

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

Virtual CHA Zoom Meeting

May 26, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

Attendance: Cathy Murphy, Meg Soring, Jaleh Mohallatee, Nikki Baker, Barb Vaupel, Jeremy Shutts, Anne Brainerd Marko, Paul Berlet, Almut Dubischar, Matt Bauder, Suzanne Makary, Drew Lazo, Kathy Skrapits, Tom Walker, Tisbine Moussa, Vance Farrell, Kristen Bertucci, Vance Farrell, Mirka Picone, Alicia Rohrer, Kristy Bernard, Alicia Rohrer, Pat McGarry, Don Panto, Jana Morris, Christine Higgins, Marissa Turner, Donna Thorman, Katie Detweiler, Kelly Brelsford, Dominique Gray, Rochelle Reimert, Tim Custer, Patty Marth, Veronica Lefurgy, Mitch Fash, Jodi Matthews, Lindsey Paisley, Stephanie Dorney, Corina Labish

I. **Review of March 24, 2021 meeting minutes.** Kristy Bernard opened the meeting with a review of the meeting minutes. Minutes are approved.

II. Provider Forum

- **Kathy Scrapits, Access Services** – Provided an overview of the Respite Program for Northampton County residents. The respite program offers families a needed break. Respite services are provided out of the home through a trained family provider. The service can be for six hours, or overnight, with flexibility. There is a matching process and involves meetings with the whole family as part of orientation and matching process. The program is funded through reinvestment. The Respite Program brochure is a good place to start in making a referral connection. https://www.accessservices.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/respite_brochure_2019_lowres.pdf
- **Barb Vaupel, Valley Youth House** – Provided an overview of the site-based Respite Program for Lehigh County residents. The program is currently open Saturdays and hopes to begin offering more opportunity once it is safe to do so, and with expected increased summer demand. The program is funded through reinvestment. For Lehigh County respite, Valley Youth House- please email Kara Williams at kwilliams@valleyyouthhouse.org
- **Janet Romero, Step by Step** – Discussed the position of RCPA on the topic of the Pennsylvania implementation of ASAM and concerns about how the transition was rolled out. An advocacy letter was circulated to the CHA that was also provided to Deputy Secretary Kristen Houser of OMHSAS and Secretary Jennifer Smith of DDAP. The intent of the letter is as a support to the wider transition to ASAM, but to do so in a way that recognizes the need for compromise in how the initiative rolls out. The letter references the workforce shortages seen during the pandemic and the issue of unfunded mandates. RCPA defined the mandates that cause strain being the credentialing requirement, increasing staff to client ratio, and clinical contact hour requirements – these are the key points to address for future state mandate to be successful.
- **Jana Morris, Recovery Revolution** – Promoted grief groups operating out of the Bangor-area Recovery Center, A Clean Slate. The Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) services known as THRIVE is also based out of the drop-in recovery center. Janet discussed summer activities including the upcoming Highmark Walk and other advocacy activities happening in the Slate Belt region. This is open to all individuals in recovery, near-term or longer-term. CRS: <https://thrivebangor.org/> Or call 610-452-9348 for more information. Recovery Center: <https://cleanslatebangor.org/> Program website: <https://recoveryrevolution.org/>
- **Donna Thorman, NAMI** – Discussed the effort to connect communities of faith to NAMI services, including parent to parent and peer to peer groups. Also, NAMI is uniquely positioned to provide trainings on Mental Health to interested faith communities. NAMI is doing presentations at churches, mosques, and synagogues in practical steps to support people in their congregations with mental health and then also to help individuals connect with different faith-based communities. Alicia from Access services described a similar program, known as Intersect, and would like to connect with NAMI to further the goals. https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/NAMI-FaithNet?gclid=CjwKCAjwuvmHBhAxEiwAWAYj-HCfifKgPUE4lyXNWHoWK3vQBAaMjUk-8de862qPaG476MGcAtwNohoC6QsQAvD_BwE Donna also shared NAMI Family Basic Program that CHA members can take at their leisure. <http://www.nami-lv.org/education-programs/nami-basics-education-program/>

III. **Member Forum** Matt Bauder reported for Ronnie that things seem to be going well overall, and that getting connected to Zoom calls has proven to be a challenge and difficulty at this time.

IV. **Provider Advisory Committee** – Cathy Murphy shared that Department of Human Services (DHS) is proposing to support individuals with lived experience, and their families, by funding organizations that provide prevention, intervention, and treatment services throughout Pennsylvania and locally in their communities. To achieve this goal, DHS is seeking to provide multiple awards up to \$500,000 for the 2021-22 state fiscal year. The due date is 6/3/21. .

<http://www.emarketplace.state.pa.us/Solicitations.aspx?SID=RFA%2016-21>

Cathy described the Mental Health Access Improvement Act introduced in the Senate in the federal government that would allow marriage and family therapists as well as licensed mental health counselors to participate in the Medicare Program.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/828>

Cathy shared The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) program to be something to watch for. \$3 billion was earmarked by Congress as part of the American Rescue Plan Act and will be dispersed through the Community mental health block grant. The block grant program is run by SAMHSA and supplies all 50 states and territories. The grant requires that grantees spend no less than 20% of their SABG allotment on substance abuse primary prevention strategies. Pennsylvania is looking at increases and program expansion. The current plan amounts to a 10% increase in home and community-based services.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/block-grants/sabg>

Members of the CHA may contact CATHLEEN.MURPHY@hhinc.org to discuss involvement in the Provider Advisory Committee work.

V. Children's Advisory Committee – Pat McGarry. Announced her retirement. There is a vacancy for the Children's Advisory Committee. Please contact Matt and Kristy if you are interested in serving.

Special presentation: Stephanie Dorney, Center for Humanistic Change. The Student Assistance Process (SAP) and Transition Back to School Protocol

The Center for Humanistic Change is the lead agency that coordinates SAP in all of school districts within Lehigh and Northampton counties. The Transition Back to School Protocol was originally created by the Children's Roundtable group lead by the Lehigh County President Judge. In 2020, the program was expanded to include Northampton County schools.

The transition back to school form, and the workflow, essentially serves to make direct warm handoffs to the schools for children stepping down from **inpatient, residential treatment facilities, and partial hospital levels of care**. SAP is also an opportunity to connect youth with outpatient services and address the learning needs through the SAP teams.

It is important for providers to be aware of SAP, and where possible, to institutionalize making warm handoffs to the schools through Center for Humanistic Change/SAP.

Information about SAP: <https://www.thehc.org/services/sap.html>

Transition Back to School Lehigh: https://www.thehc.org/file_download/6f7fdf66-93f1-42d5-a769-ee116d8382cb

Transition Back to School Northampton: https://www.thehc.org/file_download/34879edd-ec1b-4cb1-bbf0-70b7f3ebddd8

VI. Magellan

(Patty Marth - Reporting for Magellan's Compliance)

Email Blasts: The April Compliance Notebook/blast covered maintaining active licensure and MA enrollment. Providers are required to maintain both active licensure with The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) and/or The Department of Drug and Alcohol Program (DDAP), and active Pennsylvania Medicaid Enrollment at the rendering and contracted site location for all contracted levels of care. <https://www.magellanoftpa.com/media/6365/magellan-compliance-notebook-april-2021.pdf>

Bulletins:

- Bulletin OMHSAS-21-05, titled "Contracted Delegate Services" has been issued (attached) and [posted on the Department's website](#). The bulletin provides guidance to the county Mental Health/Intellectual Disability programs regarding the delegate function for delivery of emergency involuntary commitment services. Effective July 1, 2021, OMHSAS will begin enforcement of the requirement that emergency involuntary commitment services delegate function be performed directly by the governmental entity
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).
<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/docs/Publications/Documents/FORMS%20AND%20PUBS%20MAP/MAB2021032301.pdf>
- This [ASAM Alignment Memorandum](#) establishes a procedure for drug and alcohol treatment providers to request from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs additional time beyond July 1, 2021 in reaching substantial alignment with service delivery conditions under *The ASAM Criteria, 2013*.

- COVID-19 CFR Clarification for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Providers
<https://www.ddap.pa.gov/Get%20Help%20Now/Documents/COVID-CFR.pdf>
- DDAP revised the timeline for Licensure of Recovery Houses <https://www.ddap.pa.gov/Pages/Recovery-House-Licensing.aspx>

(Mitch Fash Reporting for Magellan’s Network Dept) - COVID-19 Alternative Payment Arrangement Update

- FULL APA’s have been in place since April 2020 and will end July 31, 2021.
- Beginning August 2021 monthly review of Providers service delivery with potential GAP payments as needed to supplement service ramp-ups.
- Incentives to get services ramped up are being worked on beginning 08/01/2021
- Providers on APAs were asked to submit detailed service plans that outlined how the APA would support onsite access, maintaining staffing levels, and capabilities.

(John Lees – Reporting for Magellan’s Clinical Dept. and Member and Family Advocacy) – Focus on IBHS

- Magellan continues to grow IBHS services and add providers. We continue to meet with potential new providers who express interest in joining our network.
- Magellan moved to Quarterly provider meetings starting Q2 2021. <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/services-programs/ibhs/>
- Magellan continues to offer IBHS providers TA call options 2x/wk as needed.
- Magellan continues to answer questions via the IBHS email box. For additional questions related to IBHS, please send an email to IBHS@MagellanHealth.com.
- Currently there are concerns about staffing availability beyond usual and across LOC which is statewide and not exclusive to just Magellan or IBHS.
- Please consider referring families in need of advocacy or treatment connection support to John Lees
JGLEES@magellanhealth.com

(Tom Walker – Magellan Strategic Planning)

- Tom provided an overview of the Regional Accountable Health Councils (RHAC), and the need to begin developing what is known as a Health Transformation Plan (RHTP) for the Allentown Center City region. Allentown was selected as an area of high Medicaid members and health disparities. The RHTPs are driven by community-based health needs assessments and stakeholder input and will work to promote health equity, eliminate health disparities, address regional SDOH needs, and support and guide population health improvement processes.
- There is a need to engage local leaders to craft and work a plan at the local level. Please email Tom at twalker@magellanhealth.com with membership suggestions.
- Here is the overview of the tool DHS used to determine the regions with a “granular geographic perspective of areas with significant opportunity to improve equity. <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/HealthInnovation/Pages/HealthEquity.aspx>
- More information about how the RAHCs are structured
<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/HealthInnovation/Documents/RAHC%20Program%20Overview%201.11.2021.pdf>

VII. Lehigh County Update – Matt Bauder, Corina Labish, Veronica Lefurgy

Matt reported that effective

Matt introduced Andrew “Drew” Lazo, Lehigh County HealthChoices Quality Assurance Manager. Liz Fox is retiring this fall, and Drew will be taking over the helm and is currently training under Liz and attending all of the oversight audits and QA functions for Lehigh County HealthChoices.

Matt provided some additional information about the Allentown Health Equity Zone, and the Regional Accountable Health Council work. Allentown was one of the five zones within the Lehigh Capital HealthChoices Region of PA included in initial round of geographies targeted and has not only the largest number of members, what is unique is that Allentown is truly urban vs. the other regions that are more rural. Currently, there are 57 collaborators across the Lehigh Cap Region actively working on the initiative.

Matt reported that RISE PA, the new social determinants of health information and referral system is suspended. On May 11, 2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) canceled its emergency procurement for the Pennsylvania Resource Information and Services Enterprise (RISE PA) tool to facilitate referrals to address social determinants of health (SDoH). The DHS vision is a statewide care coordination system for health care and social services provider organizations as well as state and local

agencies. Since January 13, 2021, DHS had been in negotiations with Aunt Bertha to create the RISE PA online platform. DHS has not released a timeline for the reassessment.

Matt concluded with a request to the CHA to consider that our group will need a new home once we are able to gather in-person. Agencies with meeting space that can accommodate 30-50 people is sought.

Corina and Veronica discussed a rising trend of children and adolescents presenting at emergency rooms with behavioral health crises who are not requiring hospitalization (according to the attending doctor) and who do not have resources to return to (often they are not welcome back home because of how challenging the presenting behavior are). As a group we are looking to address this trend. Any provider with creative ideas and/or want to get involved in a solution focused discussion, please let us know.

Northampton County Update – Kristy Bernard

Kristy shared that Northampton County is awaiting the state approval to advance 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 has broken ground on March 29th and is expected to be open by Jan 2022.

Kristy announced Northampton County is proceeding with re-procurement for Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization for the Program with an initiation date of January 1, 2022. Magellan is the current BH-MCO for Northampton County. A competitive RFP process was announced.

VIII. Next Meeting: September 22, 2021