



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

Legislative Office Building Room 3000, Hartford CT 06106
(860) 240-0346 Info Line (860) 240-8329 FAX (860) 240-5306
www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC

Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Hal Gibber & Sharon Langer
Meeting Summary: February 10, 2016
1E LOB

Next meeting: **March 9, 2016 @ 2 PM in 2B LOB**

Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), Dr. Eliot Brenner, Terri DiPietro, Catherine Foley Geib, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Jill Holmes-Brown, Tom King, Steve Merz, Judith Meyers, Steve Moore, Marie Mormile-Mehler, Sabooh Mubbashar, Pat Rehmer, Knute Rotto (Beacon), Dr. Javier Salabarria, Joseph Sullivan, Meryl Tom (DPH), Jeff Vanderploeg, Susan Walkama, Beresford Wilson, and Valerie Wzykowski (OHA)

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:02 PM, and informed the Council that her Co-Chair, Representative Mike Demicco would join later because he was in a Public Health Committee meeting and that Co-Chair Hal Gibber was still on a leave of absence due to family matters. She said that she would have to leave early and that Heather Gates (Co-Chair of the Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee) would finish the Council meeting in her place. She then welcomed new Council Members Sabooh Mubbashar, Pat Rehmer, and Meryl Tom and members introduced themselves. Sharon asked for a motion to accept the January meeting summary. Steve Girelli made the motion and it was seconded by Elliot Brenner. 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.

Action Items

None

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

Colleen Harrington reported on Behavioral Health Homes (BHHs). The latest data from mid-January shows enrollment of over 5000 people. The State Plan Amendment to CMS seems to be making progress. The eligibility criterion for BHH includes individuals with Medicaid claims in excess of \$10,000. There is a claims lag of up to 6 months from time services are rendered to inclusion in data, meaning that there may be a delay in identification of potential eligible participants. Regarding the proposed state budget, she said there is a lot to analyze and she could not comment prior to the DMHAS commissioner testifying before the Appropriations Committee scheduled for the following week.

Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey (DSS)

Update: On Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) -

Bill Halsey reported that work on the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) is moving forward. Six member agencies have been selected to do a demonstration. Stemming from an RFP by SAMHSA and CMS, this planning grant is an initiative and a tri-partnership between the three department agencies of DMHAS, DSS and DCF. The initiative had its official kick-off in mid-January and the selected six agencies submitted their readiness tools on January 26, 2016. For the State to be eligible for the demonstration, CT's application must be submitted by October 26, 2016. Bill added that CMS will only approve projects in eight of the twenty-four states that are participating in the planning process and that this will be a new way to pay for behavioral health services. Providers will have to collect and report quality measures. Bill said that the DSS Website has information on this program at <http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=4769&Q=569882>.

Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson (DCF)

Karen Andersson said that this a challenging time and that DCF is committed in trying to do what is best for children and families involved in the system. Tough decisions will need to be made. She pointed out that DCF is focusing on the State of Connecticut's Children's Mental Health Plan that when implemented, would integrate schools, pediatrics, and psychiatric services. Additional details about the impact of the Governor's proposed budget on DCF and behavioral health services will be available after the department testifies at legislative hearings in the next week.

Discussion: Governor's Proposed Budget: Impact on CTBHP



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Co-Chair Sharon Langer opened up the discussion on the Governor's proposed budget and asked members how the proposed cuts would affect their agencies, clients, and organizations. Heather Gates (Co-Chair of the Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee) said that it is relatively easy to look at the DHMAS budget and understand the impact it will have on BH services. Steve

Merz brought up the \$30 million cut hospitals in Medicaid funding which will greatly impact the BH services that state-wide hospitals offer. Council Co-Chair Sharon Langer said by the time the Council meets again in March, she hopes the agencies would be able to share how the proposed changes will impact their departments' budgets. The summary of the many comments from members is that if these proposed cuts are enacted, it will have a devastating effect on behavioral health services and to the population with BH issues who reside in Connecticut. She asked members if the Council should testify before the Appropriations Committee and/or whether the Executive Committee of the Council should draft a letter on behalf of the Council expressing its collective concerns about the proposed cuts to BH services. Dr. Charles Herrick made a motion and Beresford Wilson seconded that the Council draft a letter. Pat Rehmer raised the issue of the timing for a letter. She said her concern was with all the consolidation in the budget, she wondered how quickly in the Session the Legislature would not allow these cuts and rescissions to happen. Heather Gates suggested that the Executive Committee pull information together for the body of the letter. The vote was taken and everyone was in favor for the Executive Committee to send a letter to the Appropriation Committee and for members to testify on behalf of support for BH services. There were neither objections nor abstentions. Heather Gates also said that 75% of the budget cuts are in human services and testimony before the Appropriations Committee will also be needed.

Committee Reports:

Coordination of Care: - *Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair, Brenetta Henry, Co-Chair*
Terri DiPietro reported for Co-Chair Janine Wiley Sullivan who could not be present at the Council meeting. Terri reported that committee came up with goals and objectives. They are:

- Access to pharmaceuticals and prescription drugs
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Services: what they are and utilization
- Coordination and Integration of Behavioral Health and Primary Care
- Continued focus on NEMT
- Communication for members without computers
- Navigating and Knowing the System – Access Health and DSS – no wrong door?
- Issues between Youth and Adult Systems; coordination when children move from DCF to the adult system
- Activity and coordination between the ASOs (CHN, Beacon Health Options, Benecare, and Logisticare) ex: Interim Care Managers, Peers in the ERs, successes

She also reported that Colleen Harrington (DMHAS) gave a presentation on the integration of the coordination care between behavioral health and medical care/needs and reviewed and discussed the following programs:

- **SIM-** State Innovation Model
- **PBHCI-** Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration
- **SBIRT-** Screening, Brief Intervention Referral and Treatment
- **BHH-** Behavioral Health Homes

*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.

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

Co-Chair Jeff Vanderploeg reported that the January meeting was canceled but the co-chairs met with the state agency partners and organized an agenda for the next half year. The next meeting will be 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 January and received a report on the Approach to Researching Models to Effectively Work with Homeless Individuals Presenting in the Emergency Department from Co-Chair Alicia Woodsby. There was also a report given by Bert Plant on the Review of Data Available through Beacon Health Options (VOI) Reports. Trends can be tracked overtime by reviewing utilization on various levels of care and membership. The next meeting will be on Friday, February 19, 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 goals and objectives of the committee.

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

Co-Chair Terri DiPietro reported that the February meeting was canceled and the next meeting will be Friday, March 4, 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

Heather Gates stepped in for Co-Chair Sharon Langer who had to leave early for a prior commitment for another meeting. She thanked all the members and the agency partners for their input. She then asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing nothing else, Heather asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Steve Girelli made the motion and was seconded by Dr. Javier Salabarría. Heather informed Council members that the next BHPOC meeting will be March 9, 2016 at 2:00 PM in 2B LOB (NOTE: room change) and adjourned the meeting at 2:56 PM.

NOTE: ROOM CHANGE: Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2016 @ 2:00 PM 2B LOB