



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

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[www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC](http://www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC)

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*Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Sharon Langer & Beresford Wilson*

Meeting Summary: February 15, 2016

### **1D LOB**

**Note Change: Next Meeting is March 8, 2017 @ 2 PM in 2B LOB**

*Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Beresford Wilson (Co-Chair), Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF), David Borzellino, Rick Calvert, Alyse Chin (DMHAS), Jessica Deflumer-Trapp (DMHAS), Ted Doolittle (OHA), Dr. Alice Forrester, Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr., Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Dr. Chuck Herrick, Jill Holmes-Brown, Susan Kelley, Judith Meyers, Dr. Sabooh Mubbashar, Kim Nystrom, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Ann Phelan (Beacon), Kelly Phenix, Julie Revaz (DOJ), Galo Rodriguez, Joseph Sullivan, Janine, Sullivan-Wiley, Deena Tampi, Meryl Tom, Jeff Vanderploeg, and Valerie Wyzykowski (OHA)*

### **BHP OC Administration**



OverviewBHPOC Jan  
2016Statute Sec. 17a-22j

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:06 PM, asked members to sign the attendance sheet, and members introduced themselves. She welcomed new Council member, Dr. Alice Forrester (Appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Senator Martin Looney) and officially welcomed to the Council, Dr. Lois Berkowitz who has replaced Dr. Karen Andersson in the wake of her retirement from DCF. Sharon then asked for a motion to accept the December 2016 meeting summary. A motion was made by Steve Girelli and seconded by Co-Chair Representative Mike Demicco. All members voted and unanimously approved the summary as written.

Sharon also notified Council Members that a *New Members Orientation* was held just prior to the Council meeting. A total of fourteen people attended including the Co-Chairs of the Council. An overview of the Council and its' committees as well as the statutory language was presented to the attendees (see above icon; the most recent version of Sec. 17a-22j is here; an older version of the statutory language was handed out at the Orientation meeting).

Sharon then led a discussion on BHPOC involvement in substantive changes to Medicaid-funded BH services given its statutory charge to advise the CTBHP on policy. Bill Halsey (DSS) spoke

about the different ways of posting information on programs, new rates, and policy transmittals for consumers, providers, and to the general public. DSS notifies providers of clarifications as well as changes in policy through its Bulletins. Bill said that providers generally have 30 days prior notice of the changes. Sharon pointed out that it would be helpful to share proposed changes where applicable with the Council's committees prior to formal publication of any policy changes. Janine Sullivan-Wiley said that it would be good to look into and have a voice in the evolution of change instead of just reacting to policy changes.

### ***Action Items***

None

### ***Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports:***

Co-Chair Sharon Langer informed Council Members that the State Agency Liaisons are not authorized to discuss the State Budget before their respective Commissioners testify before the legislative Appropriations Committee which will occur during the following week. It was noted by various Council Members that the Governor's proposed budget has cuts in HUSKY A parent eligibility, cuts in funding to School Based Health Centers (SBHCs), and other services, and annualizes the hold backs (mid-year cuts to program and services) .

### **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services –Alyse Chin**

Alyse Chin reported no update from the department.

### **Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey**

Bill Halsey reported no update from the department.

### **Department of Children and Families – Dr. Lois Berkowitz**

Dr. Lois Berkowitz reported no update from the department.

### **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Report Update: Bill Halsey (DSS)**



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ed Community Behavi

Bill Halsey (DSS) gave the final report on the lessons learned from the state agencies applying for and subsequently withdrawing from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) planning grant for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics. At the start of the planning grant process DSS was notified that SAMHSA cut the funding in half. For the full report- see above icon. It was suggested that the departments find out how other states that applied for the grant managed the process.

### **BHP Consumer Family Advisory Council Update**

Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF) gave the update from the Consumer Family Advisory Council (CFAC). Liaisons have been selected for each of the Council's committees for a larger voice for

families and consumers. Finding a time when everyone, in particular family representatives, can meet is challenging.

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

A Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) update was presented at the last meeting. DSS has put out an RFP for a new NEMT contract/provider. That process is moving forward.. Other discussions included the BHPOC's December letter to the Governor's Healthcare Cabinet and a lengthy discussion on the barriers to behavioral health and medical care. MAPOC will appoint a new Co-Chair for the Consumer Access Committee which meets jointly with this committee by the end of March. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 1:00 PM. There will be a room change to 1A LOB.

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

Co-Chair Steve Girelli said the committee met the week before. A Health Equity and Disparity in Children's BH Services report was presented by Bert Plant (Beacon). Co-Chair Jeff Vanderploeg reported that at the January meeting, a presentation was given by Beth Garrigan (Beacon) on Access Mental Health. Another presentation was given by Rick Calvert on Telepsychiatry. All of the aforementioned presentations can be found on-line at the BHPOC Website. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 2:00 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

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

Heather Gates said the next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 3:00 PM at the CCNA Office in Rocky Hill, CT. She and Co-chair Pat Rehmer will be meeting with staff at Beacon Health Options to develop a six-month agenda.

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

Co-Chair Terri DiPietro was out sick and Co-Chair Susan Walkama was out of state. In their absence, Bill Halsey (DSS) said the discussions were held on Autism Services, in an update on adequacy of the Network for Autism In-Home services and access, and utilization including a review on billing for In-Home Autism Services. Other discussions included definition of acceptable CPT codes for Intensive Outpatient (IOP) and Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) day of service. The next meeting will be held Friday, March 3, 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**

Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked the agencies and members for their participation in the Council meeting. She announced a room change for the next meeting on March 8, 2017 at 2:00 PM in 2B LOB. Hearing nothing else, she adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.

**NOTE: Change of Next Meeting Place: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 @ 2:00 PM 2B LOB**