



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: October 10, 2019

2D LOB

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

Attendees: Rep. Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Pat Rehmer (Co-Chair), Paul Acker, Alyse Chin (DMHAS), Rebecca Colasanto, Terri DiPietro, Dr. Alice Forrester, Dr. Frank Fortunati, Jr., Heather Gates, Bill Halsey (DSS), Dr. Charles Herrick, Marie Mormile-Mehler, Ann Marracino (DMHAS), Steve Moore, Laura Nesta, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Kelly Phenix, Julie Revaz (Jud), Katie Rock-Burns (DDS), Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF), Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, Lori Szczygiel (Beacon), Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg, Rod Winstead (DSS), and Valerie Wyzkowski (OHA)

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer convened the meeting at 2:00 PM and introductions were made. She welcomed new Council Member, Laura Nesta from St. Vincent's Hospital. She then asked for public comments. Hearing none, Pat asked Council Members if they read the September 2019 summary and asked for a motion to accept it. Terri DiPietro made the motion and it was seconded by Jeff Vanderploeg. All voted to accept the summary.

Action Items

Bill Halsey (DSS) reported that the three department agencies (DSS, DCF & DMHAS) won the planning grant from CMS on a Substance Abuse Disorder opportunity. It commenced on September 30, 2019. This is a life span demonstration 1115 waiver that will focus on residential and detox services. DSS is also having an informative meeting on October 24, 2019 at DSS on the Medicaid Supporting Housing Initiative. This is a State Plan 1915 Amendment.

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

Alyse Chin (DMHAS) reported that she is retired and that Colleen Harrington will be returning to DMHAS to take her place.

Department of Social Services-Rod Winstead (DSS)

Rod Winstead (DSS) reported that David Coppock has returned back west and is no longer the Veyo CT Chief and that Jackie Gibbs (jgibbs@veyo.com) has taken his place. Rod sent out the latest monthly data on **Non- Emergency Medical Transportation services (NEMT)**. It was

distributed to the members and published on the BHPOC Website. It can also be found below. He was told by Veyo, that the customer service office in Dallas, Texas will be available to help out Connecticut Medicaid residents during the holiday season.



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

Dr. Stephney Springer reported that the department does not have an update to give at this time.

Judicial Branch – Julie Revaz (Jud)

Julie Revaz gave an update on the REGIONS programs. She reminded members that on July 1, 2018, the Judicial Department took responsibility of certain DCF facilities for rehabilitation needs. The REGIONS facilities are located in Bridgeport and Hartford. There are units of twelve beds at each facility for boys and the services are secure with an average six month stay. They have put out to bid three times for more secure REGIONS partners. One contract with Community Partners in Action (CPA) will establish eight beds in Hamden with renovations starting in March 2020 and to be opened by the fall of that year. Providers must be found for more programs. The REGIONS programs for girls (inherited from DCF) contract is due to expire at the end of the year and will be re-negotiated. REGIONS Staff Secure (two programs), one with eight beds and twelve with another is open and operational now. A third and fourth program will be opened with a goal of about 30 to 35 secure beds in total will be available. They are bidding for contracted services with flex funds to customize services for the population. Heather Gates said that providers need security and a commitment for facilities that they have invested in. A ten-year contract or longer term would help to provide financial security for providers who invest in building these facilities. Julie said that the department is looking for small home-like (six to ten bed) facilities for some of their clients.

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

Due to the absence of Charlene Russell-Tucker, there was no report given.

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

Katie Rock-Burns gave two brief updates, one on discharge for the Step-down unit. One individual has been discharged (longest staying but within the timeframe of planning) and another has been admitted. The other was on the RFP for emergency transitional housing (a step-down from the step-down unit). Recommendations will be going to the Commissioner by the end of October.

Young Adult Services Update –Amy Marracino (DMHAS)



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- 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

Kelly Phenix reported on the Xfinity programs that are available for HUSKY recipients. Also, Sabrina Trocchi from the Wheeler Clinic gave an excellent presentation on the coordination of BH and medical care in September. The next meeting will be on November 26, 2019 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB in Hartford. This is the Tuesday before the Thanksgiving Holiday. There will be an election for a new Consumer Co-Chair.

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

Jeff Vanderploeg said that there was a presentation on Autism Spectrum Disorder by Pieces of the Puzzle, Clifford Beers, and Beacon at the September meeting. For details, go to the BHPOC Website. The next meeting will be on October 16, 2019 at 2:00 PM in the Litchfield Room, third (Suite 3D) floor at Beacon Health Options. Updates on the Children's Behavioral Health Plan 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. Topic to be discussed: a follow-up on the Housing State Plan Amendment, follow-up on Methadone Quality Indicators, Telehealth, and the Substance Use Services Planning Grant-Process for involving Providers.

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

Kelly Phenix reported that the 5th Annual iCAN conference that was held on September 26, 2019 was very successful and CFAC members are already beginning planning next year's conference.

New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment

Co-Chair Pat Rehmer thanked Amy Marracino from DMHAS for her informative presentation and to the members for their participation in the discussions. She announced the next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB. Next, she asked for any other announcements or new business. Alice Forrester asked about licensing changes for

professional counselors. Pat said that can be an agenda item for a future meeting. Pat also reminded members that it was Mental Health Awareness Day. Lori Szczygiel announced that Carrie Bourdon has been made Chief Operation Officer at Beacon Health Options and that she is excited to have her as her partner. Hearing nothing more, Pat adjourned the meeting at 3:31 PM.

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