



Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC

Co-Chairs: *Rep. Mike Demicco, Pat Rehmer & Beresford Wilson*
Meeting Summary: March 13, 2019

1E LOB

Next Meeting is Wednesday, April 10, 2019 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB

Attendees: Pat Rehmer (Co-Chair), Paul Acker, Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF), David Borzellino, Dr. Eliot Brenner, Alyse Chin (DMHAS), Sandra Czunas, Judith Dowd (OPM), Dr. Alice Forrester, Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr., Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, Bill Halsey (DSS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Susan Kelley, Tom King, Bryan Klimkiewicz (CSDE), Mickey Kramer (OCA), Barbara Lanza (Jud), Marie Mormile-Mehler, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kathryn Rock-Burns (DDS), Galo Rodriguez, Charlene Russell-Tucker (CSDE), Lori Szczygiel (Beacon), Jeff Vanderploeg, Rod Winstead (DSS), and Valerie Wyzykowski (OHA)

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer convened the meeting at 2:06 PM, welcomed everyone and introductions were made. She then asked for public comments. Valerie Wyzykowski from OHA read a letter out loud to the membership from a woman whose daughter is a consumer in the system. She is a mother of an adoptive daughter with many disabilities. She had been a resident of Solnit and has been denied by DCF for PRTF due to her intellectual disability and she will be 18 in a month. For the full letter, please see the icon below.



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Pat next asked Council Members if they reviewed the February 2019 summary and asked for a motion to accept it. Valerie Wyzykowski made the motion and it was seconded by Steven Girelli. All voted to accept the February 2019 summary as written with no nays. Pat then switched around the agenda in order to accommodate the CSDE member representative.

Action Items

None

CSDE Special Education Presentation- Bureau of Special Education Bureau Chief, Bryan Klimkiewicz



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Council Member Charlene Russell-Tucker (CSDE) introduced Bureau of Special Education Bureau Chief, Bryan Klimkiewicz to the Council and Bryan began the presentation on Special Education with its mission statement and invited members to give their questions during his presentation. For a full report, see above icon.

Discussion:

Susan Kelley asked why are special education students increasing in numbers. Bryan replied that *RIT (see icon below) came about in 2011 for a core area in instruction where more students have been identified for special education services. Some young students have a high need background and some are not school ready. They may have experienced trauma, emotional disturbances, reading disabilities, etc. with the additional students who are often suspended and expelled- all are eligible for special education which amounts to 15% of the state population. Alice Forrester said that mental health goes beyond special education and (most) schools do not have access for behavioral health services. There needs to be a system to access BH services in Connecticut. Most kids needing special education along with BH services are identified by parents, schools, and primary care physicians. Schools need to be the gateway to BH services for our student population. Co-chair Pat Rehmer thanked Bryan and Charlene for their presentation and for answering questions.



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

Alyse Chin said the department did not have a report.

Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey (DSS)

Bill Halsey gave an update on the IICAPS program. He said that the Children's Behavioral Health Rehabilitation State Amendment (SPA) was approved. This goes back to 2012 and is where all the home based health services sit for the Medicaid program and it includes IICAPS. The SPA included descriptions of services, programs, and billing. The IICAPS program is a team model and billing is when two team members are in the home. When would DSS expect to see that twice (H2019-therapeutic code) billing on the same day, for the same member, for same visit, for the same service? It would be for providing distinct services perhaps to the parent and one to the child but billed to the child's claim number for the child's benefit. DSS will be having a meeting with Yale the following week to go over the model, billing, and other issues to make sure they are on the same page. Heather Gates said that all the work that was done back in 2010 for IICAPS, when it went from a DCF funded source to a CMS funded source, the rate and the

codes were built from the assumption that it would always be a team of two people in the home with a therapeutic code bill and a case management code bill. Audits are now being done, nine years out, and it puts providers at risk in the audit process.

Rod Winstead (DSS) gave an update on **Non- Emergency Medical Transportation services (NEMT)**. He said that to improve transportation for its clientele, the department meets regularly with the broker (ASO), Veyo-Total Transit and all the other ASOs and they have been helpful and collaborative. Rod sends the Council a monthly NEMT report which is posted on the BHPOC Website. He brought with him a one-page dash board document (see icon below). The sanctions total comes to \$24,000 for late rides and no-show pick-ups. Valerie Wyzykowski asked about a trip for a family therapy at a state-run facility. Bill Halsey said that it is not covered under NEMT by CMS. Valerie continued, this is family therapy for the individual child but CMS does not give clarity, it is not covered but it does not say anywhere it is not covered. She then asked how to claim it appropriately? She wanted to know if a waiver could be given. Bill said he would get back to her on this.



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Department of Children and Families – Dr. Lois Berkowitz (DCF)

In the absence of Dr. Stephney Springer, Dr. Lois Berkowitz said the department had no report to deliver. Co-Chair Pat Rehmer had a question about residential care for children and asked that the department get back to her. Heather Gates enquired if the Council could get a table of the new restructure of the DCF organization. Lois said that she will get back to the Council on these.

Judicial Branch – Barbara Lanza (Jud)

Barbara Lanza reported that at the last meeting Julie Revaz gave a comprehensive overview on the Juvenile Justice Transfer Programs in Hartford and Bridgeport Detention centers. The REGIONS Boys Secure is still in process and the RFP for the REGIONS Secure Girls program should be going out by the end of April or early June.

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

Charlene Russell-Tucker earlier introduced her colleague Bryan Klimkiewicz to give the Special Education presentation to the Council.

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

Katie Rock-Burns reported that the department is piloting a state operated **step-down unit**. It has opened this month with two adult individuals and third planned for this week.

Committee Reports:

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

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 and a discussion on the **Spend-down** process.

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

Co-Chair Dr. Steve Girelli reported that at the February meeting there was a strong turnout to hear Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) presentations from five providers around the state. The next meeting will be on March 20, 2019 at 2:00 PM in the Litchfield Room, Suite 3D at Beacon Health Options (Editor's Note: This meeting was canceled).

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

Co-Chair Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr. thanked Beacon for hosting all Adult QAP Committee meetings going forward. He reported that the last meeting was the day before. He also thanked Beacon staff for the presentation on the Review of Available Data on Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorders: Inpatient Hospital Detox and Inpatient Freestanding Detox. Readmission rates are higher than for psych disorders but the rate of Medical Assistance Treatment (MAT) use is remarkably low. Frank said that he will send this data to the state agency partners and in particular to DMHAS and DSS in regards to utilization. There was also a discussion on the merger of the two Quality Committees and it was decided that the committees would remain separate but at times may convene together to share and review data with the state agency partners. If members have any suggestions for agenda items, please contact the co-chairs or BHPOC staff, David Kaplan. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 3:00 PM. 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 Heather Gates reported that at the March meeting they reviewed the CMMI *Integrated Care for Kids* (InCK) RFP which is Integrated Care Coordination and an alternate payment model that is a care model and is a seven (7) year project. **NOTE:** The next meeting will be May 3, 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 –*Lori Szczygiel (Beacon)*

Lori Szczygiel of Beacon announced Ann Phelan's retirement party is on March 26, 2019 at 3:00 PM at Beacon. All are invited to attend. Also, Erika Sharillo, an eleven year employee at Beacon will be taking Ann's over position.

- Legislative Breakfast will be April 11, 2019 at 8am and will end at 10:30 am. This is

in place of CFAC's April meeting. It will be held in The Legislative dining room off of the cafeteria.

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 nothing else, she reminded members that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 2:00 PM in **1E LOB**. Pat then asked for a motion to adjourn. It was made by Steve Girelli and seconded by Jeff Vanderploeg. Pat adjourned the meeting at 3:44 PM.

**The next meeting date is: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 @ 2:00 PM
1E LOB.**