



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

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*Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Sharon Langer & Beresford Wilson*  
Meeting Summary: May 10, 2016

### **1E LOB**

**Next Meeting is June 14, 2017 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

*Attendees: Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Beresford Wilson (Co-Chair), Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF), Dr. Eliot Brenner, Rick Calvert, Alyse Chin (DHMAS), Terri DiPietro, Dr. Andrew Feller, Dr. Alice Forrester, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Jill Holmes-Brown, Susan Kelley, Judith Meyers, Fernando Muniz (DCF), Maureen O'Neil-Davis, Ann Phelan (Beacon), Kelly Phenix, Julie Revaz (DOJ), Galo Rodriguez, Kristina Stevens (DCF), Joseph Sullivan, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Meryl Tom (DPH), Susan Walkama, Alicia Woodsby, and Valerie Wyzkowski*

### **BHP OC Administration**



MAPOC2-10-17 DSS  
- Health Quality Meas

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:05 PM, asked members to sign the attendance sheet, and the Co-Chairs introduced themselves as did the members. Sharon explained that Co-Chair Representative Mike Demicco could not make the meeting due to the concurrent legislative session that day. Sharon then asked for a motion to accept the March 2017 meeting summary. A motion was made by Dr. Steven Girelli. All members voted unanimously to approve the summary as written. Sharon told Members that Dr. Stephney Springer will be joining the Council as the new DCF Liaison. She also welcomed Alyse Chin who is officially replacing Colleen Harrington as the DMHAS Liaison. No new comer to the Council; Alyse has represented the department from time to time.

### **Action Items**



CommitteeLeadershi  
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Co-Chair Sharon Langer introduced the attached proposal for a protocol for selecting Committee Co-Chairs. Dr. Steven Girelli made a motion to accept the proposal and was seconded by Galo Rodriguez.

Kelly Phenix asked if there had ever been term limits. Sharon replied that she was not aware of term limits for the Council or its' committees.

Judith Meyers asked for clarification about the appointing of a chair: The Executive Committee selects one of the chairs and then the committee can select up to two additional.

Sharon asked if they wanted to vote or consider changes to the draft.

Susan Walkama asked about the context and if there is a time when a Co-Chair needs to be appointed. Sharon discussed the extent to which people come on and off the Council because of personal reasons or changes in legislative appointments, and the executive committee was asked whether there was a formal process of appointing people to chair the committees.

Judith stated that it seems that this should align with the Legislative biennium session and maybe persons should be appointed to two-year terms.

Steve Girelli stated thought it may make sense to tie re-appointment to the legislative calendar. He suggested, however, that committee chairs not be subject to a definite term because it may be difficult to recruit members to take on the committee chairpersonships. He also suggested that appointments could be staggered to avoid too much turn over at one time. Heather Gates asked that the Council members table the proposal and take it back to the Executive Committee for possible revisions. Sharon agreed and asked members to let her know if they think of anything else before June 7<sup>th</sup>, the date of the next executive meeting.

Co-Chair Sharon Langer decided to flip the order of the agenda and have committee reports first to fit them in.

## **Committee Reports**

**Coordination of Care:** - Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair, Kelly Phenix, Co-Chair, Benita Toussaint, Co-Chair

Co-Chair Janine Sullivan Wiley stated that the committee had just elected Kelly Phenix as a new Co-Chair. The next iCAN conference is September 28<sup>th</sup>. At the last meeting there was discussion on prescription medication. The next meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> will include another update on pharmacy issues and an update on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT). Council Co-Chair Beresford Wilson asked if there was anything new about the NEMT RFP and Janine replied not as yet. She also reported the new process for general re-determination for DSS is going very well and smoothly.

Ann Phelan (Interim President and CEO of Beacon) described the third iCAN Conference as a consumer driven and consumer-related and will be held on September 28, 2017 at the Artist Collective in Hartford. Everyone is invited; it is open free to all consumers. Alyse Chin (DMHAS) added that CFAC is the Consumer and Family Council from Beacon and meets on the second Thursday of every month from 10 to Noon.

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

*Vanderploeg, Co-Chairs*

Co-Chair Steve Girelli reported that the committee met on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Most of the time was spent on a HEDIS discussion. (HEDIS stands for Healthcare Effectiveness and Data Information Set and is a tool used by insurance plans to measure performance related to care and service. See [www.ncqa.org](http://www.ncqa.org) for more information about HEDIS measures). Beacon had conducted research using that metric on adolescences with substance use disorders to determine how many initiate treatment and how many are engaged in treatment. The findings indicate that Connecticut teens initiate at about the same rate as on the national level, but they engage in treatment more often. Sharon stated that it is still pretty low, 43 percent for initiation and a little over 25 percent for engagement. The Committee will be working on next steps to improve initiation and engagement by this population. The handouts and minutes are posted on-line.

Janine Sullivan-Wiley stated that it reminds her of a lot of the statistics she has heard from adults. The first appointment can be hours and hours of intake without “treatment” and Janine is concerned that there is so much data collected that it is actually a barrier to proper engagement.

Susan Kelly stated that she does think, however, spending time with a patient learning about their background can be a good thing. She thinks the issue might be more towards the handoff and what happens next.

Kelly Phenix disagreed and stated that typically individuals show up for a first appointment in pain and want immediate relief. She discussed her circumstances and how she felt. Most people do not show up when they are stable, they show up when they are in a crisis.

Sharon stated that the statistics about the low level of engagement should lead to more investigation into the reasons behind the numbers, and find solutions.

Alice Forrester stated that many providers have moved to the open access model with same day appointments and discovered that you cannot remedy the underlying problem but can address immediate needs.

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

Heather Gates said they had a meeting the day before and heard a report from Bert Plant on Health Equity and Disparities. They are working on other reports and people can refer to the minutes on the website. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11, 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 said the committee discussed priorities which will focus on the business topics for authorizations, billing practices, service operations, level of care guidelines, availability of autism services (demand versus supply of providers). They also talked about the schedule of meetings which will continue as posted on the calendar. The next meeting will be held Friday, June 2, 2017 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room (third floor) at Beacon

Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT. One item to be discussed will be the changes in the methadone payment methods proposed by CMS.

## **BHP Consumer Family Advisory Council (CFAC) Update**

*-Kelly Phenix*

Kelly Phenix gave the update from the Consumer Family Advisory Council (CFAC). CFAC and BHPOC have been working out communication and have created subcommittees. They hope to get more diversity of those who participate (family members, adult consumers, individuals from different areas of the state, and racial/ethnic diversity). Access Mental Health provided a presentation at the last meeting. Kelly reports back to CFAC on BHPOC actions and issues. The next meeting is Thursday, May 11, 2017. Following that is a prescreening of the movie *“Generation Found”*.

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

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

Bill discussed the methadone maintenance regulations. CMS has asked CT to modify its method for paying for methadone maintenance through a Medicaid state plan amendment (the document that explains how the state is complying with federal Medicaid law and/or making changes to its Medicaid program). If there are clinic regulations where there needs to be clarification, he asked members to let him know because DSS needs to change the regulation. They hope that it can go into effect immediately and other aspects would have to go through the whole process.

Sharon mentioned that they were discussing *state* regulations. Bill provided the following information after the meeting. All of DSS regulations are posted on the CT Medical assistance Program website: <https://www.ctdssmap.com/CTPortal/Home/tabId/36/Default.aspx>  
The link to the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program: Once on this page, look for “Publications” icon in the upper left corner. That will take you to a search menu and providers can search for policy transmittals by year and by provider type.

Sharon asked about the deadline for submitting comments to the proposed regulation. Bill explained the regulation process. The clarification will go through the standard process but it is the methadone component that needs to happen quickly, probably the beginning of June.

Susan Walkama stated they had talked in the operations committee about asking the Department to provide information about regulations to them so the committee could provide the feedback to the Department.

Janine Sullivan-Wiley questioned if the new methadone maintenance site in Waterbury would have to wait. Yes it would Bill replied. Janine asked about the scope of practice for licensed alcohol and drug counselors. DPH – not DSS sets the scope of practice. Janine suggested we again discuss this issue since it may impact the extent to which programs have sufficient staff to treat patients who suffer from substance use disorders and other mental health conditions.

Terri DiPietro reminded Bill about the hospital regulations, specifically about behavioral health. Bill said he will double check on the process. He invited providers to send him suggestions for clarifying the regulations. The Department would consider these suggestions before it formally posts the regulations for comment.

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



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Fernando Muniz and Kristina Stevens provided background and context for the **DCF Request for Information (RFI) for Community-Based Secure and Semi-Secure Placements for Committed Delinquent Young Men** (see above icon). Fernando reminded the Council that the Governor called for the closing of the CT Juvenile Training School by July 1, 2018; the school has been housing between 40 to 50 youths. The RFI is to eventually fund privately run small secure therapeutic facilities for these youths.

Beresford welcomed Fernando and Kristina to the Council and said he was glad to have them present because they do not often talk about juvenile justice services; however, he is still dismayed with the number of youths of color who continue to have therapeutic needs and yet are incarcerated in the state. Fernando addressed the issue of the amount of racial discrepancy. He has a great concern of the racial justice issue. The challenges were discussed. He believes the current numbers are sustainable as long as nothing happens in the budget. There is no longer a juvenile justice silo where it is only open for certain services. DCF is making the secure side of the JJ system as small as possible but not smaller than it should be.

Susan Kelly asked if DCF is looking at ways to change the CJTS if it cannot find other suitable places. Fernando said they are trying to find a suitable alternative but that is a “plan B” to make the state facility less like a prison. Susan has concern because the deadline is July 2018. She found it distressful that the state could continue housing youth at CJTS. She does not believe that was the intent of the legislation. Fernando agreed. Any plan to move out of CJTS is going to involve getting bonding dollars and addressing community concerns where new facilities may be located. There are a few options that are rated highly. It may be possible that modifications could be made to smaller facilities to make them better even if that is not ideal.

Alice Forrester said that they have to reach out to these youths without going to the traditional model. They need to be reached in the schools, on the street corners, where ever they are.

## Children’s Behavioral Health Plan

Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked Kristina to give a brief update on the Children’s Behavioral Health Plan that came out of Legislation in 2013 and amended in 2015 stemming from the tragedy at Sandy Hook. Kristina thanked the Council for the opportunity to be present and give an update. After hosting multiple community conversations, open forums, facilitated discussions with subject matter experts held around the state, and website input, seven focus areas were identified and that a progress report is due out by October 1, 2017. For the full report, see: [www.planforchildren.org](http://www.planforchildren.org). The progress report will be posted on this website as well.

### **State Budget Updates and Other Relevant Proposed Legislation**

The Governor released his deficit mitigation plan to the Legislature which includes rescissions for all state departments and agencies. Judith Meyers asked if there was a way to get access to the Governor's plan. Fernando stated he would see what he can share. It was probably released to the *CT Mirror*.

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

No new updates.

### **Federal Cures Act legislation: Implications for Connecticut – Judith Meyers (CHDI)**

Judith Meyers (President and CEO of CHDI) provided a brief overview of the 996 page \$1 Billion bill (please refer to the link below): <http://www.chdi.org/index.php/publications/issue-briefs/issue-brief-53>

Kristina Stevens (DCF) said the Children's Behavioral Health Plan Advisory Board is working closely with DCF around a mental health block grant. DCF is aligning all of that with the larger behavioral health plan. Susan Kelly asked where would that be accessed to see what is being done. Kristina said that it is on the DCF Website but that she will have to check on it.

### **New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment**

Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked Judith for her presentation and the agencies and members for their participation in the Council meeting. Sharon then announced the date for the next meeting on June 14, 2017 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB. A motion was made to adjourn by Steve Girelli and seconded by Janine Sullivan-Wiley. Hearing nothing else, Sharon adjourned the meeting at 3:54 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB**