



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

Legislative Office Building Room 3000, Hartford CT 06106  
(860) 240-0346 Info Line (860) 240-8329 FAX (860) 240-5306

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

---

*Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Pat Rehmer & Beresford Wilson*

*Meeting Summary: September 12, 2018*

**1E LOB**

**Next Meeting is October 10, 2018 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

*Attendees: Pat Rehmer (Co-Chair), Beresford Wilson (Co-Chair), Dr. Elliot Brenner, Alyse Chin (DMHAS), Terri DiPietro, Dr. Alice Forrester, Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr., Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Jill Holmes-Brown, Susan Kelley, Mickey Kramer (OCA), Barbara Lanza (Jud), Judith Meyers, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kelly Phenix, Charlene Russell-Tucker (SDE), Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF), Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Lori Szczygiel (Beacon), Meryl Tom (DPH), and Rod Winstead (DSS)*

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

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer convened the meeting at 2:11 PM, and introductions were made. Next, Pat informed the Council that member Joe Sullivan had passed away earlier in the summer. Janine Sullivan-Wiley told the Council that Joe was an active member of the Council from July 2014 through June 2017 when he retired from MCCA out of Danbury after 37 years. She said of Joe, that he was a true visionary who worked untiringly in his efforts for lasting recovery for individuals with addiction and he will be remembered fondly. Other members spoke kindly of Joe and expressed their condolences to Joe's family.

Pat then announced two retirements from the Council after many years of service and since the inception of the BHPOC: Judith Meyers and Susan Walkama. She thanked both Judith and Susan (who, unfortunately could not be present) for all their contributions and many years of service to the Council. Members gave them a round of applause. Judith said that only a few of the original Council Members remain and over the years she has seen great changes to the BH system. She said that often she was the voice in the room of being able to reflect on how far the Council has come in its work. The positive changes in terms of the array of services, financing, representation of families at the table, and the availability of data have all improved the system. She urged the rest of the Council to continue to lead the charge to improve the lives of Connecticut's citizens and continue to be a voice in reforming health care in the state. In absence of Susan Walkama, Pat said that she wanted to recognize Susan for her many years of service and who helped bring about a lot of positive change under her co-chairing of the Operations Committee for many years. Photographs were taken of Judith and the present Co-Chairs.

Pat then asked audience members if they had any public comments and there were none. She then asked Council Members for a motion to accept the June 2018 summary. Dr. Steve Girelli made the motion and was seconded by Terri DiPietro. All voted to accept the June summary as written with no nays, and one abstention. Pat told the Council that she was changing the order of the agenda to accommodate Rod Winstead (DSS) who was attending another meeting in the building so he can report on the update of Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT).

### ***Action Items***

None

### ***Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports:*** **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services –Alyse Chin**

No report was given.

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

Bill Halsey (DSS) discussed two provider bulletins that were recently issued. The first one is on timely filing: it is now one year for medical services for HUSKY A clients. The second bulletin deals with the co-payments for HUSKY B: they are removed for all behavioral health services. Anyone who paid a co-payment for services after September 1, 2018 is entitled to a refund but not before September 1, 2018.

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

Dr. Stephney Springer reported that the department is working on the 2020-2022 biennium budget which builds off this year's baseline budget. Agencies have been instructed to submit 5% reductions for the biennium budget. Providers had a lot of questions pertaining to this and Dr. Springer indicated that she will get further clarification. There was a question about 6 to 8 of Solnit's beds that were off line. Dr. Springer indicated that to the best of her knowledge, there was a hold on referrals due to operational needs but that referrals would be reviewed by a case by case basis. She said the agency recognizes the need for these services and will go back to gather more information pertaining to the Solnit beds.

**(Editor's Note:)** After the Council meeting, Dr. Springer sent a clarification on her report and sent her apologies for any confusion.

I wanted to circle back following the BHPOC meeting this week. As I shared, I wanted to connect with other members of the DCF team to gather additional information and clarify based on the questions asked to share with the council. With respect to the three areas:

### **Budget Reduction:**

For the past several years OPM has given agencies a target budget reduction for submission. This year that reduction amount was 5%. DCF will offer what savings we can. These savings have often not impacted the private providers and have come from other parts of our budget. We will not be directly

requesting any budget reductions from providers at this time. As with all agencies, DCF will not know the impact of the Governor's budget until January.

### **COLA:**

We just got our final COLA numbers confirmed yesterday. The Contracts Staff started drafting the letters yesterday afternoon, so we expect people will hear in the next day or so.

### **Solnit:**

Maintenance is underway which has resulted in a temporary reduction of 8 beds. It's expected that this work will be completed in the coming weeks.

### **Judicial Branch – Barbara Lanza**

No department report was given on the adult system.

### **State Department of Education- Charlene Russell-Tucker (SDE)**

Charlene Russell-Tucker (SDE) reported that the state was awarded a SAMHSA grant for Project AWARE which will be shared in a partnership with DCF. It is targeted for school age youth with mental health and behavioral health issues. The five-year \$10 million project will be piloted in three towns: Middletown, Naugatuck, and Windham. Co-Chair Beresford Wilson asked for some electronic information on this grant.

### **NEMT Update -Rod Winstead (DSS)**



BHPOC9-12-18Sept  
mber 2018 NEMT Wor

Rod Winstead gave the update on **Non-Medical Emergency Transportation services (NEMT)**. He reported the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) showed 95% of the trips completed were on time so there was a 5% payment penalty. He said that Veyo sub-contracts with other transportation providers and there were four payment penalties. It included \$15,000 in sanctions for late pick-ups or hospital discharge delays. For a full report, see the above icon. DSS is seeing significant improvement in NEMT services.

### **Discussion on Health Equity- State Agency Partners, Beacon, and Committee and Council Co-Chairs**



2018BHPOC0912-R0  
01400-OTH 2018-09-

After a positive and lengthy discussion, Co-Chair Beresford Wilson said that he will contact Michele Spivey from CONNECT and see if she can give a presentation to the Council in the coming months. For the full context of the discussion, see the icon above.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Coordination of Care: - Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, Co-Chair, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair, Kelly Phenix, Co-Chair, Benita Toussaint, Co-Chair**

Co-Chair Janine Sullivan Wiley announced the next meeting will be September 26, 2018 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB. In addition to a NEMT update, discussions will include a presentation on the Medical ASO Performance Standards and Bariatric Surgery.

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

Co-Chair Dr. Steven Girelli reported that at the July 2018 meeting Bert Plant gave a report on ED Utilization and Frequency of ED visits along with variables that contribute to frequency visits and services available to youths after they are in the ED of which 25% are repeat users to the ED. The report is posted on the BHPOC Website. He also said that a committee attendance and participation survey was sent out to key stake holders and to the whole membership. He and his Co-Chair are still aggregating the information. He then announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 2:00 PM at Beacon Health Options (Editor's Note: that meeting was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2018 at Beacon.).

### **Adult Quality, Access & Policy: -Paul Acker, Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr., Heather Gate, Co-Chairs**

Co-Chair Heather Gates reported at the June meeting there was a presentation given by DMHAS on Behavioral Health Homes (BHH). Data shows that progress is being made. She then announced that the September meeting was canceled and the next meeting will be on November 13, 2018 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 that the Operation Committee met on Friday, September 7, 2018 and it was robust meeting. There was a status update (CMS request) on the BH regulations on methadone and that it was approved. The HUSKY B State Plan Amendment and services was discussed. Also, there was further discussion on ECCs and possible expansion. Telemedicine was brought up and can be a positive way of expanding services and containing costs and DSS is developing a proposal. It was noted that CT is the last, or one of the last states in the country to pay for telemedicine, and specifically telepsychiatry. Peer Support Recovery Services was also discussed. The next meeting will be on \*October 5, 2018 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room (third floor) at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT. \*NOTE: This is a recently scheduled meeting. If any member has any future item topics for the agenda, please contact BHPOC Administrator, David Kaplan.

## **BHP Consumer Family Advisory Council (CFAC) Update- Kelly Phenix**

Kelly Phenix reported that the fourth annual iCAN Conference will take place on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at the Artist's Collective at 1200 Albany Avenue in Hartford from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM. The theme will be "*Step Up and Stand Out- Taking Action and True Partnership*". There will be six breakout sessions which will include: Fatherhood Initiative, Young Adults and Suicide Prevention, Adult Services, Faith-Based Talk, Trauma, and Wellness Discussion. This is a conference that consumers have completely put together themselves and have raised over \$7000 in donations toward this initiative. It is free and open to members of the public. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Yvonne Jones (860-263-2000) at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

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

Co-Chair Beresford Wilson thanked all members for their participation in the discussions. He asked for any other announcements or new business. Hearing none, he reminded members that the next meeting will be on October 10, 2018 at 2:00 PM in **1E LOB**. Dr. Steve Girelli made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Co-Chair Pat Rehmer. All voted in the affirmative. Beresford then adjourned the meeting at 4:03 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB**