

## HealthChoices Advisory Board

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc.

1 W. Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018

(Remote meeting due to COVID restrictions)

February 18, 2021 at 2pm

I. Introductions: Those in attendance were: Tom Walker, Matt Bauder, Lizabeth Fox, Kristy Bernard, Tisbine Moussa, Donna Thorman, Pat McGarry, Ronnie Colbert

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

III. Community Healthcare Alliance Report:

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

- Ronnie reported that things were going well
- Clients were slowly coming back to the program at Haven House
- It was reported that there is an option of doing a video chat or telephone session with therapist or doctor if the member isn't comfortable with Face to Face
- Haven House now has a Mobile Psych Rehab Unit
- Haven House has a Kitchen Training Program that recently started
- He reported minimal problems with MATP services and any issues that have come up are being addressed (mainly around inconsistent messaging on schedules)

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

- Discussed Cathy Murphy from Horizon House who expressed interest in joining the Advisory Board
- All Advisory members were in agreement with Cathy joining and thought she would be a valuable asset to the group in informing on adult issues
- Matt and Kristy also related the bylaws are being reviewed and updated
- Looking to develop a more robust advisory board
- Matt to send draft to Board for review and feedback

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

- Shared that IBHS has been implemented as of January 17, 2021
- All providers seem to be having difficulty recruiting BCBAs and RBT positions
- Tom noted that Magellan continues to bring on new IBHS providers when possible and Matt added that there have not been any providers turned away from joining the IBHS network

- Pat reported there is a mix of Face to Face and virtual services being provided based on family preference and staff comfortability

#### IV. NAMI/OMHSAS/Provider/Peer/News

- NAMI started Family to Family in March thanks to donated space by Northampton County. They are back to meeting in person again with everyone having their own 6ft table.
- Peer to Peer Training will be virtual and runs from March 18 through May 20.
- Faithnet Program - program aims to break the stigma of mental illness through the faith community
- The program uses the Agents of Hope Power Point
- NAMI also hopes to adapt the Agents of Hope Power Point to use with Recovery Net
- “In Your Own Voice” – MH program for school-aged children. Donna noted lower numbers for this program likely due to the on-going impact of COVID.

#### V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report

- May 7, 2021 Mental Health Awareness Walk at the Bethlehem Rose Gardens. This is dependent on the COVID-19 pandemic and the mayor allowing gatherings
- Recovery services are growing thanks to Valley Youth House’s TAY-CPS Program
- MBH continues with the School-Based Mental Health Collaboration
- Both NAMI and Valley Youth House agreed to present to the School-Based Collaboration
- Tom talked about children now reaching crisis period due to impact of COVID and lack of socialization and other skills
- First Episode Psychosis Program in Lehigh County has first member. CFF office is set up on Hamilton Street. Service Description is being developed and will be submitted to OMHSAS for approval
- MY LIFE continues to meet virtual. Donna commented that she has been attending and it is a great group. MBH sends the participants the supplies needed in advance to participate in the activity.
- Justice population will be a priority population for 2021. MBH will be enlisting a consultant-Nick Margiotti. The project will identify those that would be better served by the mental health services than the criminal justice system.
- Integrated Care programs are thriving. Lauren Keane has been promoted to Program Director. She has been working with the Physical Health MCOs on pilot programs including one focusing on access physical health services for Transition Age Youth.
- Community HealthChoices (CHC) continues to develop and expand. MBH is working with Northampton County to help seniors with mental health issues transition from nursing homes back to the community
- MBH has started Value-Based Purchasing with Case Management. This will enable improvements and strengthen efforts to improve follow-up after hospitalization and addressing SDoH

- Members with an Intellectual Disability are a priority population for this year. New programs for the ID population continue to be explored and there will be a new, specialized OP service to be offered beginning in June 2021 for member with MH/ID. The program will offer specialized outpatient programming to members currently residing in a CLA.
- MBH continues with bridge payments and APAs to providers to help providers remain solvent during the pandemic. D and A programs seem to be particularly vulnerable.
- Magellan is exploring various ways to improve the complaint process for members.

## 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, ABA 2:1, and Respite programs continue under reinvestment.
- The Clearinghouse contract with the Conference of Churches was approved by the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners on January 27, 2021.
- The Board of Commissioners also approved an amendment to the MBH contract related to changes in administrative costs.
- Matt talked about all the work being done at the state and local levels on SDoH. These initiatives include incorporating Community Based Organizations into Value Based Purchasing, Regional Accountable Health Councils, and the Community Based Care Management program.
- Molly Stanton was hired as the Assistant Director of the Lehigh County SCA.

## VII. Northampton County HealthChoices Report

- Northampton County continues reinvestment funding for the Conference of Churches Housing Program
- The ORLTSR-Housing for forensic population housing- the extension request was approved. Northampton County was able to shift funds to account for COVID, such things as sanitation, separate bathrooms, etc. Anticipated June/July 2021 opening.

- Northampton County's Respite programs continue to operate but COVID has greatly impacting referrals.
- New Reinvestment Plan was developed by Chelsea to address SDOHs. Tentatively approved by the state. Plan will allow for payment for daycare, clothing, transportation, and other needed commodities.
- Kristy noted that Northampton will be working with Lehigh County on development and implementation of a Community Based Care Management program with the Conference of Churches. The program will target members who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and discharging from AIP. Both counties are waiting for approval by the state. The original plans included payments for housing, education, transportation, etc. and the state determine that actual "commodities" cannot be funded with Medicaid funds. Thus plans needed to be resubmitted and received final approval in mid-February.
- Brian Watson the Deputy Director retired. Cathy Kromer was promoted to Deputy Director. Open positions have been filled and there are new staff at Northampton County Mental Health

#### VIII. Adjournment

Next meeting will be held on **May 20, 2021 at 2:00pm** at the Magellan Bethlehem office or via Zoom depending on COVID circumstances.