

## HealthChoices Advisory Board

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc.  
1 W. Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018  
(Remote meeting due to COVID restrictions)  
November 19, 2020 at 2pm

I. Introductions: Those in attendance were: Tom Walker, Matt Bauder, Kristy Bernard, Chelsea Jones, Tisbine Moussa, Donna Thorman, Pat McGarry

II. Review of August minutes – No issues and accepted.

III. Community Healthcare Alliance Report:

### **Member/Family Advisory Committee**

- Ronnie was not present.

### **Provider Advisory Committee – TBD**

- Adult Provider Advisory Committee representative still to be determined. There was no more interest. Tom suggested outreach to RCPA if no one is interested in the near future. Team will put it out to CHA again. Matt and Kristy to discuss bylaws. Discussed Donna attending CHA meetings as a representative of NAMI. Info will be sent to her.

### **Children's Advisory Committee – Pat McGarry**

- Shared many updates at CHA yesterday
- There have been some issues with families not fully masking up.
- A lot of providers are feeling that they will go back to all Virtual due to Covid numbers on the rise.
- VYH is doing a blend of services virtually and in person

IV. NAMI/OMHSAS/Provider/Peer/News

- NAMI started Family to Family in September. They are back to meeting in person again with everyone having their own 6ft table.
- New Recover Center on William Penn Highway. 9 Family members taking classes.
- Support groups and Peer to Peer will be offered via ZOOM. Parents preferred in person since it is difficult if the loved one is in the house. Support groups dropped off a little. People prefer in person or don't have access to ZOOM.

- President of NAMI-Diane Gilroy-son unexpectedly passed away.

## V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report

- Tom reported relief efforts continue through APA's. Way back in March did a provider survey for additional info about staffing changes, expected reductions, and supporting providers with submissions. Capacity for Substance Abuse Treatment and MH treatment. Survey will be continuously implemented. Moved from weekly survey to monthly over the summer. An RFI was released for additional assistance to providers. Efforts will continue into 2021.
- Provider Closures-Ellwyn Arch, White Deer Run, Aveanna/Epic. Magellan helped transition members. Focus on communication. Provider town hall was held led by Magellan CEO.
- Tom discussed changes to the HC program in terms of its funding/contract year. We are now aligned with the funding year with the rest of the managed care organizations we have moved away from a July to June fiscal year to a January to December fiscal year. With those changes also comes changes to the program standards and requirements that are applicable to all HealthChoices program between Primary contractors and the delegated subcontractors, such as Magellan. Changes to come are related to creation of new models for value based purchasing to include social determinants of health, investment in community based organizations, and others.
- Regional Accountable Health Committees (RAHCs) are being developed by the state. Dr. Jacobs is leading the effort. They will involve various stakeholders, such as hospitals, community based nonprofit agencies, health plans, physical health, and behavioral health. They will focus on targeted needs within all of the health choices zones across the Commonwealth. These are oversight boards and hopefully the intention is to align payment strategies to also include things like reducing blight, increasing quality aspects of care and longevity of residents, social justice, and community safety.
- This years Performance Improvement Project (PIP) is Successful Prevention, Early Detection, Intervention, and Retention in Treatment (SPEDTAR) for Substance Use Disorders.
- Magellan is pursuing through their NCQA the opportunity to become a multicultural healthcare organization. This involves everything from how they communicate with members to how they use the medical records.
- This year's special projects focus on helping individuals that are navigating the criminal justice system who don't necessarily belong in jail or prison because of the mental health conditions. Lehigh and Northampton are both implementing long

term structured residences (LTSR) and Magellan will be partner with the counties to support these.

- Lehigh County has started a Medication Adherence Pilot program with Pharmaceutical Assistance to help reduce barriers to taking medication as well as the importance of the members' health.
- Lehigh County is implementing a First Episode Psychosis program is through Child and Family Focused provider.
- IBHS, which replaces BHRS services, continues to roll out.
- Transition Age Youth (TAY) Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) program through Valley Youth House continues to grow.
- Magellan continues their community relations efforts-Holiday giving campaign and sponsoring families in Lehigh and Northampton county that are in children, youth and family services, supporting community Bike Works in Allentown in their bike kit program, Signature sponsor for this year's Recovery conference Harvest Full of Hope and continues to lead virtual member advisory groups to talk with members about their experience during COVID and supporting the state's process.

## VI. Lehigh County HealthChoices Report

- Matt reported updates on Reinvestment Plans. The Clearinghouse program for supported housing through Conference of Churches continues. High Fidelity Wrap around and ABA supports program continues as well.
- There are a lot of state projects in the works as Tom mentioned. The RAHCs as well as incorporating Community Based Organizations into our Value Based Purchasing models. Alost for the Primary Contractors to expand into Community Based Care Management. Lehigh is looking to work with the Conference of Churches for that program and it will help address social determinants of health. One of the parts of the program will be to assist members who are in Acute Inpatient Care to get assistance with finding housing and community connections. It will add a transition coordinator position at the Conference to work with members. We are awaiting on these plans to be approved to move forward.

- Lane Turner, Lehigh's Single County Authority that is basically the Drug and Alcohol Administrator left for another position. Joe Martelucci has been chosen to fill that position. He was the Assistant Director.
- There is a lot of discussion regarding Telehealth and what it will look like moving forward. The pandemic forced the expansion of telehealth and there are committees at the state level examining telehealth and how it should continue.

## VII. Northampton County HealthChoices Report

- Northampton County continues funding for the Conference of Churches Housing Program and is continuing extending services offered for members impacted by COVID.
- The ORLTSR-Housing for forensic population housing- the contracts are completed. Demolition has begun for Construction to start soon. This is a joint project with Northampton County Base MH department. Program opening slated for summer. The state has said they will not be approving extensions for Reinvestment plans unless it was impacted due to COVID. This plan expired June 2021 and NC will be requesting an extension since it has been held up due to Covid issues and restrictions.
- Northampton County's Respite programs continue to operate but COVID is greatly impacting referrals.
- New Reinvestment Plan was developed by Chelsea to address SDOHs. Received feedback from the state and will be submitting soon.
- Northampton is attempting to partner with another Community based organization for the Community Based Care Management program that Matt referenced, and we are awaiting on their decision. If they do not decide to move forward we will look into the Conference of Churches.
- Northampton County employees continue to work in office.
- Changes in Mental Health/Base. Brian Watson the Deputy Director is retiring in January. Tom Picone, a CW in that department is also retiring. There are a few open positions being filled and some transfers happening.

## VIII. Adjournment

Next meeting will be held on **February 18 at 2:00pm** at the Magellan Bethlehem office or via Zoom depending on COVID circumstances.