



## **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, Pat Rehmer & Beresford Wilson*

Meeting Summary: November 8, 2017

**1E LOB**

**Next Meeting is December 13, 2017 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

*Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Pat Rehmer (Co-Chair), Beresford Wilson (Co-Chair), Paul Acker, David Borzellino, Eliot Brenner, Terri DiPietro, Dr. Andrew Feller, Dr. Alice Forrester, Heather Gates, William Halsey (DSS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Jill Holmes-Brown, Susan Kelley, Mickey Kramer (OCA), Judith Meyers, Dr. Sabooh Mubbashar, Kim Nystrom, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Mary Painter (DCF), Kelly Phenix, Galo Rodriguez, Charlene Russell-Tucker (SDE), Lauren Siembab (DMHAS), Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF), Judith Stonger (Wheeler Clinic), Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Lori Szczygiel (Beacon), Mark Vanacore (DMHAS), Susan Walkama, Valerie Wzykowski (OHA), and Dr. Ben Zigun*

### ***BHP OC Administration***

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer convened the meeting at 2:04 PM, and introductions were made. Pat then asked for a motion to accept the October BHPOC summary. Eliot Brenner made the motion and it was seconded by Terri DiPietro. All voted to accept the October summary as written with no nays or abstentions.

### ***Action Items***



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ary LOC Guideline Re:ItemAdult BHP Level cItemChild BHP Level c

Operations Committee Co-Chair Terri DiPietro explained that every couple of years, the BHPOC reviews the Level of Care (LOC) Guidelines. They have not been significantly changed but there is clean-up language that the Council needs to approve. Co-Chair Susan Walkama said the LOC Guidelines have not been reviewed in a while and explained the clarification in some of the language changes. Terri opened up the discussion for questions. Heather Gates asked a question about language alteration for the ASO and MCO changes. Susan repeated that this is just clean-up language. Bill Halsey (DSS) further backs up Susan's statement and reaffirmed that there was no process change. He said that these guidelines cannot be used for any denial of services or treatment; they are only for review for authorization. Mikey Kramer (OCA) had a last minute

question on the Child LOC Guidelines. Did it have a definite age level for children going into residential care? She saw no age level. Bill said he was not sure if there was language about this in the LOC Guidelines. He said it may be up to the provider to make the age limit. Mickey asked for clarification on this. A shift in practice as an agency policy leads to misunderstanding. At what age can a child benefit from a residential treatment facility? Lori Szczygiel (Beacon) said that her ASO receives all the information available and then a decision is made but can be reviewed. Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF) said the LOC Guidelines have no changes for (residential treatment) facilities. Mickey said she would still like to get statewide clarification of age levels. Council Co-Chair Beresford Wilson would also like to see more clarification and alignment on this policy and he would like DCF to respond. Council Co-Chair Pat Rehmer calls the vote. Terri DiPietro made a motion to accept the new LOC Guideline language and Galo Rodriguez seconded. All voted unanimously to accept the new language with no nays or abstentions.

***Presentation on Alcohol Drug Policy Council (ADPC) –Mary Painter (DCF), Lauren Siembab (DMHAS), and Judith Stonger (Wheeler Clinic)***



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Council Co-Chair Pat Rehmer introduced Mary Painter (DCF), Lauren Siembab (DMHAS), and Judith Stonger (Wheeler Clinic) who together gave the presentation (for more detail, see the above icon). Lauren said that to date, heroin has surpassed alcohol in substance abuse treatment in Connecticut.

## **Discussion**

Judith Meyers asked what can be done in tracking and accountability. She remarked that the death rate due to opioids is rising. Is there a plan on how to share this information with other people (families, providers, et.al.), and how to make a difference in the outcome? Lauren replied that with the treatment initiatives data, it is relatively easy to track if patients are connecting with other forms of treatment if and when they leave treatment. This allows tracking people more and then recommendations for referral programs can be given. Multiple evaluations are built into the grant. They are also tracking on a national level to see and understand the various states and their degree of success. Mary said that she would direct Council Members to take a look at the Core Report to show measurable outcomes in the progress in Narcan utilization and lives saved. Dr. Chuck Herrick said the challenge is that Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT) providers are reluctant to take on more patients- how to educate providers and primary care offices in MAT? The SAMHSA Website has a list of about 600-700 prescribers. Kelly Phenix said that alcohol was scarcely mentioned. Kids are primarily abusing alcohol and marijuana. Valerie Wyzykowski (OHA) asked about insurance and detox programs. Detox is about a 3-4 day stay and rehab is typically a 30-day treatment. Janine Sullivan-Wiley asked about pain management abuse. Co-Chair Beresford Wilson was asking about treatment and racial justice with minorities. Kelly asked if the Council would agree for a six-month update from the ADPC and members agreed they would like to have Lauren and Mary come back next year. Co-Chair Pat Rehmer thanked both Lauren and Mary for their presentation and time for taking questions.

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

### **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services –Mark Vanacore**

Mark Vanacore indicated that the initial numbers from the recently passed budget is bearable to last year's budget but there are hold backs in numbers which will be determined at a later date.

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

While funding for SFY18 remains relatively flat, the budget reflects significant reductions for SFY19 that would limit our ability to sustain existing programs and services. We are in the process of examining all of our data relative to capacity, utilization and outcomes to determine how to best manage these reductions to minimize impacts to children and families.

With respect to some of the budget implications for DCF's juvenile justice mandate, included in those reductions is over 12M that currently funds a range of programs that serve both our juvenile justice and child protection populations. While our investments in community based services have focused on diverting youth from the juvenile justice system, with this budget we must now shift some of our focus to working with the Judicial Branch and OPM to determine next steps to ensure a seamless transition of these services that minimizes disruptions to these children and families. In addition, effective 1/1/18, there will be no new admissions to CJTS to provide DCF time to effectively plan and support the facility's closure for 7/1/18.

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

Bill Halsey reported that the department is still looking at the numbers in terms of impacting people. There is a reduction in the Medicaid savings program with an effective date of 1/1/18. The DSS Website will have more details. A letter will go out to all the members who are impacted by this modification with a minimum of a ten-day notification. HUSKY A Adult eligibility reductions went from 150% to 138% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL). This will be a January 1, 2018 effective date. MSP will impact 68,000 HUSKY A members with 9000 adults. There are some other requirements for school districts to enroll in Medicaid program for School Based Child Health so they can bill Medicaid. It also allows DSS to eliminate home health add-ons. The biggest issues are related to income changes for MSP and HUSKY A.

### **Beacon Health Options “*Recovering Lives*” Documentary – Lori Szczygiel (Beacon)**



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Lori Szczygiel (Beacon) said this documentary puts a face on individuals who are on the road to recovery for specific populations that are receiving services through the ASO Beacon Health Options.

## **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 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*

The October 18, 2017 had a report on the Alcohol Drug Policy Council (ADPC) given by Mary Painter (DCF) and Julienne Giard (DMHAS). The next meeting will be on November 15, 2017 at 2:00 PM at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT. The topic will be the future of Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) in Connecticut given by Jason Lang (CHDI) and Eliot Brenner (Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut).

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

Co-Chair Heather Gates reported that the November meeting was canceled and 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 she discussed the 2018 Meeting schedule and it was decided to only meet in January, March, June, September and November. At the November meeting the Level of Care Adult and Child Guidelines were discussed. The next meeting will be on Friday, January 5, 2018 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**

Due to lack of time, Kelly Phenix will give this report at the December meeting.

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

Co-Chair Beresford Wilson asked for any announcements or new business. Hearing nothing else, he announced the next meeting will be on December 13, 2017 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB. He asked for a motion to adjourn. Janine Sullivan-Wiley made the motion to adjourn and Judith Meyers seconded. Beresford then adjourned the meeting at 4:04 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB**