



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 & Sharon Langer
Meeting Summary: September 14, 2016
1E LOB

***NOTE: The October Meeting was CANCELED; Next Meeting is November 9, 2016 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Paul Acker, Karen Andersson (DCF), Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF), David Borzellino, Eliot Brenner, Rick Calvert, Terri DiPietro, Judy Dowd (OPM), Dr. Andrew Feller, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Peggy Hardy, Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Susan Kelley, Mickey Kramer (OCA), Marcus McKinney, Judith Meyers, Marie Mormille-Mehler, Sabooh Mubbashar, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kelly Phenix, Pat Rehmer, Galo Rodriguez, Knute Rotto (Beacon), Charlene Russell-Tucker, Javier Salabarria, Joseph Sullivan, Janine, Sullivan-Wiley, Meryl Tom, Susan Walkama, Beresford Wilson, Alicia Woodsby, and Valerie Wyzykowski (OHA)

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:02 PM, and members introduced themselves. She then welcomed guest presenter Marcus McKinney and new Council members, Susan Kelley (Appointed by the Governor) and Charlene Russell-Tucker (State Department of Education representative). Sharon then asked for a motion to accept the July meeting summary. A motion was made by Steve Girelli and seconded by Beresford Wilson. All members voted to approve the summary as written.

Sharon then notified Council Members about a Program Review and Investigations (PRI) Hearing on Substance Use Services that would be taking place on at 10:00 AM, September 21, 2016 in 2D LOB. In addition, Sharon informed Council Members of the Children's Behavioral Health Plan Progress Report that will be issued on September 15, 2016. The report will be distributed to the Council via email and a summary of the report will be discussed at the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee meeting the following week. To ensure sufficient time for discussion, Sharon moved the Health Equity presentations to the next items on the agenda.

Action Items

None

Health Equity Presentations: (1.) Susan Walkama, President and CEO, Wheeler Clinic and (2.) Marcus McKinney, Chief Health Equity Officer at St. Francis/Trinity Health



BHPOC9-14-16WheelerHealthcare Dispariti



BHPOC9-14-16StFrancisTrinityHealthEquity.ppt

Susan Walkama, President and CEO of Wheeler Clinic, presented on Behavioral Health Disparities and Access to Care for Adults (see Icon above).

Marcus McKinney, the Chief Health Equity Officer at St. Francis/Trinity Health, presented on Advancing Health Equity in Our Communities (see Icon above).

After the question and answer session, Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked Susan and Marcus for their presentations. She said these kinds of presentations help the Council fulfill its charges to help improve equitable access to behavioral health services in the state.

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports: **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services –Colleen Harrington**

Colleen Harrington gave an update on DMHAS. She reported that DMHAS was awarded an expansion of **Medication Assisted Treatment** for prescription drug and other opioid addiction (**MAT**). This will provide FDA approved medication and concurrent evidence-based recovery support services to individuals with opioid use disorders by expanding and strengthening existing clinic-based outpatient resources and the statewide medication assisted treatment infrastructure. The project period will run from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2019. It will be \$1,000,000 annually. As a result of an analysis of treatment admission and overdose death data, three geographic areas were identified as especially “high risk”. They are:

1. Willimantic
2. New Britain, Berlin, Plainville, Bristol
3. Torrington

Colleen also provided the update for **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)**- In July 2016, the state made the decision that **CCBHCs** were not the best fit for Connecticut but the process was essential in establishing focus groups of each subcommittee to provide feedback in what worked, what did not, and what should be pursued. These groups met the previous week and the results will be reported to the Council in December.

Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson

Karen Anderson indicated that an update on the Children's Mental Health Plan will be discussed at the September 21st Child and Adolescent QAP meeting along with an overview of DCF's Intimate Partner Violence programs. There were no other updates or announcements.

Discussion

Joe Sullivan from MCCA (representing substance abuse programs) talked about an issue he raised at the last meeting about a cut in CSSD and DOC funding for substance abuse residential level of care. He took the position that the service should be treated as an entitlement since only Medicaid clients are eligible for the particular service and Medicaid is an entitlement. Judy Dowd from OPM commented that she does not know all of the services funded through the account at DMHAS. It does make sense to talk about it, though she does not know what the service is. Joe is worried about people being denied care. Sharon asked what could be done. In the July meeting it was reported that CSSD and DOC cut 133 treatment beds from the system. DMHAS reported that they could not add 120+ beds to their system within the existing budget to absorb the CSSD/DOC losses. The issue is whether this level of care is an entitlement or not. A suggestion was made to write a letter asking OPM to clarify on the issue. Colleen reported that this level of care (Substance Use Residential) is not a Medicaid covered service. Pat Rehmer (Hartford Healthcare) suggested that the state should consider that instead of imposing a daily cap on the number of beds, an average census should be employed so as not to discourage people from seeking appropriate substance abuse treatment.

A motion was made but withdrawn. Sharon asked instead that OPM and DMHAS re-look at this issue. Colleen committed to bringing it back to her department. Colleen also reiterated that it is a service outside of Medicaid even though it is connected to Medicaid eligible clients.

Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey

Bill Halsey gave an update on the new Methadone rate. DSS is planning on meeting with the methadone director to discuss a revised methadone payment methodology. Once that happens, he will bring the methodology to the Council.

Committee Reports:

Due to a lack of time, the committee reports were postponed until the next meeting.

Coordination of Care: - Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair, Brenetta Henry, Co-Chair
The next meeting will be on September 28, 2016 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB.

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

The next meeting will be on September 21, 2016 at 2:00 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third (3rd) floor at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Adult Quality, Access & Policy: -Heather Gates, and Pat Rehmer, Co-Chairs

The next meeting will be on October 11, 2016. (Editor's Note: The October meeting was canceled; the next meeting is on November 8, 2016 at 3:00 PM at the CCNA Office in Rocky Hill, CT.)

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

The next meeting date is October 7, 2016. (Editor's Note: The October meeting was canceled, the next meeting is Friday, November 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

Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked the agencies, guests, and members for their participation. She announced the next meeting will be on October 19, 2016 (Editor's Note: the October meeting was CANCELED, the next scheduled meeting will be on November 9, 2016 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB.) Hearing nothing else, she adjourned the meeting at 4:09 PM.

***NOTE: The October Meeting is CANCELED, Next Meeting:
Wednesday, November 9, 2016 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB**