

Action Items

A vote for to elect Pat Rehmer as Administrative Tri-chair was called with a motion made by Janine Sullivan-Wiley and seconded by Susan Walkama. All members voted to accept the motion without and nays or abstentions. Pat Rehmer was unanimously voted as Administrative Tri-chair of the Council.

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports:

Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey

Bill Halsey reported that he had no comment on the budget. He did say that on Friday, September 8, 2017, the department sent out a final draft of the Behavioral Health Clinic Regulations for the Opiate Treatment Facilities Methadone Maintenance Programs. The regulations and payment structure needs to be updated for methadone payment providers. The most substantial changes are how the department pays for methadone maintenance. Also there are other “cleanup” items within the new clinic regulations. There is a one week informal feedback period then the formal feedback on the regulations will go into effect.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services –Alice Chin

Alyse Chin said that she did not have a DMHAS report due to not having a budget. The department is in throes of doing what it can to maintain the integrity of services and working its best with other agencies under the circumstances of not having a budget in place.

Department of Children and Families – Dr. Stephney Springer

Dr. Stephney Springer said that there is no additional budget or other updates.

State Budget

Janine Sullivan-Wiley said that agencies providing BH services received a 90% reduction in grant support for IOP services on the mental health and substance abuse sides. In additions, agencies had to submit another 2.5% cuts in their budgets but were told they could put this on hold in September. These reductions will result in cuts to staff and services. She then brought up that DMHAS recommended a 50% cut in funding to the Regional Mental Health Boards and the Regional Action Councils retroactive to July 1, with termination on December 31, 2017. Then it will go out to a re-bid on a competitive procurement process to move toward an integrated BH (advisory) structure that would encompass both substance abuse and mental health services (her board currently does this already) which will result in the consolidation and the integration of the Mental Health Boards and the RACs from eighteen entities down to five. She added this is one component on how DMHAS is attempting to deal with any short falls in the budget. Co-Chair Beresford Wilson thanked Janine for her input and said that this budget impasse is hurting our children the most.

Committee Reports:

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

Janine Sullivan Wiley told Council Members that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB. On the agenda will be an update on NEMT and on the NEMT RFP and a follow-up to the last meeting's pharmacy report.

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

Due to the absence of both co-chairs: no report was presented. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 20, 2107. (Editor's Note: The September meeting was canceled and the next meeting will be on October 18, 2017 at 2:00 PM at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT.)

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

Due to the absence of both co-chairs: no report was presented. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2017 at 3:00 PM at the CT Non-Profit Alliance office, 35 Cold Spring Road, #522, Rocky Hill, CT.

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

Co-Chair Susan Walkama said the September meeting was canceled and the next committee meeting will cover a review of the hospital regulations that are currently in full implementation, however, Bill Halsey (DSS) will not be present. Co-Chair Terri DePietro asked members to send in agenda items of concern or interest so that the meetings can be more proactive for the members. The next meeting will be on Friday, October 6, 2017 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room (third floor) at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

BHP Consumer Family Advisory Council (CFAC) Update

Kelly Phenix told Council Members the third annual i-CAN Conference will be held on September 28, 2017 at the Artist's Collective on Albany Avenue in Hartford from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Kelly will be participating in a focus group on recovery. Co-Chair Beresford Wilson said that he has participated in the first two conferences and that he was looking forward to going to this conference especially since it is in his community. He added that we need to encourage the involvement not only of the heads of hospitals, agencies and usual policy-makers but also that of the primary benefactor which is the consumer.

DMHAS Psychiatric Services Report –Jim Siemianowski (DMHAS)



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Co-Chair Beresford Wilson introduced his friend and colleague, Jim Siemianowski (Director of Evaluation and Quality Management) to give the DMHAS report on Psychiatric Services. For the full report, see the above icons. In 2015, the Legislature directed DMHAS to do a study on the adequacy of psychiatric services in Connecticut. This report focuses primarily on adults. At the October Council meeting, DCF will present a report that focuses on juvenile and adolescent psychiatric services.

New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment

Co-Chair Beresford Wilson thanked Jim Siemianowski for the presentation. He then asked for new business. Beresford told Council Members that if they had any agenda items for future meetings, they should get in contact with David Kaplan, Council Administrator. Hearing nothing else, he announced the next meeting will be on October 11, 2017 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting and Beresford adjourned the meeting at 3:53 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB