

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE
Virtual CHA Zoom Meeting
March 24, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

Attendance: Matt Bauder, Patty Marth, Nick Reilly, Ryan Flynn, Tom Walker, Liz Fox, Leslie Ten Broeck, Suzanne Makary, Lindsey Paisley, Carl Kist, Jeremy Shutts, Kristy Bernard, Don Panto, John Lees, Jana Morris, Janet Romero, Scott Kiefer, Tisbine Moussa, Paul Iannacone, Suzanne Mulhern, Lisa Duarte, Alison Sutter, Tim Custer, Almut Dubischar, Karina Castillo, Jaleh Mohallatee, Val Rode, Dominique Gray, Marissa Turner, Bill Leiner, Jodi Matthews, Tamra McGee, Kevin Brockel, Jessica Simoes (Apgar), John Mooney

I. Review of January 27, 2021 meeting minutes. Matt Bauder opened the meeting with a review of the meeting minutes. Minutes are approved.

II. Provider Forum

- **Suzanne Makary, Innovations Partial Program, St. Luke's** – Partial program is moving to Sacred Heart Campus 4/19/21. Please note the phone number will also change. St Luke's innovations php. New location 451 Chew St Suite 101 Allentown (484) 838-6380. St. Luke's will open ASAM 4.0 LOC, medically managed intensive inpatient drug and alcohol treatment service, effective 4/6/21. <https://www.slnh.org/blog/2021/st-lukes-opens-most-advanced-detox-unit-in-the-region>
- **Bill Leiner, Jr., New Vitae** –The traumatic brain injury program has grown to serve up to eight individuals. New Vitae Wellness and Recovery requests that providers serving qualified military veterans, specifically veterans with opioid addiction challenges also facing housing and services connection issues, may engage in services and reside at one of New Vitae's personal care homes or apartment programs. THIS IS A TIME LIMITED program – 10 months is maximum stay. Please contact: Bill Leiner wleiner@newvitaewellness.com or call 610 751-2745.
- **Tamra McGee, Pyramid Healthcare** – Pyramid outpatient services in Allentown opened for walk-in appointments on Mondays. The Burtonsville office is now offering medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder, specifically suboxone. Questions? Please contact: Tmcgee@pyramidhc.com
- **Jana Morris, Recovery Revolution** – Announced the move of Bangor-area Recovery Center, A Clean Slate. The Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) services known as THRIVE is based out of the drop-in recovery center. This is open to all individuals in recovery, near-term or longer-term. Insurance is not required to take advantage of the support. CRS: <https://thrivebangor.org/> Or call 610-452-9348 for more information. Recovery Center: <https://cleanslatebangor.org/>
- **Scott Kiefer, Recovery Partnership** – Announced the Lehigh Valley Mental Health Awareness Walk will be held 5/7/21, 10-12. Prior registration and masks are required. Walk starts and returns to the Danny Rice Fields, Bethlehem.

III. Member Forum Matt Bauder reported for Ronnie on the topic of LantaVan services, and challenges in schedule, pick up or drop off concerns happen; these are addressed individually on a case by case basis.

IV. Provider Advisory Committee – Matt Bauder shared information circulated by HealthChoices Administrators in other regions with a workforce concern. There are telehealth companies approaching licensed behavioral health clinicians in Pennsylvania with job offers, but without local ties to Pennsylvania. John Mooney said he was approached by one such company, but not to the clinicians, and the offer was declined. Matt has an open request to the CHA to discuss any possible outreaches which might impact the ability to deliver services or other strains related to this topic. Workforce protection is the essential message, and possibly advocacy topic.

Telehealth is still being allowed during the emergency declaration, and at the same time, there is a need to look at how to safely provide in-person services. The overall vaccine availability and people getting vaccinated is an indicator for providers to make appropriate plans. Matt discussed the state is also reinstating provider validation requirements (see Magellan Compliance notes, below) that were in place prior to the pandemic, indicating the switch is happening for a return to more normal circumstances, such as pre-pandemic.

While this is a hopeful indicator of overall recovery, challenges do continue. Jana Morris shared it is harder than normal to get people admitted into 24-hour detoxification treatment facilities, with two to three days to find an appropriate facility to admit, but not a complex issue.

Matt announced the vacant position of Advisory Committee Chair has been filled. Cathleen Murphy of Horizon House will be our new Chair. Welcome Cathy! Members of the CHA may contact CATHLEEN.MURPHY@hhinc.org to discuss involvement in the Provider Advisory Committee work.

V. Children’s Advisory Committee – No report.

VI. Magellan

(Patty Marth - Reporting for Magellan’s Compliance)

Email Blasts:

Feb 2021-Telehealth Guidelines and Documentation Requirements during the COVID-19 emergency disaster declaration.

- On August 14, 2020, OMHSAS issued a memorandum announcing the suspension of portions of chapters 1151, 1153, 1155, 1223, 5100, 5200, 5210, 5221, 5230, 5310, 5320, 5240 within Title 55 of the Pennsylvania Code. That memorandum was re-issued on October 22, 2020, to update signature requirements for treatment and service plans. OMHSAS again re-issued the memorandum on February 18, 2021 to announce additional suspension of requirements delineated in various bulletins and other non-regulatory guidance documents.
- Highlights of the suspensions are noted below:
 - Suspension of requirements for face-to-face contacts with beneficiaries if it is clinically appropriate to utilize telehealth/telephone to provide those services.
 - Suspension of training and certification requirements for staff for certain services.
 - Suspension of timeframes for assessments, treatment/service plan development and revisions.
 - Suspension of requirements around signatures.
 - Suspension of staff to beneficiary ratio in certain services.
 - Suspension of fidelity assessments.

Bulletins:

- The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs has released Policy Bulletin 21-01 which documents modifications made to the DDAP Prevention Manual relating to DDAP-funded paid advertisements. [Policy Bulletin 21-01](#) and the updated [2020-2025 Prevention Manual](#) can be found on the DDAP website
- On March 1, 2021, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) submitted to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) its Final-Omitted Regulations on Standards for Drug and Alcohol Recovery House Licensure. The regulations can be found [on IRRC’s website](#).
- Provider Validation Requirements:
<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/docs/Publications/Documents/FORMS%20AND%20PUBS%20MAP/MAB2021032301.pdf>

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers that effective June 1, 2021, the Department of Human Services (Department) will reinstate provider revalidation requirements as applicable prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE).

(Tom Walker Reporting for Magellan’s Network Dept. and Strategic Topic – Member Rights and Responsibilities)

- Reminder that any practice changes, including practice closures, are reported to Magellan 90 days ahead of any major transition. Please refer to the provider manual for guidance <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/communications/provider-manual/>
- Provider enrollment is required. If a practice intends to move, in order to bill for services, enrollment must be validated. <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISE-Enrollment.aspx>
- Alternative Payment Agreements with applicable provider agencies are valid through June 30, 2021. Additional communication will be forthcoming on the overall status of APA type agreements beyond this date and during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Tom reminded of the importance of posting Magellan’s Complaint and Grievance poster in public settings, and to be sure this information is provided to members using telehealth services. It is important for providers using telehealth to inform members of their rights, and to help members exercise them. Tom will share the member information in English and Spanish languages with the CHA distribution. Other languages are also available, and a flyer can be created ad hoc upon request. Members of CHA are asked to inform their operations managers and practice administrators of the information and expectation. <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-members/services-programs/rights-responsibilities/>

(Carl Kist – Reporting for Magellan’s Clinical Dept.)

- Please review information on Magellan’s Website regarding discharge planning, and in general the resources and tools supplied. <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/quality-improvement/discharge-planning/>
- Magellan encourages the use of discharge practices informed by Project RED. Project Red (Re-Engineered Discharge) is a research group at Boston University, funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). <https://www.bu.edu/fammed/projectred/>
- Carl shared the recording and new publication targeted to substance use disorder providers. The training was recorded 3/22/21. The slides are available here <https://www.magellanofpa.com/media/6311/discharge-planning-provider-training-final-32221.pdf> The recording of the live training is available on the discharge planning page, and requires a step to enter your name and email to view the presentation.
- Magellan continues to grow IBHS services and add providers. The Provider Search tool and the new interface includes filters by level of care, such as IBHS provider information. Information for providers on IBHS is available <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/services-programs/ibhs/>
- Please consider referring eligible youth to Magellan’s MY LIFE meetings. This is an excellent support for youth, and although virtual, activities kits are mailed to youth who choose to participate. MY LIFE stands for Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment (MY LIFE). Magellan is dedicated to helping to improve the lives of youth in Pennsylvania. Virtual MY LIFE Pennsylvania meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. To register, send an email to mackevericanm@magellanhealth.com. For more information <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-members/community/my-life/>

(John Lees – Member and Family Advocate)

- John asked the members of the CHA to take a moment to update the provider website and make any necessary updates to contact information and provider specialties – the profile is what is used to generate provider search results, and updates to the print version of our provider directory. It is a requirement to keep the service profile up to date as possible.
 - <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-members/find-a-provider/provider-search-start/>
 - <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-members/find-a-provider/provider-directories/>

Janet Romero asked a question concerning RISE PA, and the growing trend of online databases, which are important, but also keeping all the search tools up to date is providing to be a challenge. Liz Fox stressed that the world is certainly changing, and that the online search tools are becoming more and more critical to keep up to date in this modern era. Print directories are quickly falling out of favor. Matt shared that RISE PA is a new state initiative, under the umbrella of Aunt Bertha, and is related to social determinants of health.

VII. Northampton County Update – Kristy Bernard and Jodi Matthews

Mirka Picone was named the Northampton County Program Specialist within the Base Mental Health Program. This is the backfill for Cathy Kromer.

Kristy shared that Northampton County remains interested in developing a First Episode Psychosis program to enable Northampton County to participate. Northampton County met with Child and Family Focus On My Way program earlier in 2020 and remains hopeful for this program to be available.

Discussed the preliminary approval for a new Reinvestment Program focused on helping members access childcare, clothing, transportation, getting jobs, and things that are not currently covered under the state plan. The hope is to tie these services as supplement to the Community Based Organization plans. Northampton still has the respite program available to Northampton County HealthChoices members.

The Outpatient Restoration Long-term Structured Residence (ORLTSR) in Easton groundbreaking is delayed due to weather. Please see the press release, key information points here <https://www.thevalleyledger.com/?p=105908> The program is anticipated to be open Winter 2021.

Jodi Matthews reported revalidation is approaching for the County’s Medical Foster Care program. Jodi noted the County has been seeking IBHS providers for Northampton County Children Youth and Families department. Further, there are difficulties in locating placements for kids, and struggle in general with teenage females with behavioral issues.

Lehigh County Update – Matt Bauder and Liz Fox

Matt reported the reinvestment programs offered by Lehigh County HealthChoices are still operating (2:1 ABA Services; Housing Clearinghouse, HI-FI Wraparound, Respite).

Two programs are being explored to meet gaps within the system: IDD dual diagnoses and Housing

- Matt reported efforts to help give as many Dually Diagnosed MH/IDD members with treatment options. Early discussion is occurring to include transitional age youth with dual diagnoses.
- Lehigh County continues to add to the project based operating systems program that's operating through Pennsylvania housing authority. Additionally, there is the potential capital investment project to the Allentown Housing Authority.
- Matt noted: The use of Reinvestment to fund certain types of programs is a challenge to navigate. The program ultimately must be sustainable under Medical Assistance.

The Assistant to the Lehigh County Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Programs Single County Authority (SCA) has been named. Molly Stanton has been chosen. Start date was 2/8/21.

Other Pennsylvania news: Department of Human Services Secretary Theresa Miller will be leaving the post effective 4/30/21.

Governor Wolf announced the intention to nominate Meg Snead to serve as the next Secretary of DHS.

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-to-nominate-meg-snead-to-serve-as-secretary-of-human-services/>

VIII. Next Meeting: May 26, 2021