

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

Virtual CHA Zoom Meeting

July 22, 2020 @ 2:00 PM

Attendance: Patty Marth, Tom Walker, Christine Higgins, Robyn Barbosa, Janet Verga, Kevin Brockel, Don Panto, Ryan Flynn, Alaina McCarter, Paul Berlet, Michael Cuda, John Mooney, Rochelle Reimert, Jenny Reilly, Veronica Lefurgy, Janet Romero, Almut Dubischar, Marissa Turner, Jennifer Moll, John Lees, Carl Kist, Cathy Murphy, Tisbine Moussa, Cathy Kromer, Dominique Gray, Mike Ditty, Alexis Harvey, pat McGarry, Debbie Hess, Sue Acklen, Gary Popowitz, Carlos Estevez

I. **Review of May 6, and May 27, 2020 meeting minutes.** Minutes are approved.

II. Provider Forum

- **Jennifer Moll, Kidspeace** – KidsPeace in conjunction with Magellan Behavioral Health have created a new PRTF program named Explorer program. The Explorer program is a specialized level of care for adolescent males who are overcoming traumatic events. The program is open for referrals to the Explorer program. It is hospital based but falls under 3100 regs. Tom will circulate the program fact sheet and brochure. Referrals or inquiries, please direct through the admissions hotline. To make a referral or inquire about our Explorer program: CONTACT ADMISSIONS AT 1.800.854.3123
- **Alexis Harvey, Kidspeace** – Alexis announced the afterschool program will be open to referrals on August 31. Current plan is to offer site based and a zoom option for families. The after-school Autism Therapeutic Program is available at the Broadway Campus – This site-based program provides an opportunity for children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis to develop and practice social skills with peers using individualized curricula founded on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). The program requires use of masks and adheres to social distancing, and safety protocol. Inquiries? Please call (888) KP-HELPS (888-574-3577), or email Alexis, Alexis.Harvey@kidspeace.org
- **Christine Higgins, Merakey Wellness Recovery** -- all community-based programs are taking referrals. <https://www.merakey.org/services.html> The Wellness Recovery Teams have openings for 8-10 individuals, due to scheduled discharges. The program is working in the community, as well as telehealth. Many clients are requesting accompaniment to medical appointments.
- **Pat McGarry, Valley Youth House – Three updates**

Currently accepting referrals for a youth and young adults seeking certified peer specialist services. The youth and young adult age group is 14 to 26 years. Services are provided both through Telehealth and face to face, depending on the individual needs. <https://www.valleyyouthhouse.org/programs/treatment-and-therapeutic-services/youth-and-young-adult-certified-peer-specialist-program/>

The VYH Respite program site-based services will be opening in August. Site-based respite services are targeted primarily for autistic members and will be offered at Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley, located in Whitehall off Shadt Avenue. Overnight respite is currently on hold due to covid.

Camp Fowler – Renovations have been made for comfort and safety of youth. The camp is reopening, with initial offer of day programming and is planning year-round activities. <https://www.valleyyouthhouse.org/campfowler/>

- **Marissa Turner, Holcomb** – Case management services are open, and working in the community or through telehealth. The agency brought in architects to evaluate offices and clinic services and incorporating recommendations for safety. Community based work is requiring a lot of flexibility. The wild card is whether PA will stay in the green, and what types of support family members will need, especially those with younger, school-aged children, and what the schools will be doing with staggered educational days, etc. It is also not clear how schools will be looking to work with providers once school resumes in the fall.
- **Janet Romero, Step by Step** – Janet provided an overview of services, including co-occurring outpatient services (mental health and substance use disorder treatment), psychiatric rehabilitation services for adults with autism spectrum disorders, and specialized programming for individuals with legal involvement who could utilize supports to remain successfully in the community. <https://stepbystepusa.com/services/>

III. Member Forum

No report

IV. Provider Advisory Committee – Still vacant. Seeking representation from Adult Community Services. Please email Matt/Kristy. The position also represents stakeholders at the Advisory Boards for Lehigh and Northampton counties. Next step goes before the governor to be signed into law. The bill makes major changes in the authorization of mental health services to children over age 14

and under age 18. Parents now may authorize services for children in this age bracket. There are also changes on the release of records and Mental Health Procedures Act. House Bill 672 is available online at

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=0672>

V. Children's Advisory Committee – Pat McGarry. Matt discussed HB 672 which passed the Senate – legislation changes age of consent standards; release of records; MHPA procedures

VI. Magellan

(Patty Marth - Reporting for Magellan's Compliance Dept.)

- Please visit www.magellanofpa.com for up to date member and provider information
- May 2020 compliance email blast was a reminder regarding the contractual requirement for providers to notify Magellan in the case of a change in licensure status. This notification requirement includes the receipt of provisional licenses, regardless of whether the organization intends to appeal the determination.
- June 2020 compliance email blast, Magellan shares important guidelines about Collaborative Documentation for all providers/ practitioners who are utilizing this technique
- <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/communications/provider-announcements/compliance-alerts/>
- Recent MA Bulletins were discussed (Telehealth, and MA ACCESS Card Redesign). Additional information about the changes are also announced on Magellan's provider announcement page. <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/communications/provider-announcements/>
- The Wolf Administration announced that the Department of Human Services (DHS) will allow for additional Medicaid providers to enroll as an opioid use disorder Center of Excellence (COE). Since 2016, 45 COEs have transformed the way care is provided to people with opioid use disorder and have helped more than 30,000 Pennsylvanians access comprehensive, whole-person treatment that makes recovery possible.
<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Centers-of-Excellence.aspx>

(Mike Ditty – Reporting for Magellan's Network Dept.)

- Magellan is continually reviewing the Alternative Payment Arrangements (APA) for providers seeking financial relief or were identified as targeted for APAs. Some providers have requested information on how to opt out of APAs. Reviewed/discussed the process for opting out of **Alternative Payment Arrangements (APA) for providers identified or have requested financial relief due to COVID-19**. Please email Mike Ditty if programs have any plans to change your status, to request an APA, or have claims questions about how to code for billing purposes. OMHSAS COVID-19 provider resources are here <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Pages/OMHSAS-COVID19-Provider-Resources.aspx>

(Carl Kist Reporting for Magellan's Clinical Dept.)

- **Organizational Changes** – Carl announced Tara Karbiner has accepted the position of Clinical Director for Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, replacing Rebecca Mutchler. Carl Kist has transitioned to the Clinical Manager for the Drug and Alcohol Team.

(John Lees – Member and Family Advocate)

- Magellan's next member advisory work group will be September 17 it will be for Lehigh county adults. Magellan Member and Family Advocate, Peer Services, and Acct. Management will lead a discussion on telehealth, and cultural sensitivity.

(Tom Walker – Strategic)

- A recent project has allowed us to review our inefficiencies within the retro review process and make some changes. We identified an opportunity to ease the process for providers when submitting a retrospective review request. A new form has been created that will serve as a face sheet for each request instead of requiring agencies to draft a unique letter. Moving forward, all retrospective requests should include this completed form along with the appropriate supplemental materials. The form can be found on the website at <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/provider-resources/forms/>
- To ensure that there are not any barriers to HealthChoices members accessing Behavioral Health Treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, Magellan aligned the prior authorization and concurrent review process with the MA FSS Program.

There is a registration process to assure providers are paid for applicable services, with more limited and focused information being requested.

- Magellan recently completed special projects on the topic of school-based outpatient expansion, integrated health, and social determinants of health topics.
- Magellan and Lehigh County DHS are partnering with Child and Family Focus to implement First Episode Psychosis programming. Additional updates will be shared with providers in future CHA meetings.
- Other special projects discussed: Medication Adherence Pilot program, and Forensic programs.

IV. Lehigh County Update –

Magellan contract update – In June, the Magellan contract was presented to the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners. This contract was as a result of the RFP that Lehigh county issued back in October and the selection process made in December. The contract is three and a half years. It's typically a three-year initial contract. The additional time is because the state is moving all primary contractor/county to a calendar year cycle, and this change aligns with the new requirement.

Reinvestment Plan Updates – Lehigh County aligned expiring plans to a common date of 2022. The plans are set to expire June 30, 2020. Necessary requests to extend plans have been made to OMHSAS. Applies to Respite, HIFI Wraparound, 2:1 ABA services, and Supportive Housing Program. Matt did announce that the Lehigh Conference of Churches requested to end their housing contract in December 2020, so even though the Clearinghouse will no longer be in existence, there are options to funding housing as a social determinate of health in some manner. Matt hopes to provide an update in September.

Veronica Lefurgy announced that through the CARES Act, there is a rent relief program for people that are affected by COVID-19 crisis and who need money for housing, going back to March and is for six months. Anyone who has been affected by covid and is on unemployment or has a 30% loss of income they can get up to \$750 a month in assistance lease. The rental assistance agencies HAO, Catholic Charities, and Conference of Churches will complete the paperwork, which requires landlord and tenant agreement.

Veronica also shared a training for adoption competency, as a 12-week intensive curriculum. Please email Tom or Veronica with your interest. There is a cost tied to the training in the amount of \$1,200.

V. Northampton County Update – Tisbine reported the Northampton County Outpatient Restoration Long Term Structured Residence (ORLTSR) is making progress. Northampton County was granted funding for a forensic initiative through OMHSAS to focus on forensic reentry. As such, a new ORLTSR will be opened to house individuals with SMI and criminal charges, who are waiting to receive a competency evaluation or are receiving treatment to restore competency. The County's Mental Health Division will partner with HealthChoices to utilize reinvestment funds in a manner to be determined. Northampton County HealthChoices' ORLTSR Reinvestment Plan was approved on June 10, 2019. A zoning hearing was held on February 18, 2020 and approved the project. Due to COVID-19 limited construction is projected to start as soon as the contracts are signed, which will hopefully be by the end of August, with opening of the program in 2021.

Tisbine shared that PA DHS/OMHSAS launched a new multi-year Performance Improvement Project Proposal. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has selected the topic, "Successful Prevention, Early Detection, Intervention, and Retention in Treatment (SPEDTAR) for Substance Use Disorders" as a Performance Improvement Project (PIP) for all Medicaid Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations (BH-MCOs) in the State. The Performance Improvement Project (PIP) will extend from 2021 through 2023, including a final report due in 2024. Primary Contractors and BH-MCOs will be conducting independent analyses of their data and partnering to develop relevant performance measures and interventions. BH-MCOs will be responsible for coordinating, implementing, and reporting the project.

Next Meeting: July 22, 2020