



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

Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Pat Rehmer & Beresford Wilson
Meeting Summary: June 12, 2019

1E LOB

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

Attendees: Rep. Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Pat Rehmer (Co-Chair), Beresford Wilson (Co-Chair), Dr. Eliot Brenner, Alyse Chin (DMHAS), Sandy Czunas ((OOC), Terri DiPietro, Judy Dowd (OPM), Dr. Alice Forrester, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, Bill Halsey (DSS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Tom King, Barbara Lanza (Jud), Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kelly Phenix, Dr. Bert Plant (Beacon), Katie Rock-Burns (DDS), Charlene Russell-Tucker (CSDE), Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF), Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Sabrina Trocchi, Rod Winstead (DSS), and Valerie Wyzykowski (OHA)

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer convened the meeting at 2:03 PM and welcomed everyone. She then asked for public comments. Hearing none, Pat asked Council Members if they reviewed the May 2019 summary and requested a motion to accept it. Dr. Eliot Brenner made the motion and it was seconded by Dr. Steve Girelli. All voted to accept the summary as written with no nays. Pat then asked the State Agency Partners to give their department reports.

Action Items

None

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports:

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services –Alyse Chin

Alyse Chin said the department received a level funding (same funding as last year) in the budget with no cuts to services and programs. The Legislature did approve some additional monies but there is no implementation language. For example, there was restored funding for \$1.6 million for grants, mental health, and substance abuse. \$161,000 was restored for personal services which may include cessation for alcohol and vaping for youth 21 years of age. There is also a \$200,000 for managed services line item but without implantation language. Alyse also stated that there is no privatization in this 2-year budget. There was also a low-wage increase for the private not-for-profits (for staff that make less than \$15.00/hr.). The monies for CMHC were restored.

Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey (DSS) and Rod Winstead (DSS)

Bill Halsey reported that in terms of the budget, there was a minor change to the HUSKY A Medicaid eligibility. The income limit for parents is going to 150% FPL to 155%. There were rate increases for Natchaug and some methadone providers. He reminded the Council that DSS has been working on the *Integrated Care for Kids* (InCK) grant (delivery model for children and pregnant women) which they are applied for on June 8, 2019 with Clifford Beers in New Haven. They should know from CMS by December if they won the grant. Bill thanked Alice Forrester (Clifford Beers) and her staff for working all weekend to make sure the grant was ready to submit. He also thanked the state agencies that helped with this very competitive proposal. He believes if this grant is obtained, it will help the entire children's behavioral health system.

Rod Winstead (DSS) sent out the monthly data on **Non- Emergency Medical Transportation services (NEMT)** for dialysis and wheelchair trips. This was distributed to the membership and is posted below. He then handed out another document with a pie chart showing NEMT data for 2018 (also below). He said that NEMT is top priority for the department and it is also on top of the radar for the new commissioner who will begin at the end of June. To date, sanctions have amounted to \$28,500. Co-Chair of the Coordination of Care Committee, Janine Sullivan-Wiley said that the state auditors are conducting an audit on the Administrative Service Organization (ASO), Veyo for their first year of service.



BHPOC6-12-19NEMT
Dialysis Data.pdf



BHPOC6-12-19NEMT
Wheelchair Data.pdf



BHPOC6-12-19NEMT
Data.pdf



20190613134933642
.pdf

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

Dr. Stephney Springer brought some clarity to some budget options that she reported on from last month. DCF will be launching another track of the differential response system to assist families with underlining issues that resulted in a child protective service report coming to the agency. Children and families who have been identified as a low risk will be offered intensive care coordination to achieve an increase level of stability and thereby reducing the likelihood of future involvement with the department. They are also establishing an enhanced system of care to provide casework community referrals and treatment services for children who are not committed to the department. The voluntary services program is for children and youth with serious emotional behavioral health needs. This program is only for families who have not come to the attention of the department for reasons of abuse or neglect.

Judicial Branch – Barbara Lanza (Jud)

Barbara Lanza reported that her department is still looking into details of the budget. It is expected that they will be able to fund another Staff SECURE and Hardware REGIONS program. They have awarded the current RFP (pending for quite some time) for the Hardware SECURE REGIONS program to Community Partners in Action, a company out of Hartford. The facility will be in Hamden with eight beds for boys. They hope it will be ready by early 2020. Functional family therapy employment and vocational services are being funded with RFPs that will be released by summer. Also, the Council for State Government is partnering

with the department on juvenile justice on reform and will make their recommendations for changes in the system ready by next February.

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

Charlene Russell-Tucker said there was a release of CT Report Cards that her colleague, Agit reported last month. They can be found on the data portal EdSight Webpage on the SDE Website. It is also on a mobile friendly app that can be downloaded and is accessible and available to a broad audience. Her department would like any feedback that can be given.

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

Katie Rock-Burns reported on the Step-down unit that opened earlier this year. It is at capacity five (5) beds and has a waiting list. Every individual is provided with on-going supports after discharge. The biennial budget fully funded their crisis preventions and other intervention initiative programs. They are also having formal partnerships with DMHAS and DCF on how DDS will run their kid services and how they intersect in the Behavioral Health provider community.

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 at the last meeting, they discussed the procedure on how to elect Consumer Co-Chairs and other NEMT issues. The next meeting will be on July 24, 2019 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB in Hartford.

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

Co-Chair Dr. Steve Girelli reported that the next meeting will be on June 19, 2019 at 2:00 PM at Beacon Health Options. At the May meeting there was an excellent presentation by Beth Garrigan (Beacon) on Access Mental Health. The summary is posted on the BHPOC Website.

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

Due to the absence of the Co-Chairs, no report was given. The next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2019 at 3:00 PM. If members have any suggestions for future agenda items, please contact the co-chairs or BHPOC staff, David Kaplan.

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

Co-Chair Heather Gates reported that the next meeting will be on Friday, September 6, 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*

Kelly Phenix reported that DPH came to their meeting and did Data Collection CT that is a survey on service delivery and child health-early childhood disease for the Healthy CT 2020 Initiative. Kelly also announced that CFAC members are planning the 5th Annual iCAN conference with a theme of “Sustaining Communities through True Partnership”. It will take place on September 26, 2019 at the Artist’s Collective on Albany Avenue in Hartford. They are looking for sponsorship and vendors. At the May meeting, Bill Halsey (DSS) did a demonstration on the literacy of Tele-medicine. He will be returning for the next meeting with a video on tele-health.

Discussion and Review of Timely Issues and Topics of Concern to the BHPOC

Co-Chair Beresford Wilson opened up the floor for timely issues and topics of concern to the BHPOC.

Discussion and Comments:

- Janine Sullivan-Wiley: The ability to develop stronger innovated partnerships for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other challenges
- Dr. Charles Herrick commented on the lack of behavioral pediatricians and child psychiatrists
- Sabrina Trocchi said she would like to see more E-consultation for specialists
- Alice Forrester said how to reach kids in need who are not identified and undiagnosed
- Heather Gates spoke of access for services for serious mentally ill adults
- Co-Chair Pat Rehmer talked about access and quality care for adults since 2012
- Kelly Phenix spoke on detox of alcohol abusers
- Maureen-O’Neill Davis spoke on the continuum of impact trauma piece for children
- Dr. Bert Plant (Beacon) said that strength of the Council comes from its diverse membership
- Bill Halsey (DSS) talked about overall access and quality: PCMH and PCMH+ Programs
- Charlene Tucker-Russell talked about strategic planning for purpose and strategy

New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment

Co-Chair Beresford Wilson thanked all guests and members for their participation in the discussions. He then asked for any other announcements or new business. Bert Plant announced that Beacon Health Options was just purchased as a sole owned subsidiary of Anthem. This is a positive alignment to do integrated care. They will retain the Beacon name and the transaction will be completed by the end of the year. Council Member Eliot Brenner recently accepted a new job so this was his last meeting and his colleagues wished him well on his new position. Hearing nothing else, Beresford announced that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB. He then adjourned the meeting at 4:05 PM.

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