member agencies that applied for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), the initiative that is a joint project from SAMHSA and CMS and a tri-partnership between the three department agencies of DMHAS, DSS and DCF, had the official kick-off this week and they will submit their readiness tools by January 26, 2016. To be eligible to be included in the subsequent demonstration program, CT's application must be submitted by October 26, 2016. Bill Halsey (DSS) added that CMS will only approve projects in eight of the twenty-four states that are participating in the planning process. Beresford Wilson asked if there was a need for parents to participate on the subcommittees that will assist in the development of the demonstration. Both Colleen and Karen Andersson (DCF) said that three parents had already applied and that there is room for more parents to participate.

Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson (DCF)

EMPS:

Karen Andersson said that **Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS)** expansion contracts went out to providers on Monday, January 10, 2016. The expansion will allow for expanded hours of service, including early morning, prior to school when families are in most need.

DCF Budget:

She also said there was no impact on DCF programs from the state budget reductions. All reductions were absorbed by the agency through the end of the fiscal year.

Janine Wiley-Sullivan raised a concern that some parents were being advised that the only way to obtain services from DCF for a child with severe needs (e.g., a child whose parent or caregiver may fear that the child will cause physical harm to family members) is to relinquish guardianship to the state and accept an allegation of abuse or neglect. Karen replied that in such cases parents may be able to avail themselves of the agency's Voluntarily Service Programs that provide these

families with assessment and service, without giving up parental rights. She said that she will look into the situation.

Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey (DSS)



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DSS Budget:

Bill Halsey (DSS) echoed his colleagues' comments saying that at this time, DSS can absorb the Governor's rescissions without any harm to BH services for the current fiscal year. He said that there is an actual account and a budgeted (Medicaid) account and the actual (spending) is coming in lower than the budgeted account so cuts can still be absorbed at this time. He then passed out a document (see above) from Beacon Health Options (formerly Value Options) titled Utilization and Quality Metrics, Production Reports. Bill explained that the document is the start of a Systems Dashboard. Council Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked the committees to review this document and determine whether these BHP reports should be presented to their committees and/or to the Council.

Committee Reports:

Coordination of Care: - Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair, Brenetta Henry, Co-Chair
Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley reported that DSS is still working with Logisticare (ASO) on updating and finalizing the quality measures to be included on the grievance reports in order to obtain accurate information about the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program (NEMT). The Mercer report concerning NEMT was reviewed by the committee (see 12-15-15 Coordination of Care Committee meeting summary on 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.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB. The focus of the meeting will center on the coordination of care between behavioral health and medical care.

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

Co-Chair Jeff Vanderploeg reported that at the last meeting held on December 16, 2015, the committee celebrated Sherry Perlstein's retirement and recognized her leadership and the contributions she has made to both the committee and BHPOC. He also welcomed Steve Girelli as his new Co-Chair and as tri-chairs with Hal Gibber. Beacon gave reports on In-Patient Utilization that included slight increases in admits per 1000 among members and reductions in average length of stay, in total days of in-patient care, and discharge delay. These have been fairly consistent trends in last several quarters. Beacon also gave updates in infrastructure development for the Autism Spectrum Disorders Services, and the committee reviewed its mission, discussed goals for the coming year which will be followed up at the next meeting on

February 17, 2016 at 2:00 PM at Beacon (formerly Value Options), third floor, Hartford Conference Room, 500 Enterprise Drive, in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

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

Co-Chair Heather Gates reported that the committee met in December and received reports on Home Health Medication Administration Impact of Cuts to Medicaid Rates given by Kim Nystrom (New England Homecare) and a report on the opiate status in the state given by Lauren Siembab, Director of Community Support Division (DMHAS). There was a brief update on CCBHCs from DMHAS. For a summary of these reports go to the 12-18-15 Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee meeting page on the BHPOC Website.

The next meeting will be on Friday, January 15, 2016 at 2:00 PM at the Connecticut Community Non-profit Alliance (CCNA) office, formerly Connecticut Community Provider Association-CCPA: Suite 522, 35 Cold Springs Road, Rocky Hill, CT. Discussions will be held on the Approach to Researching Models to Effectively Work with Homeless Individuals Presenting in the ED, a Review of Data Available through Beacon Health Options (VO) Reports, CCBHC Grant Update, Update on Behavioral Health Homes, and committee goals and objectives.

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

Co-Chair Terri DiPietro reported that due to the New Year holiday, the last meeting was held on Friday, January 8, 2016. The discussion was focused on a report from Beacon on Autism Spectrum Disorder Services (posted on the 1-8-16 Operations Committee meeting of the BHPOC Website). Bill Halsey (DSS) also announced a new policy transmittal with a clarification on codes in early February. Hospitals will be converted to an APC rate structure (delayed until July 2016). This will be discussed at a future meeting. Goals and objectives and underserved populations were also discussed. The next meeting will be Friday, February 5, 2016 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room (third floor) at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment



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Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked the agency partners and Beacon Health Options for their reports and presentation. She said the state budget and how it will affect BH services will be on next month's agenda. She also asked Bill Halsey (DSS) to have Mike Gilbert come to the Council to give a presentation on "Updated Review of Medicaid Financial Reports and Trends", a presentation he gave recently to the Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council (MAPOC). (See above presentation- Editor's Note: Mike Gilbert is unable to attend the Council meeting on February 10th but Council members can follow up with questions to DSS (Bill Halsey) that can be answered another time.) She then asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing nothing else, Sharon informed Council members that the next BHPOC meeting will be February 10, 2016 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB and adjourned the meeting at 3:37 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB