Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

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Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Demicco, Sharon Langer & Hal Gibber
Meeting Summary: November 18, 2015
1E LOB

Next meeting: ***December 9, 2015 @ 2 PM in 1E LOB***

Attendees: Representative Mike Demicco (Co-Chair), Hal Gibber (Co-Chair), Sharon Langer (Co-Chair), Karen Andersson (DCF), Rich Calvert, Terri DiPietro, Dr. Steven Girelli, William Halsey (DSS), Colleen Harrington (DMHAS), Tom Hill, Jill Holmes-Brown, Tom King, Mickey Kramer, Stephen Larcen, Stephen Merz, Judith Meyers, Kim Nystrom, Sherry Perlstein, Kelly Phenix, Galo Rodriguez, Knute Rotto (VO), Dr. Javier Salabarria, Joseph Sullivan, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Jeff Walter, and Valerie Wyzykowski

BHP OC Administration

Co-Chair Sharon Langer convened the meeting at 2:04 PM and introductions were made. She then asked for a motion to accept the October summary. Co-Chair Hal Gibber made the motion and seconded by Rick Calvert. All members voted to approve it without abstentions and the summary was accepted as written. Co-Chair Representative Mike Demicco re-introduced and welcomed Dr. Javier Salabarria back to the Council after a two-year absence after having been recently reappointed by Representative Prosad Srinivasan. He reported that filling the open positions on the Council are "in progress". Potential new members have been identified and are being contacted. Soon there will be two more openings on the Council with the upcoming retirements of Sherry Perlstein and Steve Larcen. Their positions will have to be filled too.

Action Items

None.

Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Agency Reports- **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Update: On Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) - Colleen Harrington (DMHAS)**

Colleen Harrington said that the Connecticut application for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) had received less money than the application had requested. She said that eleven proposals were scored, six of them were invited to participate in a learning collaborative, and two of those will be selected to be certified in a demonstration. Today (Nov. 18th) letters went out to individual agencies notifying them of the status of their applications. The department anticipates beginning meetings and being a part of the learning communities next month in December. They have also reviewed all of the applications for the project steering committee and sub-committees. It has not been announced who will participate in the working groups. The department is looking for providers of children's behavioral health services to participate in the working groups. They are seeking life-span providers. The website address for the CCBHCs is www.ct.gov/dss/ccbhc then go to the link for additional applications. All three agency liaisons said that they wanted to make sure that the BHPOC is kept informed of the rollout of the CCBHC initiative.

Department of Children and Families – Karen Andersson (DCF)

Karen Andersson said her report was similar to the DMHAS report.

Department of Social Services-Bill Halsey (DSS)

Bill Halsey said that his report was similar to the DMHAS report. He confirmed that the Duals Eligible Initiative Demonstration Project would not be developed due to lack of funding. Both Steve Merz and Steve Larcen said this would be a prime opportunity for the Council to understand how BHP providers could be involved in Medicare shared-savings programs. It could have a profound impact on decreasing the cost of care for this population and meet the charges of the Council to seek savings in the Medicaid program. Co-Chair Sharon Langer suggested that the Adult Quality, Access & Policy Committee look into this and report back to the Council.

Committee Reports:

***Coordination of Care*:** *- Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Co-Chair, Brenetta Henry, Co-Chair*

Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley reported that the last meeting in October and again, the main discussion focused on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) and the Logisticare report. At last month's Council meeting the membership voted to take action and write a letter to the Commissioner of DSS recommending that he issue an RFP to re-bid the NEMT contract by 1/1/16, a full year before Logisticare's contract is due to expire. This letter will go out at the end of the week. In addition, she told the Council that Rod Winstead is now the new DSS Coordinator for NEMT. She also reported that the committee is looking into medical and behavioral health coordination. DSS will give a response to a Mercer Report that was issued last June at the next meeting on December 15, 2015 at 1:00 PM in 1E LOB.

*From previously: Consumers who are still experiencing difficulty with transportation appointments can call Logisticare at 1-888-248-9895; HUSKY Health at 1-800-859-9889 for accessing health services, coordination of care, and to file a NEMT complaint.

Adult Quality, Access & Policy: *-Heather Gates, and Alicia Woodsby, Co-Chairs*
Council Co-Chair Sharon Langer reported in lieu of Committee Co-Chair absences that the committee did not meet last month but will meet on the third (3rd) Friday of the month and the next meeting will be on December 18, 2015 at 2:00 PM at CCPA in Rocky Hill.

***Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy*:** *– Sherry Perlstein, Hal Gibber, and Jeff Vanderploeg, Co-Chairs*
Co-Chair Sherry Perlstein told members that the committee last met on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 (the presentation can be found on-line) where they discussed child/adolescent utilization data and different levels of care for the first quarter of FY 15. Also discussed was expanded hour coverage for EMPS. There is now a question of funding due to recent budget reductions. Karen Andersson (DCF) said she was asked to hold off on all new contracts because of discussions yet to be held about potential additional budget cuts. Sherry asked the Council to take a position on EMPS and requested a letter be sent to the Governor/DCF Commissioner that funding is vital and should not be reduced. She made a motion and it was seconded by Rick Calvert. Steve Larcen noted that if something that is slated for a cut is not singled out as necessary than it may very well be reduced or eliminated so it makes sense a letter should go out. Rick Calvert said that he seconded the motion because he feels the Council is obligated to support all integrated safety net services. It is a part of the goals of the Council. Continuation of the letter was yielded for Agenda Item 5 under "Proposed Reductions in Behavioral Health Funding for Services". Sherry said the next committee meeting Friday, November 20, 2015 at 2:00 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third (3rd) floor at Value Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

Operations: *– Susan Walkama and Terri DiPietro, Co-Chairs*
Co-Chair Terri DiPietro reported that the committee discussed Community Care Teams (CCTs). VO is presently conducting webinars on this topic. Due to budget reductions implementation of new CCTs will be put on hold until FY 2017 but she had little hope for that to come to fruition. They also had a report on Autism Spectrum Services (this can be found on the BHPOC Website). She said that DSS is still looking for more providers for the Autism Network, particularly in the Eastern part of the state. The next meeting is on December 4, 2015 at 2:30 PM in the Hartford Conference Room on the third (3rd) floor at Value Options in Rocky Hill, CT.

Council Discussion

Proposed Reductions in Behavioral Health Funding for Services

Previous discussion under Committee Reports continued. It was decided that a letter would be sent from the BHPOC Executive Committee to State Leadership in support for broad concerns in the budget. A motion was made and seconded to write the letter. All voted in favor for the Council to send a letter. Co-Chair Sharon Langer asked members for their suggestions and input for the letter in a timely fashion so it can be sent before the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

- Mental Health Access- Child Psychiatry- Sandy Hook Commission Recommendation
- Reductions for Programs for Young Adults at Yale (early intervention)
- $200,000 reduction for SBHCs- Sandy Hook Commission Recommendation to increase SBHCs
- Reductions in school readiness and childcare programs

- Closing State operated facility for detox beds at CVH
- Reductions for Community Care Teams (CCTs)
- Reductions for EMPS expansion
- Reductions for Regional Mental Health Boards
- Grants for substance abuse and mental health services are eliminated
- Rates to providers are scaled back
- Eliminate State commissions
- "Suspension" of HUSKY Performance Monitoring in current FY

Goals and Objectives of the BHPOC for FY-2016

- Be responsive to reports: e.g. Mercer Report on NEMT
- Promoting initiatives that are cost-neutral
- Respond to the reductions by promoting BH programs that improve health and access and reduce costs of healthcare
- Maximize federal revenues by matching funds: e.g., ACA opportunities
- Implement recommendations in the Children's Behavioral Health Plan
- Have the Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee take up the recommendations of the Children's BH Plan and advocate its implementation
- Promoting resources that can feed the advocacy of the Council
- Seek private funding for quality outcomes and access
- Focus on the opiate epidemic with timely follow-ups
- Council should spend time on the events of the day in CT and NE with a discussion
- Have the Council advocate the (Federal) Recovery Model
- Advocate on substance abuse disorders
- Interface BH with the Criminal Justice System
- Evaluate the impact of children and Adults in psychiatric out-patient care
- Should not spend time and resources on studies and reports only to put them aside and then do new studies and reports
- Advocate more privatization
- Implement a core measure set that can be trended over time: e.g., data on school success for children and how is the family/home life?
- Have studies for the continuum of care and how it is tracked
- Equitable/accessible BH services for geographical areas of the state
- Have committees come up with one or two top priorities both short and long-term per committee for the endorsement of the Council (The Committee Co-Chairs agreed to follow up on this suggestion at their upcoming meetings)
- With all the studies and reports- "Are kids getting better"? Is the system working and making peoples' lives better?

New Business/Meeting Announcement/Adjournment

Co-Chair Sharon Langer thanked the agency partners and the Council Members for a good discussion. She said that a letter to the Executive and Legislative leaders in opposition to service reductions in the budget will go out by next week. She then asked for further comments, questions, or other business. Hearing nothing else, she informed Council Members that the next

BHPOC meeting will be December 9, 2015 at 2:00 PM in 1E LOB. She wished everyone a good holiday and then adjourned the meeting at 4:07 PM.

Next Meeting: <u>Wednesday, December 9, 2015 @ 2:00 PM 1E LOB</u>