



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: November 9, 2016
1E LOB

Next Meeting is December 14, 2016 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB

Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Paul Acker, Karen Andersson (DCF), David Borzellino, Dr. Eliot Brenner, Marijo Brinker, Terri DiPietro, Dr. Andrew Feller, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Jill Holmes-Brown, Susan Kelley, Judith Meyers, Steve Moore, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kelly Phenix, Pat Rehmer, Knute Rotto (Beacon), Joseph Sullivan, Janine, Sullivan-Wiley, Deena Tampi, Jeff Vanderploeg, Susan Walkama, Beresford Wilson, and Valerie Wzykowski (OHA)

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:05 PM, and members introduced themselves. She welcomed new Council member, Deena Tampi (Appointed by the Governor). Sharon then asked for a motion to accept the September meeting summary. A motion was made by Pat Rehmer and seconded by Eliot Brenner. All members voted to approve the summary as written.



20161128114606157
.tif

Sharon then notified Council Members about the November 18, 2016 MAPOC meeting where she and Co-Chair Representative Mike Demicco will give a presentation about the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council to MAPOC Members. Then following the agenda, Sharon led the conversation for the Council to focus on health equity this year and the implications for the BHPOC committee structure. Members were asked to pre-read the Beacon report on *Health Equity and Inequity in the Connecticut Medicaid Behavioral Health Service System* that was previously presented to the Council and re-distributed earlier in November before the meeting today. Dr. Bert Plant (Beacon) handed out a summary of the report (see above icon). Sharon asked members for comments and/or questions from members. Bill Halsey (DSS) weighed in on the issue and stated that the State Agencies and Beacon Health Options felt that *health equity*

was important to bring to address in partnership with the BHPOC and the difficulty to tackle in the BH system. Paul Acker thought that the Behavioral Health Homes (BHHs) and other programs were supposed to take care of health equity disparities. He asked if BHHs were working and whether there is data on outcomes. The question was asked, outcomes for whom? Kelly Phenix asked the age old question, are people getting better? Paul said that metrics are good but not very helpful in understanding the reality of what is happening in the BH system. After a discussion of what areas in the report to focus on, members were asked to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss the reorganization of the committees in terms of health equity. Beresford Wilson talked about needs as a human being and not just as a statistic.

Action Items

Judith Meyers made a motion to adopt Health Equity as a focus for the Council. Beresford Wilson seconded. Co-chair Sharon Langer asked for further discussion. A vote was taken, all in favor, without nays or abstentions. Sharon told the Council that the Executive Committee will discuss how to move forward with this new focus on health equity and how it impacts the work and/or title of the committees.

National Governor's Association Initiative Presentation: Bill Halsey (DSS)



BHPOC11-9-16NGAfi
nal.pptx

Due to the length of discussion on Health Equity, the NGA presentation was postponed to the December BHPOC meeting.

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

Colleen Harrington gave an update on the discussion from September about the Court Support Services Division and Department of Corrections elimination of funding for 133 substance abuse treatment beds from the system. She emphasized that access to the beds was not an entitlement; however, a pilot program is going into effect that allows a flexible cap on unused days that can be banked and used to accommodate a need in beds based on average length of stay. (From last meeting: Pat Rehmer (Hartford Healthcare) suggested that the state should consider whether instead of imposing a cap on the number of beds an average census should be employed so as not to lure people away from seeking appropriate substance abuse treatment.) Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked Pat Rehmer and DMHAS for working this situation out to an acceptable solution.

Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey

Bill Halsey had no report or update to give.

Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson

Karen Anderson announced that she will be retiring as of January 1, 2017. Beresford Wilson paid tribute to Karen for being both a mentor and friend through his many years of involvement in the system. The Council will honor Karen's contributions to the BHPOC at its December meeting.

BHP Consumer Advisory Council Update

Co-Chair Steve Girelli of the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee gave a review of the October 13, 2016 joint meeting of the BHPOC Executive Committee Co-Chairs and the BHP Consumer advisory council members. He also thanked BHPOC members who attended. It is the hope of both Councils to educate and inform one another of the issues, events, and developments undertaken by each Council. This update will be a standing agenda item for both Councils and committees of the BHPOC.

Committee Reports:

Coordination of Care: - *Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair, Brenetta Henry, Co-Chair*

The next meeting will be on November 22, 2016 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB. A pharmacy update will be presented.

Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy: – *Steve Girelli and Jeff*

Vanderploeg, Co-Chairs

Co-Chair Jeff Vanderploeg gave the update. A CHDI report on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mobile Crisis Intervention Services was presented to the committee. This is posted on the BHPOC Website; www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC The next meeting will be on December 21, 2106 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 Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 3:00 PM at the CCNA Office in Rocky Hill, CT.

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

Co-Chair Terri DiPietro gave the update. At the October meeting, reports by Beacon Health Options were presented on access and utilization on Autism Services, a report on Smoking Cessation Services and Detox Services. The December meeting date is canceled and the next meeting will be held Friday, January 6, 2017 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room (third floor) at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment

Kelly Phenix asked for an expanded representation of Young Adult membership for the Council either through appointments or by legislation. Beresford Wilson agreed and suggested including young people age 16 to 26. Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked the agencies, guests, and members

for their participation. She announced the next meeting will be on December 14, 2016 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB. Hearing nothing else, she adjourned the meeting at 3:57 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB