



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: September 11, 2019

1E LOB

***NOTE: Next Meeting is Thursday, October 10, 2019 @ 2 PM in 2D LOB**

Attendees: Rep. Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Pat Rehmer (Co-Chair), Beresford Wilson (Co-Chair), Paul Acker, Comm. Beth Bye (OEC), Rebecca Colasanto, Sandra Czunas (OOC), Terri DiPietro, Ted Doolittle (OHA), Judith Dowd (OPM), Dr. Alice Forrester, Heather Gates, Dr. Steven Girelli, Bill Halsey (DSS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Jill Holmes-Brown, Barbara Lanza (Jud), Gloria Merritt, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Katie Rock-Burns (DDS), Galo Rodriguez, Charlene Russell-Tucker (CSDE), Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF), Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, Lori Szczygiel (Beacon), Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Meryl Tom (DPH), Sabrina Trocchi, Mark Vanacore (DMHAS), Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg, and Rod Winstead (DSS)

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer convened the meeting at 2:01 PM and introductions were made. She welcomed new Council Member Rebecca Colasanto from Bristol Hospital. She then asked for public comments. Co-Chair Beresford Wilson spoke as a member of the public and as a parent of a 22 year-old daughter with BH issues. She recently has been in a treatment facility that Beresford equals to a community correctional facility or a jail-like setting. He would like to know why therapeutic recovery support sites resemble correctional facilities. He said that this is the wrong first steps to recovery and that he is looking for support. Pat responded that this was not the first time that she has heard of this. She said that in part, it is the general low funding from CMS that put Connecticut in this situation and that it is turning our hospitals into prisons. Dr. Charles Herrick agreed and said he is angry that nationally, the U.S. is spending \$1 billion to restructure hospitals and thus stripping people of their dignity under the guise of safety. Terri DiPietro talked about the Columbia Method with High, Moderate, and Low needs of risk. After a few thoughts and comments, Janine Sullivan-Wiley asked what is the acceptable level of risk. Beresford thanked everyone for all of their responses.

Pat then asked if Council Members reviewed the July 2019 summary and requested a motion to accept it. Terri DiPietro made the motion and it was seconded by Jeff Vanderploeg. All voted to accept the summary as written with no nays. Next, Pat asked Bill Halsey from DSS to give an updates on State Waivers.

Action Items

A discussion was had on waivers and is similar to the DSS report from July. Bill Halsey (DSS) addressed the waivers that the department is currently looking into obtaining. He said the department pursued a planning grant from CMS on a Substance Abuse Disorder opportunity and if they receive the grant, it will commence on September 30, 2019. The grant will be used to position the state to submit an 1115 SUD Demonstration Waiver. If the grant is not received, DSS will look at another vehicle to fund the planning for SUD programs. DSS is also moving forward with a Medicaid Supporting Housing Initiative (see the DSS presentation in the July 2019 BHPOC meeting report). Bill said this was a State Plan 1915(i) State Plan Amendment.

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports: **Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey (DSS) and Rod Winstead (DSS)**

In addition to his previous report on waivers, Bill Halsey added that an Ad Hoc meeting can be arranged in October to discuss the model design of the Supportive Housing Initiative (CHESS). He also said that the Department of Social Services has a new Commissioner, Deidre S. Gifford and he hopes that she will come soon to the BHPOC. Regarding tele-health, DSS is revising the cost projections and they are currently checking with their fiscal office for a fiscal note. There is currently no starting date for tele-health until the State Plan Amendment is issued. For the Methadone Performance measures, DSS has met with methadone directors to get the initial performance measured data run related to retention (in treatment), individuals receiving medications from multiple prescribers, and dental care. After analyzing the data, DSS will establish goals from these measures.

Rod Winstead (DSS) reported on the monthly data on **Non- Emergency Medical Transportation services (NEMT)**. It has been distributed and posted on the DSS and BHPOC Websites. He also, (later) sent the information for dialysis and wheelchair trips (see icons below). He said that if anyone needs to contact him, his telephone number is: (860) 424-5922.



BHPOC9-11-19DSS
Monthly Client Report



BHPOC9-11-19NEMT
Stats.pdf



BHPOC9-11-19NEMT
Dialysis Data - July - /



BHPOC9-11-19NEMT
WC Data - July - Aug

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

DCF is finalizing scopes of services to have contracts in place for voluntary and the Integrated Family Care and Support programs in October or November.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services –Mark Vanacore

Mark Vanacore (DMHAS) stated that there were no current changes to report at this time.

Judicial Branch – Barbara Lanza (Jud)

Barbara Lanza said that there were no legislative initiatives and no structural change in their budget or administration. They are still at billing capacity for the juvenile Residential SECURE programs, and REGION secure renovations (8-bed facility) will be completed in the summer or

fall of 2020. There is a second REGIONS secure program out to bid and that closes on September 12, 2019. There are two REGIONS staff secure programs that are operational and a third one that is coming on at the end of the calendar year and there is a fourth REGIONS staff secure program that is going out to bid. They are also putting out to bid per diem beds for juveniles that have already used their other (special needs) residential and community services. There are 12 beds statewide for girls.

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

Charlene Russell-Tucker announced there was a new Commissioner named; Dr. Miguel A. Cardona. He is looking at possible proposals for the upcoming year. On the CSDE Website, there is a memo that lists all 50 Public Acts that impact school districts in the state. It lists from safety from violence to other school issues of interest to the public. She referenced the summary of the 2019 Education-Related legislation. See below:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Circular-Letters/circ19-20/2019-Legislation---Superintendent-Circular-Letter.pdf>

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

Katie Rock-Burns gave an update report on the Step-down unit. There are no structural changes in their budget or administration. They have been given some funding that was extended to the next biennial budget under the category of emergency placements. This is for persons with a crisis emerging. This Step-down unit is for adults only with a five-bed unit that opened last March. They had nine patients with almost an even split of 50-50 between men and women with an average age of 33 years and an average stay of 95 days. They are in mid-process of working on an RFP for emergency transitional housing. These will be state-owned facilities partnering with a private community provider offering temporary emergency housing supports for those who do not meet the criteria for the Step-down Unit but are experiencing some type of crisis related to housing. Their individual and family support teams that provide enhanced family supports are getting more training and hours of service for individuals who do not need to go to the emergency room but need support and services at home. They are also partnering with DCF in the mobile crisis units where DDS can provide a little additional funding to free up some clinicians so that they can act as facility liaisons when children with co-occurring (behavioral health, mental health, and intellectual disabilities) issues wind up in the emergency room. This will be helpful in connecting these families with community-based mental health resources. They are also working with connecting their regional offices with DCF Regional and mobile crises regional operations to be more streamlined on shared cases. They are also working on building competency and capacity within their provider network to provide additional clinical support to rapidly respond within the system. In addition, they are also working with Clifford Beers to have capacity there working with folks with ID and autism and offering training opportunities.

Office of Early Childhood –Commissioner Beth Bye

Commissioner Bye's presentation dealt with the Office of Early Childhood's initiatives in early childhood behavioral health issues and executive function.



BHPOC9-11-19OECB
eth Bye.pptx

- 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 September 25, 2019 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB in Hartford. Updates on NEMT, Internet Access, and Coordination of Behavioral and Physical health will be discussed.

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 (3rd) floor at Beacon Health Options. Updates on Autism Spectrum Disorder services will be discussed.

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

The latest meeting was held on September 10, 2019 at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT. Dr. Bert Plant (Beacon) gave a presentation on Health Equity 2015-2019. Also discussed was a follow-up on Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) services. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2019 at 3:00 PM at Beacon Health Options.

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

The last meeting was held on Friday, September 6, 2019 at Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill, CT. Topics discussed included: outpatient rates, methadone performance measures, telehealth, and SUD and housing waivers. The next meeting will be on Friday, November 1, 2019 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third (3rd) floor at Beacon Health Options.

Consumer and Family Advisory Council (CFAC) Update –Lori Szczygiel

The 5th 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”.

New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer thanked Commissioner Beth Bye of the Office of Early Childhood for her informative presentation and to the members for their participation in the discussions. She

announced due to the Yom Kippur holiday, the next meeting will be on *Thursday*, October 10, 2019 at 2:00 PM in **2D LOB**. . Next, she asked for any other announcements or new business. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn. Steve Girelli made the motion and it was seconded by Maureen O'Neill-Davis. Pat then adjourned the meeting at 3:54 PM.

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