



## **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: February 13, 2019

### **2B LOB**

**Next Meeting is Wednesday, March 13, 2019 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

*Attendees:* Pat Rehmer (Co-Chair), Paul Acker, Carrie Bourdon (Beacon), David Borzellino, Terri DiPietro, Dr. Alice Forrester, Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr., Heather Gates, Danielle Giordano, Dr. Steven Girelli, Bill Halsey (DSS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Jill Holmes-Brown, Erin Janicek, Susan Kelley, Sean King (OHA), Tom King, Mickey Kramer (OCA), Barbara Lanza (Jud), Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kelly Phenix, Kathryn Rock-Burns (DDS), Julie Revaz (CSSD), Galo Rodriguez, Charlene Russell-Tucker, Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF), Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Meryl Tom (DPH), Sabrina Trocchi, Mark Vanacore (DMHAS), Jeff Vanderploeg, Rod Winstead (DSS), and Dr. Benjamin Zigun

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

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer convened the meeting at 2:04 PM, welcomed everyone and introductions were made. She then asked for public comments. Nancy Urgell (Advocate for All Persons who have a disability and promoter of the Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities program) spoke about Trauma versus Mental Illness. She said that it is critical that the members know there needs to be a change in the way the Mental Health system is set up. That Trauma must be addressed prior to being diagnosed as having a mental illness. She advocates for no meds or psych wards but for trauma therapy and a safe living environment for those who have deep experience as victims of trauma. Pat thanked Nancy for her comments and point of view and said that this is an issue that will be addressed by the Council in upcoming meetings.

Pat then asked Council Members after having reviewed the December 2018 summary for a motion to accept it. Terri DiPietro made the motion and it was seconded by Paul Acker. All voted to accept the December 2018 summary as written with no nays or abstentions.

### ***Action Items***

None

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

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

Due to Alyse Chin's absence, Mark Vanacore said that there was no report.

## **Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey (DSS)**

Bill Halsey reported that on Friday, February 8, CMS released two grant opportunities: *Integrated Care for Kids* (InCK) and *Maternal Opioid Misuse*. The Department is trying to pursue a strategy to obtain one or both of them. The application for Kids is due in June (there are 8 awardees-7 year project) and the one for Moms is due in May 2019 (there are 12 awardees-5-year project). DSS will contact providers, consumers and advocates asking them to give feedback on how to effectively pursue these two grant opportunities. For more information on these grants, please see the CMS Website. Co-Chair Pat Rehmer asked if the State has to be a lead on these two grants. Bill replied that the State Medicaid Agency must be a participant with a lead organization. Alice Forrester asked Bill if he foresees any changes if a new commissioner is appointed. Bill replied that they would have to make sure they still had the approval to go after these grants. He also gave a brief update on tele-health with the hope they can come up with a behavioral health proposal that would go by provider type and specialty.

Rod Winstead (DSS) gave a brief background on **Non- Emergency Medical Transportation services (NEMT)**. He said that a new broker (ASO), Veyo-Total Transit was installed on January 1, 2018. Every month a report is produced on the previous month's utilization of NEMT. That report is found on the BHPOC Website page of the Coordination of Care Committee. Questions were asked for a third party audit report by Mercer on the first year of NEMT under the new company, Veyo. Bill said that it was not a CMS requirement for such an audit. Another question was asked about sanctions for no-show rides and late pick-ups. Rod said that to date, there were 44 sanctions for these violations totaling \$23,000. Kelly Phenix (Co-chair of the Coordination of Care Committee) asked that a "stranded list" be made available at the next Coordination of care meeting at the end of March. Rod said that he will follow-up with Veyo and that information should be available at the March 2019 Coordination of Care/Quality Access Committee meeting.

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

- Dr. Springer said that renovations for the Solnit Center PRTF will be done by early April 2019. This includes renovations for in-patient unit as well.

## **Judicial Branch – Barbara Lanza (Jud) and Julie Revaz (Jud)**

Barbara Lanza reported that there are several RPF's out and Julie Revaz gave an update report on the Juvenile Justice Transfer Programs in Hartford and Bridgeport. There are 12 beds in each location with separate units but with integration during the day. Juveniles spend an average of four to six months average with two operational staffs. They are taking bids for small home-like settings (for boys) though they will be secure facilities. Bidding for girls facilities is out for a re-bid and RFP for an intermediate residential community based FFT and link. All detention centers will be state operated.

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

Charlene Russell-Tucker handed out a report on "Full, Equal and Equitable Partnerships with Families: *Connecticut's Definition and Framework for Family Engagement*", a study by the

Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, and the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy- (For more information, see icon and link below).



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<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Publications/Full-Equal-and-Equitable-Partnerships-with-Families>

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

Katie Rock-Burns reported that the department is piloting a state operated step-down unit for adults with co-occurring intellectual disabilities and behavioral health diagnoses, it will be more for stabilization for people who are “stuck” in the emergency departments (EDs). It is publicly operated in Newington with 6 beds and 5 bedrooms. It is DDS appropriated, state funded for now for sub-acute adults. Alice Forrester noted it would be good for DDS to take a look the respite models for children that work well.

## **School Based Health Centers Impact- Erin Patterson Janicek (Sr. Director of Clerical Services-Child and Family Agency of Southeastern, CT) and Dr. Anna Goddard (Child and Family Agency of Southeastern, CT)**

Erin Janicek reported that since 2015 School Based Health Centers are defined as A.) They are located in, or on the grounds of, a school facility of a school district or school board or of an Indian tribe or tribal organization, B.) Are organized through school, community and health provider relationships, C.) Are administered by a sponsoring facility and, D.) Provides comprehensive on-site medical and behavioral health services to children and adolescents in accordance with state and local law, including laws relating to licensure and certification (*State of CT Public Act No. 15-59*). For more information, see icons below.



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## **Committee Reports:**

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

Due to lack of time, Co-Chair Kelly Phenix could only report that the next meeting will be on March 27, 2019 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB and there will be an update on NEMT by DSS and Veyo.

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

Due to lack of time, no report was given but Co-Chair Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg announced the next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 2:00 PM in the Litchfield Room, Suite 3D at Beacon Health Options.

**Adult Quality, Access & Policy:** –*Paul Acker and Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr. Co-Chairs*

Co-Chair Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr. reported that the next meeting is at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. Please **NOTE:** The meetings will now take place at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

**Operations:** – *Terri DiPietro and Heather Gates, Co-Chairs*

Co-Chair Terri DiPietro reported the next meeting will be on March 1, 2019 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room (third floor) at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

**Consumer and Family Advisory Council (CFAC) Update** –*Kelly Phenix*

Due to lack of time, this report will be given next month.

**New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment**

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer thanked all guests and members for their participation in the discussions. She then asked for any other announcements or new business. Hearing none, she reminded members that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 2:00 PM in **1E LOB**. Pat then adjourned the meeting at 3:58 PM.

**The next meeting date is: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 @ 2:00 PM  
1E LOB.**