



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

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*r), Beresford Wilson*  
*DMHAS), Terri*  
*alsey (DSS), Dr.*  
*ie Mormile-Mehler,*  
*, Jordan Scheff*  
*evens (DCF), Janine*  
*. Rod Winstead*

### ***I***

Co-Chair Pat Kemmer convened the meeting at 2:01 PM, and introductions were made. She then congratulated Kristina Stevens on her very recent appointment of new Deputy Commissioner at DCF. Pat reviewed the current open appointments that are available to sit on the BHPOC (see Membership List on the Council's Website: [www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC](http://www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC)). Pat then asked for a motion to accept the September BHPOC summary. Co-Chair Representative Mike Demicco made the motion and it was seconded by Galo Rodriguez. All voted to accept the September summary as written with no nays or abstentions.

### ***Action Items***

None.

### **DMHAS Psychiatric Services Report –Kristina Stevens (DCF) and Chris Bory (Beacon)**



BHPOC9-13-17DMHAS and DCF Psychiatric



BHPOC10-11-17DCF PPP.pptx

Kristina Stevens (DCF) introduced Chris Bory (Beacon) and he presented the report (see above icon). Some of the comments on the presentation included: Co-Chair Beresford Wilson expressed his concern with minority children and the causes and effects in ED delay and with other services. Susan Kelley said of the report that everything is going really well but in reality, is it enough? The report does not spot light what we are doing right to reduce ED and what we are doing wrong. What are the symptoms and scenarios? Kristina replied that the legislation for this report had a narrow scope and focus on the psychiatric activity of the children and youth side specific to DCF. The report was not reflective of the entire children's behavioral health system. She said that DCF would like to come back at a future meeting to report on the 2017 progress update on the Children's Behavioral Health Plan that was just released on October 2. Dr. Chuck Herrick asked about successful outcomes and what are the true quality measures. Lori Szczygiel (Beacon) observed from her experience around the country that Connecticut is a data driven state and the direction and response that the state usually takes has a direct correlation to that data.

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

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

Alyse Chin said that she did not have a long DMHAS report because the state still does not have a budget. She did discuss the current DMHAS cuts. She said in the first Executive Order (EO) most of DMHAS budget line items were cut by 10%.

In order to mitigate impact on the people we serve, DMHAS did some targeted cuts to categories such as:

- Administrative Services, for example our Administrative Services Organizations, Beacon Health Options (Behavioral Health Homes) and Advance Behavioral Health (Administration and UM functions).
- Reimbursable Services such as PHP/IOP which were reduced by 90% grant funding
- Unused capacity
- Training Services – Women's Consortium

To further implement the Governor's EO, DMHAS requested and received 5% reduction plans from agencies with human services contracts. An exception to this is the Regional Action Councils & Regional Mental Health Boards, which will be funded up to December 2017. The RFP for rebidding of these services has been posted on the DMHAS website.

With the second EO, we are pausing at the 5% reduction and hoping that we will not have to make additional across the board cuts.

Council Co-Chair Pat Rehmer made the comment that the cuts to PHP and IOP will result in longer hospital stays.

#### **Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey and Rod Winstead**

Bill Halsey reported that the department is waiting anxiously for a budget. Rod Winstead (DSS) reported that a new ASO for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) will result in a

better services delivery system. The company chosen to take over NEMT as of January 1, 2018 is Total Transit. Kelly Phenix asked Rod if the new NEMT contract included relevant penalties for failure of or for poor services. Rod said that he did not know but he would inquire soon. Kelly also told members that the Medicaid Health Savings Account program is being eliminated and 65,000+ will lose assistance in purchasing power of needed services. Representative Jonathan Steinberg asked Kelly to send him an email to educate him on this issue as soon as possible because budget negotiations were currently being held.

## **Department of Children and Families – Dr. Stephney Springer**

Dr. Stephney Springer said that the department is currently operating under the Governor's Executive Orders.

### **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 last meeting was held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017. The agenda included an update on NEMT and on the NEMT RFP. Members were pleased that their action and involvement resulted in the finding of a new NEMT ASO. Council Co-Chair Beresford Wilson congratulated Janine and her committee saying that it proves that consumers can make things happen and shows the “power of the consumer” and the “power of partnership”. The i-CAN conference is a great example of this. There was also a follow-up to the last meeting's pharmacy report. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next meeting will be November 29, 2017 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB.

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

Co-Chair Steve Girelli reported that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 2:00 PM at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT. The topic will be a presentation by DMHAS and DCF on the Alcohol Drug Policy Council.

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

Co-Chair Heather Gates reported that the committee met the day before and had a presentation by Bert Plant (Beacon) on Data on the Prevalence of Opioid Use Disorder and High Dosage Opioid Prescribing in Medicaid. Heather said that a more updated version of the report that will be ready by year's end may be presented to the entire Council. Also, she asked DMHAS to give a more detailed analysis on service area cuts after the budget is passed. Terri DiPietro added that though the opioid crisis is receiving much attention, it is important not to forget about the population who suffers from alcohol abuse. The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2017 at 3:00 PM at the CT Community Non-Profit Alliance office, 35 Cold Spring Road, #522, Rocky Hill, CT.

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

Co-Chair Terri DiPietro said the October meeting was canceled and the next committee meeting will cover a review of the hospital regulations that are currently in full implementation. Bill Halsey (DSS) reminded members of the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the program that came out of their last meeting on the High Cost, High Need Initiative that includes battling opiate and alcohol addiction. Council Co-Chair Pat Rehmer also reminded members of the DMHAS funded recovery coaches located in certain EDs that have had a 95% success in getting people into treatment for alcohol addiction but it was added that alcohol addiction is a life-long battle and not just a one-time or two-time rehabilitative session. The next meeting will be on Friday, November 3, 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 that was held on September 28, 2017 at the Artist's Collective on Albany Avenue in Hartford was well attended and a great success. Members of CFAC were pleased with the outcomes. Kelly participated as a panel member in a focus group on recovery. In November, Dr. Steve Girelli, the Co-Chair of the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee will be addressing the Council about the joint work group purpose with an overview to the BHPOC and the legislative process. CFAC will have its first Annual Joint meeting on December 14 at Beacon from 10 AM to 12 Noon to celebrate the past years' accomplishments with partnering with BHPOC. This meeting is open and anyone is encouraged to come. There will also be a field trip on January 11, 2018 from 10 AM to 12 Noon to the LOB in Hearing Room 1D for members to learn how to get streamlined and more focused in ways on how to testify, how to be an effective advocate, and how to effectively converse with their legislators.

**New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment**

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer thanked Kristina Steven and Chris Bory and the agency liaisons for their presentations. She then asked for new business. Lori Szczygiel said that Beacon just produced and released a short documentary on the lives of three consumers. It is very moving and addresses the area of stigma and the other real problems and issues that people face every day. There will be a roll-out party early next year but she would like to preview it at the December Council meeting. It will be about a half -hour long. Maureen O'Neill-Davis said the Children's Behavioral Health Plan has just been released in October 2017 and would be a good agenda item for the near future. Pat reminded Council Members that if they had any nominations for open appointments; they should get in contact with David Kaplan, Council Administrator. Hearing nothing else, she announced the next meeting will be on November 8, 2017 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB, a presentation on the ADPC will be given by DCF and DMHAS. Pat then adjourned the meeting at 4:02 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB**