



## **Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

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Co-Chairs: *Rep. Mike Demicco, Pat Rehmer & Beresford Wilson*  
Meeting Summary: November 14, 2018

### **1E LOB**

**Next Meeting is December 12, 2018 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

*Attendees:* Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Pat Rehmer (Co-Chair), Beresford Wilson (Co-Chair), David Borzellino, Alyse Chin (DMHAS), Brian Delude, (Jud), 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, Tom King, Mickey Kramer (OCA), Marie Mormile-Mehler, Dr. Sabooh Mubbashar, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kelly Phenix, Kathryn Rock-Burns (DDS), Galo Rodriguez, Charlene Russell-Tucker (SDE), Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF), Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Lori Szczygiel (Beacon), Sabrina Trocchi, Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg, Rod Winstead (DSS), Valerie Wyzykowski (OHA), and Dr. Benjamin Zigun

### **BHP OC Administration**

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer convened the meeting at 2:06 PM, and introductions were made. She then asked for public comments. Hearing none, she asked Council Members for a motion to accept the October 2018 summary. Terri DiPietro made the motion and was seconded by Dr. Steve Girelli. All voted to accept the October summary with two abstentions.

Pat then announced that Heather Gates will be stepping down as the long time Co-Chair for the Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee, replacing outgoing Council Member, Susan Walkama as the next Co-Chair along with Terri DiPietro of the Operations Committee. Next Pat brought up the issue that the Executive Committee has been talking about the committee structure for quality access. There is support for combining the Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee with that of the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee. Some considerations included: The data and presentations for both committees are usually supplied by Beacon Health Options and DSS. Combining the two committees might benefit the BH system regardless of age. The meetings for the Adult data might be given one month and then the Child/Adolescent data will be given the next month. This would save time and then both data sets can be discussed at one meeting. Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr. made a motion to create an Ad Hoc committee to work with the Executive Committee to discuss the combining of the two committees along with commentary from the next Child/Adolescent QAP Committee meeting and a decision is to be brought back to the Council on the merger of the two quality access committees at the January 2019 Council meeting. Dr. Steve Girelli seconded and all voted in favor of the motion.

## ***Action Items***

None

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

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

No report was given.

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

- Dr. Springer stated as discussed here previously, in partnership with DSS, DPH and our accreditation body, we are still in the process of modifications to the physical space at Solnit. So we will be down 8 beds in the PRTF.
- Also DCF is working with DSS, DPH and Beacon Health Options on a more robust QM (Quality Management) process for the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs)
- Commissioner Katz has submitted her resignation to take affect the end of 12/31/18.

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

Bill Halsey (DSS) had no budget update from the department. He did acknowledge a robust Operations Committee meeting and proposals on telehealth and telemedicine. They are Behavioral Health centered on primary care. Bill said the department would like to have consumer feedback on the proposals. Bill also said that he will give an update on the IICAPS program at the next meeting.

### **Judicial Branch – Brian Delude (Jud)**

Brian Delude was present due to the absence of Barbara Lanza, and no department report was given.

### **Department of Developmental Services - Kathryn Rock-Burns (DDS)**

Co-Chair Beresford Wilson brought an incident that had happened at one of DDSs' facilities. Katie Rock-Burns reported that there was an incident with a staff member who was the owner of the property where the incident occurred. The staff member was placed on administrative leave pending an outcome with a full investigation by the local police unit and the agency. The Commissioner is looking to bring cultural competency training for the entire agency to prevent such an incident in the future. All allegations of this nature are taken seriously and the agency will take all steps necessary to prevent this from happening again. When the investigation is completed, the agency will be happy to share the results with the Council and the public at large. Beresford thanked Katie for her update.

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

Charlene Russell-Tucker thanked her colleagues in the 33 Alliance Districts (lowest performing districts). There was a convening of these districts to discuss Building Trauma Sensitive

Schools. It was a well-attended event with Beacon and many other state agencies to discuss “How to partner “. It was good to make connections for these districts.

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



BHPOC10-10-18October 2018 NEMT Work

Rod Winstead gave a brief update on **Non-Medical Emergency Transportation services (NEMT)**. For full details of the report, see above icon. He said that as of January 1, 2018, sanctions for \$20,000 were issued for failure to meet standards from Sections 14-38 for late pick-ups beyond the appointed time. To date, \$14,000 has been collected with the remainder to be received by the end of November 2018. Bill Halsey said the money is returned into the DSS budget. Janine Sullivan-Wiley asked who will reimburse consumers for out-of-pocket expenses for transportation. Sabrina Trocchi added that she was not sure if the NEMT Work Group will be able to complete its task before the end of the year and that it may need to meet beyond the New Year. The data shows improvements but there is still a lot of work to be done. It seems to be a systemic issue. Janine asked if problems with Veyo cannot be resolved, will DSS consider a different provider. Rod replied that DSS will do anything and everything it can to make NEMT work.

## **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 reported that there will be a presentation by Beacon on the Administrative Service Organization at the next meeting that will be on November 28, 2018 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB. There will also be an update on NEMT by DSS.

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

Co-Chair Dr. Steven Girelli announced that due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next meeting will be on Monday, November 26, 2018 at 2:00 PM at Beacon Health Options. There will be a presentation of the findings from the member survey that the Co-Chairs had conducted. Then the committee will discuss function and process of the CAQAP that will include historical perspective, review of the mission, and planning for future work of the committee. The agenda will also include a presentation of CHDI's report on child and adolescent emergency department utilization.

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

Co-Chair Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr. reported that there was no meeting in October. The meetings take place the second Tuesday, every other month at 3:00 PM at the CT Community Non-Profit Alliance office, 35 Cold Spring Road, #522, Rocky Hill, CT. There may be an opening for Co-

Chairperson for this committee, if anyone is interested in putting their name in for consideration by BHPOC Executive Committee, please contact BHPOC Administrator, David Kaplan.

### **Operations:** – Terri DiPietro, Chair

Co-Chair Terri DiPietro said that there was a robust meeting on telehealth and telemedicine. She added that she addressed members of CFAC who had many questions on telehealth and what it could mean to them. Also, CFAC is looking for some of their leaders to attend the Operations Committee meetings. Also discussed was that clarity was needed for consult codes in medical visits for intensive out-patient care and the ECC appeal process for routine visits and the DSS policy bulletin on LMSW scope of practice. The next meeting will be on January 4, 2019 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room (third floor) at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT. If any member has any future item topics for the agenda, please contact BHPOC Administrator, David Kaplan.

### **Consumer and Family Advisory Council (CFAC) Update -Lori Szczygiel (Beacon)**

Lori Szczygiel reported that CFAC members discussed telehealth care and that many consumers had strong support thinking that telehealth could divert some individuals from going to the ED on a regular basis for their health needs. Members also received information on naloxone and how it is administrated and an introduction for a potential phone app so the group may act as a focus group centered on new technologies. Members are looking at their own strategic planning process, reviewing committees and making sure there is alignment. They also are trying to take the annual iCAN Conference to a national level and they want to patent the iCAN name.

### **Discussion on Access to Child/Adolescent Beds and ED Back-up-Council and State Agency Partners**

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer introduced the topic of child/adolescent beds and emergency department back-up wait time. What is the best solution for those children “stuck” in the ED? Jeff Vanderploeg talked about the CHDI report that was collaborated with Beacon Health Options and which will be presented at the next Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee the following week after the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Valerie Wyzykowski (OHA) said there needs to be more providers giving timely care. “*We need to be proactive rather than being reactive*”. Lori Szczygiel gave the Council a thought by saying that meaningful practice changes are needed, not necessarily more beds.

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

Co-Chair Beresford Wilson thanked all guests and 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 December 12, 2018 and members were also reminded that the January 2019 meeting was changed to Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB - this is a one date/day change. Beresford then adjourned the meeting at 4:17 PM.

**Next Meeting: December 12, 2018 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB. \*NOTE: The January 2019 Mtg. date is changed to TUESDAY, January 8, 2019 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB. This is a one-time change of day/date.**