



## **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: July 10, 2019

### **1E LOB**

**\*NOTE: August Meeting is CANCELED: Next Meeting is Wednesday,  
September 11, 2019 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB**

*Attendees: Rep. Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Pat Rehmer (Co-Chair), Beresford Wilson (Co-Chair), Paul Acker, David Borzellino, Alyse Chin (DMHAS), Terri DiPietro, Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr., Dr. Alice Forrester, Dr. Steven Girelli, Dawn Grodzki (DMHAS), Bill Halsey (DSS), Karen Hensley, Jill Holmes-Brown, Susan Kelley, Mickey Kramer, Kate McEvoy, Dr. Sabooh Mubbashar, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kelly Phenix, Katie Rock-Burns (DDS), Galo Rodriguez, Charlene Russell-Tucker (CSDE), Erika Sharillo (Beacon), Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF), Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, Dr. Bo Subbarao, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg, and Rod Winstead (DSS)*

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

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer convened the meeting at 2:04 PM and welcomed everyone. She then asked for public comments. A member of the public, Mark Lobato (West Hartford) spoke passionately about immediate access to adequate care for his child. Alyse Chin (DMHAS) immediately stepped forward and addressed Mr. Lobato's concerns publically and then privately outside the hearing room. Pat reminded Council Members to sign the attendance sheet and then asked if they reviewed the June 2019 summary and requested a motion to accept it. Kelly Phenix made the motion and it was seconded by Terri DiPietro. 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 Social Services-Bill Halsey (DSS) and Rod Winstead (DSS)**

Bill Halsey addressed and commented on some of the agenda items that were previously discussed with the Executive Committee just prior to the Council meeting. At last month's meeting, Bill said that if the department decides to pursue a grant from CMS on a Substance Abuse Disorder opportunity, they would consult providers. They are looking at two potential paths: The SUPPORT Act which would allow the state to seek federal reimbursement for

institutes of mental disease on the substance abuse disorder side residential detox services (currently state-funded). Then DSS can reinvest these monies in the substance use disorder (SUD) system. Prior to this, DSS was looking at an 1115 SUD Demonstration Waiver, another vehicle to seek federal reimbursement for SUD programs. They are currently in the technical decision making phase and then the next step is to work with providers to determine what would this service system look like and ideal scenario based on enhanced revenue coming into the state and how best to achieve better outcomes for the members based on those dollars. He also reported on the \$50 million for states to plan Opioid Services called the Planning Grant from CMS due August 9, 2019. They are checking on to see if they have the resources for this grant. Ten states would get the grant and of those states, five would go onto a post-planning period to receive additional dollars to enhance the SUD service systems. If Connecticut received this grant, it would commence on September 30, 2019. This is a life-span opportunity for all Medicaid members.

Rod Winstead (DSS) reported on the monthly data on **Non- Emergency Medical Transportation services (NEMT)**. He (later) sent the information for dialysis and wheelchair trips (see icons below). He said that this the time of year, some of the dialysis trips went down due to summer vacations. He also indicated that DSS welcomes recommendations from Council members and partners for NEMT services. Co-Chair of the Coordination of Care Committee, Kelly Phenix addressed some of the discrepancies in the NEMT data.



BHPOC7-10-19May BHPOC7-10-19Wheel BHPOC7-10-19DSS  
-June 2019- Dialysis [Chair Data - May - Ju Monthly Client (NEMT

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

Last month, Dr. Stephney Springer reported that there was a shift in Voluntary Services. The department is working closely with the Beacon in intensive care coordination of families whom would have normally sought help with voluntary services from the department with their behavioral health needs and Beacon is getting good results for both families involved and not involved with the department. The timelines are still being identified and additional information will be shared as the department gets more data. They have already heard from a number of community partners and consumers that they need to offer their input and the department is receptive to that. Beacon already does good work in this area.

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

Alyse Chin was outside the meeting with the person who made the public comments and was unable to give a report at this time.

## **Judicial Branch – Barbara Lanza (Jud)**

Barbara Lanza said the department did not have a report.

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

Charlene Russell-Tucker said there was no report this month.

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

Katie Rock-Burns reported that the Step-down unit is preparing for three discharges (they have been in treatment for three to four months) and they are looking for community providers. They have awarded contracts for partners to develop ongoing supports in the community. They are collaborating with DCF on EMPS teams on enhancing their facility liaisons with hospitals. They have also developed ongoing presentations and trainings to a variety of stakeholders they have provided a live outreach educating folks on the DDS system and providing a range of specialized training on working with individuals with intellectual disabilities. They look forward to the collaboration with various organizations, facilities, and with hospitals.

## **CT STRONG Program –Dawn Grodzki (DMHAS) and Karen Hensley- CT STRONG Project Manager (Advanced Behavioral Health)**

### **Discussion and Comments:**



BHPOC7-10-19CT  
STRONG - A Review c

- \$1 million annual award for 5-years
- The 5-year grant will end on September 29, 2019
- Addresses behavioral health of youths and young adults, 16-25 years
- Milford, Middletown, and New London
- For full details of this report, see above icon.

## **Medicaid Supportive Housing Benefit – Kate McEvoy (DSS)**



BHPOC7-10-19Medic  
aid Supportive Housir

For full details of this report, see above icon.

## **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 July 24, 2019 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB in Hartford.

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

The next meeting will be on September 18, 2019 at 2:00 PM in the Hartford Conference Room, third (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor at Beacon Health Options.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2019 at 3:00 PM in the Litchfield Room, Suite 3D at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

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

The next meeting will be on Friday, September 6, 2019 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room third (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

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

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual iCAN conference will take place on September 26, 2019 at the Artist's Collective on Albany Avenue in Hartford. The theme will be "Sustaining Communities through True Partnership". They are looking for sponsorship and vendors.

**New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment**

Co-Chair Beresford Wilson thanked all guests and members for their participation in the discussions. He announced due to lack of time, the committee reports would be deferred. He asked for any other announcements or new business. Hearing none, he announced that the August 2019 meeting was canceled and the next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB. Next, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Jeff Vanderploeg made the motion and it was seconded by Steve Girelli. Beresford then adjourned the meeting at 4:11 PM.

**\*NOTE: August Meeting is CANCELED: The next meeting date is: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB.**