

# Meeting summary for the July 9, 2025 BHPOC Zoom Meeting

## Quick recap

The meeting began with introductions and discussions about recent changes to the Council membership, followed by a moment of silence for the passing of Beresford Wilson. The group reviewed and approved new guidelines for family adaptive behavior treatment services and received an extensive demonstration of the CONNIE portal and its various features for managing patient data and care. The conversation ended with updates on Medicaid and SNAP program changes, legislative initiatives, and upcoming events, including discussions about funding impacts and future developments in healthcare services.

## Next steps

- DCF Legislative Team: Provide full budget impact analysis update at the September meeting
- DSS Team: Present formal document on Federal changes and budget impact at Friday's MAPOC meeting
- Heather Gates: Lead the implementation of the new family adaptive behavior level of care guideline for autism services
- Child Health Committee: Hold provider discussion next week about managing higher acuity levels in behavioral health system referrals
- Amanda Crociata/Connie: Share updated regulations from Office of Health Strategy regarding healthcare provider mandate once available
  - Director of Account Management: Amanda Crociata  
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[Official State-wide Health Information Exchange \(Connie\)--FAQ \(ct.gov\)](#)
- CFAC Team: Send out formal invitations with registration instructions for iCAN Conference scheduled for September 25th at Artist Collective in Hartford
- Amanda: Take back to CONNIE leadership the suggestion to create population health reports tracking the impact of Medicaid/Medicare changes on access to care and loss of primary care
- Amanda: Work with organizations to expand the redetermination alert use case beyond skilled nursing facilities
- CFAC Team: Release second CFAC newsletter later this year
- BHPC Team: Reconvene in September to adjust presentation order to accommodate DDS representative's schedule

## **Summary**

### **Meeting Begins with Introductions**

The meeting began with introductions and welcoming new member Bree Sanca, who previously served on the Council. David mentioned that the meeting would be broadcast live on C-SPAN. Terry DiPietro, the chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM with 45 attendees present.

### **Guideline Approval and Service Updates**

The meeting began with Terri announcing the passing of Beresford Wilson, a long-time Council member and Tri-Chair, and a moment of silence was held in his memory. The group then discussed the approval of a new level of care guideline for family adaptive behavior treatment services, which was presented by Lynne Ringer from Carelon and approved by the committee. Finally, Amanda from CONNIE presented an update on their services, highlighting new tools and features, and invited questions from the attendees.

### **County Portal Overview and Enhancements**

Amanda presented an overview of the county portal, highlighting its connection to over 3,100 provider locations and the receipt of 13 million ADT messages monthly. She emphasized the portal's value in enhancing patient care and reducing burdensome workflows, particularly in behavioral health, where they work with organizations to ensure patient consent for data sharing. Amanda also discussed recent enhancements to the portal, including a care management tool called Population Explorer, preventive service features, and a new social determinant of health assessment tool, inviting feedback from the audience.

### **Connie Portal Updates and Features**

Amanda presented new features and tools available through CONNIE, including a population health report for hospital revisits and patient demographics, and a Medicaid Redetermination Service in partnership with the Department of Social Services. She demonstrated the updated CONNIE Portal, showcasing improvements to patient encounter displays, laboratory results, radiology images, and clinical notes. Amanda also introduced a new feature allowing providers to customize their home screen with frequently accessed information, such as encounters, lab results, and care team details.

### **Patient Management System Demo Overview**

Amanda demonstrated CONNIE, a patient management system that parses clinical data from CCDs to organize patient information into user-friendly sections including problems, medications, allergies, and vitals. She showed how the system can connect with Connecticut pharmacies to track dispensed medications and includes a social needs data section for ICD-10 Z codes. Amanda also introduced the Population Explorer tool, which allows organizations to manage different patient

panels and view preventive service alerts, currently including colorectal cancer screenings, with the ability to save custom filters for future use.

### **Patient Data Management Tool Demo**

Amanda demonstrated a care management tool that allows users to filter and track patient data, including hospitalizations, ER visits, and discharges, with features like follow-up status tracking and diagnosis code filtering. She showcased clinical reporting tools, including revisit reports and demographic reports, which enable organizations to analyze patient populations and identify potential areas for improvement in care transitions. Amanda mentioned that while she couldn't demonstrate the social determinant of health screening tools at the time, she would provide access to them in the future.

### **CONNIE Health Data Integration Overview**

Amanda presented a comprehensive overview of CONNIE, a health information exchange platform, highlighting its capabilities in providing demographic reports and integrating with various electronic medical record systems. Janine Sullivan-Wiley inquired about the integration of CONNIE data with EMRs, to which Amanda explained several options, including single sign-on capabilities and direct data access. Janine also asked about data breaches and the system's ability to track the impact of healthcare policy changes, which Amanda said would require further development but was a valuable suggestion. Steve Girelli and Heather Gates raised questions about Medicaid population data and upcoming state mandates, respectively, with Amanda providing insights and promising updates on legislation.

### **SUD Certification and Rate Updates**

Rob Haswell (DMHAS) reports that the provisional certification period for all levels of care under the 1115 SUD demonstration ended on June 30th. He thanks providers and partners for their efforts over the past three years. An updated ASAM training plan for adopting the 4th edition criteria will be presented in September. Rob defers to the legislative team for a full budget update in September but believes DMHAS programs are stably funded. Alexis Mohammed (DSS) announces that new SUD rates for various levels of care took effect on July 1st, with details available on the state website: [Connecticut Department of Social Services](#) SUD Residential Rate Changes. Dr. Stephney Springer (DCF) pays tribute to Beresford, acknowledging his passionate consumer advocacy and valuable contributions to the department's work.

### **Legislative Updates for Youth Services**

Vin Russo (DCF) discussed key legislative initiatives passed this year, including Public Act 25-116, which streamlines processes and allows for the sharing of records with DDS for joint investigations. He explained changes to licensing statutes, allowing facilities to care for individuals up to age 22 for those receiving special education services. Vin also mentioned the establishment of a working group

to examine the feasibility of interagency complex case teams for young adults with ID or ASD. Additionally, he clarified that the budget did not fund the expansion of mobile crisis services for youth, but funding is expected in the next fiscal year.

### **Medicaid and Work Requirements Update**

Fatmata Williams (DSS) presented updates on federal changes affecting Medicaid, including a preliminary injunction on a one-year prohibition of Medicaid funds to certain abortion providers, a phase-down of provider taxes from 6% to 3.5% over five years, and new requirements for able-bodied adults aged 19 to 64 to engage in 80 hours of work or community services per month. She noted that additional information on SNAP and non-citizen eligibility changes would be provided in the September meeting, and explained that the definition of qualified aliens, effective October 1, 2026, could result in a 10% penalty for expansion populations if unqualified aliens are covered.

### **Medicaid and SNAP Program Changes**

The meeting focused on upcoming changes to Medicaid and SNAP programs, with Fatmata presenting key dates and impacts for Connecticut. Key changes include new cost-sharing requirements for SNAP in 2026, reduced redetermination frequency for Medicaid expansion in 2027, and implementation of Medicaid work requirements for expansion populations. Fatmata also shared state budget impact estimates, including potential shifts in costs and coverage impacts. The group discussed concerns about funding shortfalls and the need for further information dissemination. The conversation ended with updates on upcoming CPAC events and the announcement of an August recess. Next meeting is September 10, 2025.