

Consumer and Family Advisory Council (CFAC) and Joint Workgroup Partners (BHPOC, CT BHP)

Consumer & Family



Advisory Council

Where Consumers Are True Partners

Beacon Health Options



Consumer and Family Advisory Council (CFAC)

The Consumer & Family Advisory Council (CFAC) is a Connecticut Medicaid consumer and family driven committee that is culturally competent and diverse. CFAC acts as advisor to the State Departments and Beacon Health Options (Beacon) to improve on best practices for behavioral health services (mental health and addiction services) for Connecticut Medicaid HUSKY Health members.

The Vision of CFAC is a true partnership between consumers, families, and service providers as it relates to the service delivery of mental health and addiction services that will result in a more positive and meaningful outcome for individuals and families living with behavioral health matters.

Consumer and Family Advisory Council (CFAC)

- The Consumer & Family Advisory Council established in 2006 with under 10 families, and Beacon, CT (Peers and System Managers)
- At one of the first meetings that year, families expressed the need to continue this platform to “Bring back hope, so that change can happen! Learn to navigate the system; and for education and systems change. To bring specific member concerns to CT BHP.”
- Families also expressed the needs of the system. “Educate the schools – personnel and students re: mental health. More advocates for PPT meetings. Systems need to think outside the box!
- In 2011, the BHP expanded to include the adult SAGA population
 - CFAC began to recruit adult consumers and veterans
 - Inclusion of the adult system and opportunities to make change!

CFAC Workgroups

- ❖ Youth/Young Adults
- ❖ iCAN Conference
- ❖ Fatherhood/Parenting
- ❖ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Youth/Young Adults Workgroup

➤ **Vision:**

- Build a strong statewide youth/young adult network by partnering with youth and youth related organizations and agencies

➤ **Accomplishments:**

- Developed CFAC Logo
- Participated in CT BHP Community Meetings
- Partnered with CONNECT in promoting Youth focused activities
- Quarterly updates to CFAC membership

iCAN Conference Workgroup

➤ **Vision:**

- The “iCAN” conference is a consumer driven conference that highlights behavioral health services, programs and resources affecting HUSKY Health members, families, service providers, and community partners; and aims to add value to various communities and to help people live their lives to the fullest potential.

➤ **Accomplishments:**

- Conference proposal was written and submitted by members of CFAC
- Utilized leadership training resources to prepare CFAC members for conference leadership roles
- Connected with statewide programs and resources to partner as conference presenters and panelists
- Established a workshop dedicated to English and Spanish dual interpretation to offer English speaking participants insight into what many Spanish speaking people experience daily in communicating in a different language
- Accommodations for interpreter services including American Sign Language

Fatherhood/Parenting Workgroup

➤ **Vision:**

- Ensure fathers have equal access to services and resources that add equity to the wellbeing of their children by being an influential partner in parenting and community collaboration with advocacy, legislative bodies, and community supporters

➤ **Accomplishments:**

- Partnered with DSS, DCF, and Community providers for iCAN Conference
- Attended Regional Fatherhood Initiative Conference

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

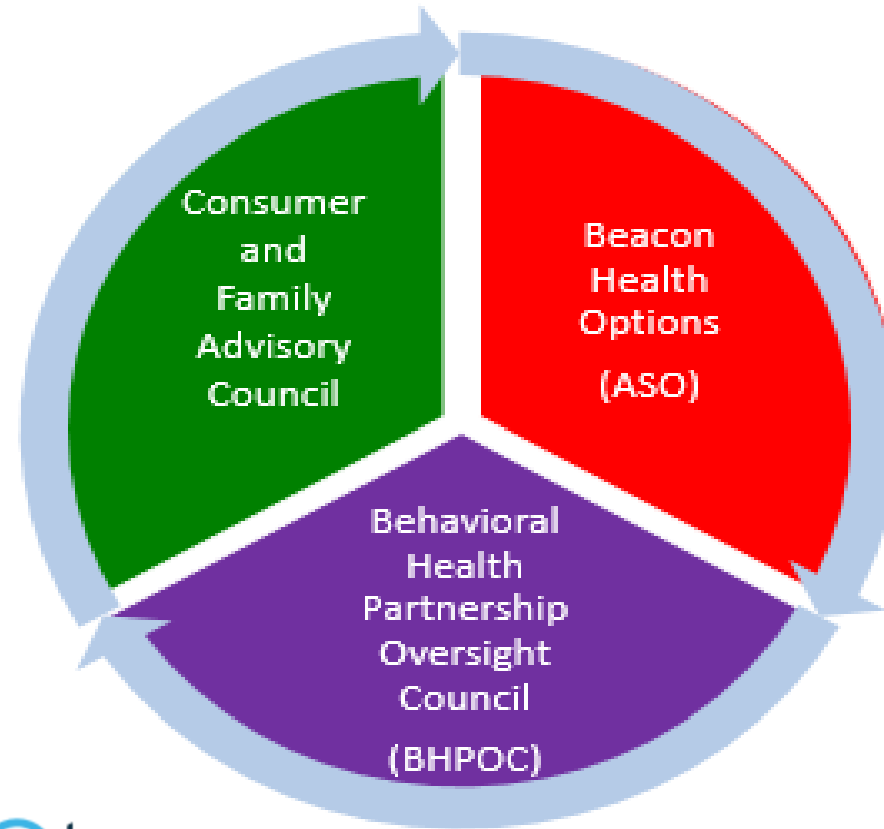
➤ **Vision:**

- Help to establish and support best practices that promote the representation and participation of different groups of individuals, including, but not limited to, people of different ages, languages, races and ethnicities, abilities and disabilities, genders, religions, cultures and sexual orientations; and address equity, which aims to ensure the fair treatment, access, equality of opportunity and enrichment for everyone

➤ **Accomplishments:**

- Developed workgroup led by Spanish speaking members and families
- Solicited information from Spanish speaking consumers and families relative to their needs for behavioral health and wellness; and where the system is lacking in the ability to provide effective treatment/outcomes
- Partnered with Access Mental Health to collaborate on family outreach and development
- Expanded focus group participation to all CFAC members to include other cultures and marginalized groups

Joint Workgroup BHPOC, CFAC, Beacon CT



Joint Workgroup

➤ CFAC/BHPOC Joint Workgroup established in 2015

- Dr. Karen Andersson's vision to include more voice and input from consumers and family members into the Partnership and its decisions
- The workgroup to meet and discuss ideas to increase communication between the CFAC and the BHPOC
- The workgroup includes representatives from the Partners (DCF, DMHAS, DSS), the Oversight Council, CFAC, and Beacon Health Options
- **Joint Workgroup Mission:** *"To create and maintain effective and open communication between the Consumer and Family Advisory Council and the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council to the benefit of Connecticut's consumers of Medicaid behavioral health services."*

Joint Workgroup Accomplishments

- Committed to monthly meetings
- Developed and approved a mission statement
- Hosted a meet and greet with CFAC, leadership of CFAC, and leadership of the Oversight Council to learn about each other
- Oversight Council now includes a report-out of the workgroup as a standing agenda item at its meetings
- Established representatives from CFAC for the Oversight Council and for each of the Oversight Council Committees
- Legislation training to consumers and family members at LOB

Joint Workgroup Accomplishments

➤ CFAC/BHPOC Joint Workgroup Goals and Accomplishments Continued

- Living our joint mission as part of our values
- Synergy – Working collaboratively as partners to improve system of care
- Established Joint Liaison point-persons from CFAC to participate in BHPOC Committees and to exchange information
- State partners regularly present at CFAC table
- State partners, CFAC, and Beacon CT collaboration on Transitioning Youth presentation

Consumer & Family



Advisory Council

Where Consumers Are True Partners

Beacon Health Options



CFAC Leadership

Ellen Mathis, Neva Caldwell, George McDonald, C. Teresa Rosario, Erica Davy, Sabra Mayo, Taylor Ford, Brenetta Henry, Sarah LaBarre, Yvonne Jones

CFAC Executive Leadership

Brenetta Henry: Tri-Chair (Consumer and Parent)
TBD: Tri-Chair (Youth/Young Adult)
Sarah LaBarre: Tri-Chair (Beacon, CT)
Yvonne Jones: Advisor (Beacon, CT)

CFAC and BHPOC Joint Workgroup

Brenetta Henry, Sarah LaBarre, Ellen Mathis, C. Teresa Rosario, Neva Caldwell, Terri DiPietro, Dr. Steve Girelli, Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg, Roderick Winstead, Dr. Stephney Springer, Dr. Lois Berkowitz, Colleen Harrington, Keri Lloyd, Mark Vanacore, Erika Sharillo, Yvonne Jones

Thank you!

Questions?

Consumer & Family



Advisory Council

Where Consumers Are True Partners

Beacon Health Options

