

**COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE**  
**Virtual CHA Zoom Meeting**  
**November 17, 2021 @ 2:00 PM**

**Attendance:** Tom Walker, Kevin Brockel, Jason Haller, Patty Marth, John Lees, Rochelle Reimert, Tim Custer, Suzanne Makary, Nolan Steffen, Alexis Harvey, Matt Bauder, Christine Higgins, Carese Grant, Michael Gallaher, Andrew Lazo, Jana Morris, Susan Mondaca, Kristy Bernard, Carl Kist, Kristen Bertucci, Janet Verga, John Jones, Paul Berlet, Leslie Ten Broeck, Jaleh Mohallatee, Mirka Piccone, Jay Deppeler, Janet Romero, Chris Ferry, Wendy Wright, Jeremy Shutts, Debbie Hess, Rose Fraley, Kyia Davis, Tamra McGee, Alicia Rohrer, Almut Dubischar, Jessica Teel, Lisa Duarte, Yalexia Duran, Bill Leiner, Kristy Bernard

I. **Review of September 15, 2021 meeting minutes.** Matt Bauder opened the meeting with a review of the meeting minutes. Minutes are approved.

II. **Provider Forum**

- **Suzanne McKary, St. Luke's** – the new Adolescent Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital Unit at Easton Hospital is expected to open January 5, 2022. St. Luke's outpatient school-based services program, known as YESS!. is expanding locations to Panther Valley, Pleasant Valley and Weatherly schools. Partial hospital program remains open in person at Chew St. location for individuals that are fully vaccinated. Virtual partial hospital services are provided out of Bowmanstown location and is appropriate for individuals that are not vaccinated or would prefer to be on a virtual platform.  
<https://www.slnh.org/blog/2022/new-adolescent-behavioral-unit-at-easton-campus>  
<https://www.slnh.org/pediatrics/specialties/behavioral-health>  
<https://findalocation.slnh.org/details/11174>
- **Bill Leiner, Jr, New Vitae** – Expanding traumatic brain injury residential program to a minimum of 16 slots, and possibly more. <https://www.newvitaewellness.com/mental-health-recovery-support-services/action-recovery-brain-injury-program/>
- **Jason Haller, KidsPeace** – KidsPeace reported on the staffing shortage. Multiple strategies are employed to recruit and retain staff. The agency invested in a billboard off Rt. 145, and this has proven to help spread the word about jobs, which is encouraging. The agency is also holding in-service trainings to address compassion fatigue and strategies to promote staff selfcare. 56% of staff are vaccinated at last employee pulse. Facilities are closed to visitors, however, a system for visitation is established. Logistics for vaccinated youth that would benefit from home passes are being worked out. Jason announced the December Clinical Café meeting focused on school-based outpatient services. Representatives from Lehigh Valley Health Network, KidsPeace and Pyramid are presenters. <https://www.kidspeace.org/clinical-cafe/> KidsPeace also is expanding the diagnostic program and announced a new adolescent male only program which opened 11/17/21. There are three diagnostic programs, for males and females, ages 6-18. More information <https://www.kidspeace.org/pa-residential/>
- **Jana Morris, Recovery Revolution** – Is fully staffed and open for referrals, both in-person and virtual telehealth services. Group services, such as Grief Groups for parents that lost their loved ones to the disease of addiction or suicide, continue. Jana announced success with the certified recovery specialist services. If you would like to refer a family to the grief groups, please contact Jana directly. [jana@recoveryrevolution.org](mailto:jana@recoveryrevolution.org) For all other services, please visit the website for guidance: <https://recoveryrevolution.org/services/>
- **Tamra McGee, Pyramid Healthcare** – Pyramid announced a seven-bed expansion at the Lehigh County Catasauqua-based detox facility for adult women in need of inpatient detox and rehab services. The expansion will be ready to admit new members end of January 2022. <https://www.pyramidhealthcarepa.com/locations/eastern-pennsylvania/residential-inpatient-treatment-lehigh-valley/> Tamra also discussed the importance of keeping individuals socially connected and announced the Hope Recovery Center is open for a meal and drop in on Thanksgiving Day. The Hope Recovery Center is a program of Treatment Trends and is in Allentown. Brochure <http://www.treatmenttrends.org/images/PDFS/HCBrochure.pdf>
- **Kristen Bertucci, Recovery Partnership, Northampton County Drop-in Center** – Announced a Certified Peer Support and Certified Recovery Specialist Jobs Fair 11/23/21 at Palmer Recovery Center, 10-3. Providers with CPS/CRS/CFRS will be at the event for tabling. Contact Janet Verga with Magellan for more information.
- **Jonathan Jones, Pennsylvania Integrated Clinical Services** – Located in Easton, PICS is a subsidiary of Lehigh Valley Adult Services, best known for its work with adults and seniors living with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (adult day center, in-home care, residential, transportation and waiver-funded services). The newest program is for mental and physical health. John described the innovative treatments offered by PICS which are available to people of all abilities and ages. These include behavioral services, such as talk and expressive therapies (art and music), behavior supports, psychiatric/medication management, as well as services that include physical and occupational therapy. Open Mon-Fri 9-5 <https://www.lehighvalleyintegrativeclinicalservices.com/>

**A Discussion on Vaccine Mandates:** Leslie Ten Broeck, Janet Romero, Chris Ferry, and Suzanne Makary contributed to discussion on the importance of alignment in policies for vaccination. As the CHA is aware, the City of Philadelphia issued Emergency Regulation mandating vaccine for COVID. This impacts healthcare workers and those in higher education, healthcare, and related settings. There is not such clear guidance within the Lehigh Valley, and no clear guidance from OMHSAS or CMS. Rather, there are many different requirements depending on the program specialty area, and it is creating some agencies to take a “wait and see” approach, whereas other agencies are more decisive on the topic. It does not help when the federal government puts out a directive, a legal challenge emerges, and this results in a stay of requirement. Workforce churn from one provider with a mandate to another without such a mandate is disruptive, expensive, and possibly avoidable. LVHN, St. Luke’s and Good Shepherd joined and came out with vaccine or exemption with testing requirements as a condition of employment. Less than 200 employees left and vaccination rates among workers improved. Many clients also look to their healthcare providers to answer legitimate questions about the vaccine. Physicians and leadership at agencies help to set an example. OSHA has listed guidance intended to help employers set policies that encourage safer workplaces, including workplaces free from recognized hazards.

**III. Member Forum** – Ronnie discussed new group offerings at Haven House that have been helpful to advance equity and welcoming communities for sexual and gender minorities. The groups are all running well. LantaVan transportation continues to be a reported issue. On the topic of vaccinations, members do understand the importance to get vaccinated and to be boosted, use of masks and distancing or quarantining, and whatever is necessary to stop the threat of COVID to health, safety and welfare. Members also appreciate the wisdom shared by doctors, and having good information helps. The flexibility that either in-person or telehealth services provides, coupled with good information, helps each person ultimately choose what is best for themselves and how to stay safe.

**IV. Provider Advisory Committee** – Cathy Murphy was not able to attend due to unforeseen circumstance and provided the following update by email.

#### *Adult BH Updates- November*

The primary focus for all service providers continues to be recruitment, retention and program viability. There has been some RCPA activities to communicate the urgency of these issues to the legislature to secure additional funding. This committee will be seeking stories from families and participants in the form of video, art work and other multimedia formats to share with the legislature, OMHSAS and counties. A Thanksgiving card is being sent to all telling the stories of those who need the services we provide.

#### *Upcoming for 2022*

RCPA and OMHSAS will be working to broaden the use of CRNP’s as primary prescribers.

As Value Based Purchasing becomes more prevalent and implement quality-based evaluation of care, OMHSAS will begin reviewing the PA Code regulations to reduce check mark compliance and redundancies. While this process may be lengthy it is positive movement away from paper compliance to quality of life measures.

Members of the CHA may contact [CATHLEEN.MURPHY@hhinc.org](mailto:CATHLEEN.MURPHY@hhinc.org) to discuss involvement in the Provider Advisory Committee work.

**V. Children’s Advisory Committee** –There is an opening for a lead of our Children’s Advisory committee. Any interested providers that can serve to represent the children’s behavioral delivery system should contact Matt and Kristy with your interest.

## **VI. Magellan**

### **(Patty Marth- Reporting for Magellan’s Compliance)**

**Email Blasts:** <https://www.magellanoftpa.com/for-providers/communications/provider-announcements/compliance-alerts/>

- **Sept 2021:** Provides a reminder to all contracted providers regarding expectations for Crisis/Relapse Prevention Plans.
- **Oct 2021:** Annual Compliance Training for providers held as a webinar on October 15 and an updated Telehealth FAQ released on October 18.

#### **Bulletins:**

- **The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP)** reminded stakeholders DDAP moved from the Kline Village Shopping Center to One Penn Center. Please do not send mail or other relevant information to the 132 Kline Village Shopping Center address.
- **Payment of behavioral health services delivered using telehealth technology previously issued in OMHSAS-20-02 Guidelines for the Use of Telehealth Technology in the Delivery of Behavioral Health Services.** Telehealth generally refers to the delivery of compensable behavioral health services using real-time, two-way interactive audio-video transmission. Telehealth does not include text messaging, electronic mail messaging or facsimile (fax) transmissions. These updated guidelines include the following key changes from OMHSAS-20-02: Permits the delivery of services through audio-only

without video, in limited circumstances, if consistent with Pennsylvania regulations and federal requirements, including guidance by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services with respect to Medicaid payment and the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights with respect to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance.

- Expands the use of telehealth service delivery to include drug and alcohol providers licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs for services paid for by the MA program.
- Expands the use of telehealth to include services provided by unlicensed mental health staff working through a licensed provider agency including unlicensed master's level therapists, mental health targeted case managers, mental health certified peer support specialists, certified recovery specialists, and drug and alcohol counselors (as defined in 28 Pa. Code §704.7(b)) as allowable for in-person services delivery in the MA Program.
- Permits the delivery of services through telehealth in community settings
- **The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) released Policy Bulletin 21-04 which documents modifications made to DDAP's Gambling Treatment Services Manual.** Effective 10/18/21, the following regulatory statutes and regulations are reinstated: 62 P.S. § 911(a)(2) - Visitation and Inspection; 62 P.S. § 1016 - Right to Enter and Inspect; 55 Pa. Code § 20.31 - Annual Inspection.
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Health Clinics (RHC)** procedure for submitting claims to the Department of Human Services for a take-home supply of naloxone distributed to Medical Assistance (MA) beneficiaries.

#### **Mike Ditty (Reporting for Magellan's Network Dept) -**

Magellan's Provider Town Hall is planned for 12/16/21. (For those that were unable to attend the live virtual event, below is the link)

[https://magellanhealth.zoom.us/rec/play/gRsExCi7LBcP1Oe1pFaBwzKbyBknn7IkGS4fSQU9UTX\\_zgZ7FzTl3voDhigWMwVKzqexhBHEZl1p2LNO.yU3Ab5rR71xBImIb?continueMode=true&\\_xzm\\_rtaid=qvWW-SMISXuv\\_TZWgkhlOw.1640111294389.7fb1e245ead91a31de76abd7fb66e96e&\\_xzm\\_rtaid=354](https://magellanhealth.zoom.us/rec/play/gRsExCi7LBcP1Oe1pFaBwzKbyBknn7IkGS4fSQU9UTX_zgZ7FzTl3voDhigWMwVKzqexhBHEZl1p2LNO.yU3Ab5rR71xBImIb?continueMode=true&_xzm_rtaid=qvWW-SMISXuv_TZWgkhlOw.1640111294389.7fb1e245ead91a31de76abd7fb66e96e&_xzm_rtaid=354)

Guidance for updating provider information on the website <https://www.magellanofpa.com/media/6624/updating-provider-information.pdf>

#### **(Carl Kist – Reporting for Magellan's Clinical Dept.) – Focus on ASAM Realignment and IBHS**

- IBHS Agencies are encouraged to attend the best practices presentation 11/18/21 on the Transfer of Skills to families and members. Discussion is led by John Siegler with Magellan and is third in the series of best practices trainings. For all trainings on IBHS, please visit <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/services-programs/ibhs/>
- Please visit Magellan's Substance Use Disorder Resources page. <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/community/sud-resources/>
- Magellan MYLIFE meeting schedule remains virtual and is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The holiday virtual celebration is 12/21 from 4-5:30. Please help to promote this socialization and leadership empowerment activities for youth and young adults. <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-members/community/my-life/>

#### **(Tom Walker– Reporting for Magellan Strategic)**

- **Announced Alternative Payment Agreements** with applicable providers will continue through at least the first quarter of 2022.
- **Magellan is issuing additional lump sums to assist with staff recruitment and staff retention. Providers will be asked to supply an attestation to use the dollars for staffing.**
- "Health and Hope in All Policies" campaign is an approach that incorporates health considerations into decision making across sectors and policy areas that impact SMI and SED. We have heard from providers that access to food, safe housing, transportation, and related SDoH needs are at an all-time high. Blended Case Management Partners in Care providers are collecting and reporting instances in which decisions that happen in multiple sectors outside of OMHSAS, impacts the Medicaid populations we serve. If any provider would like to submit a concern, issue, or compliment, please contact Tom Walker [twalker@magellanhealth.com](mailto:twalker@magellanhealth.com)

#### **(John Lees – Reporting for Magellan Member and Family Advocate)**

- John discussed his role as Member and Family Advocate for Lehigh and Northampton HealthChoices. The Member and Family Advocate acts as a point of connection between Magellan and members, their families, and other support individuals. John can also help to educate members about Magellan, advocate to meet their treatment need, and help them navigate services. John Lees can be reached at 610-814-8025 or [JGLEes@MagellanHealth.com](mailto:JGLEes@MagellanHealth.com)
- A flyer is available for download here: <https://www.magellanofpa.com/media/5339/familyadvocateflyer-march-2020.pdf>

VII.

### **Northampton County Update – Kristy Bernard**

Reinvestment Plan Updates:

The Outpatient Restoration Long-term Structured Residence construction project continues.

The Respite Program through Access Services and Affordable Housing Program through The Lehigh Conference of Churches continue.

Northampton County's newest Reinvestment Program is contracted. The new plan helps members access childcare, clothing, transportation, getting jobs, and things that are not currently covered under the state plan. The Easton Neighborhood Center is the provider of these services.

Mirka Piccone announced the success in hiring a new housing supervisor with the mental health base program.

### **Lehigh County Update – Matt Bauder**

Matt provided an update on all the current HealthChoices Reinvestment Plans. These include: HIFI Wraparound through Pinebrook Family Answers (13 families engaged in October with 5 new referrals pending), Respite Program through Valley Youth House (10 families served in October), Clearinghouse Housing Program through The Lehigh Conference of Churches (xxx individuals served in October), and 2:1 Applied Behavioral Analysis through ABA Support Services (highly specialized – no member currently enrolled in these services, but two possible family referrals currently being assessed). These programs are currently contracted with Lehigh County through the end of 2021 and approved through 2022.

Lehigh County submitted a new reinvestment plan to address more Social Determinants of Health. SDoH relates to members' health outcomes.

Lehigh County also submitted an expansion plan for the high-fidelity wraparound program and housing plan. The request is for three years through 2024.

### **VIII. Next Meeting: January 26, 2022**