

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

January 26, 2022 @ 2:00 PM

Minutes

Attendance: Andrew Lazo, Donna Thorman, Jana Morris, Lisa Duarte, Michael Ramsey, Wendy Wright, Rochelle Reimert, Laura Macnamara, Kristy Bernard, Marissa Turner, Kyia Davis, Jessica Teel Sadler, Elizabeth O'Conner, Tamra McGee, Donna Thorman, John Jones, Suzanne Makary, Cynthia Mazza, Bill Leiner Jr., Christine Higgins, John Jones, Tom Walker, Wendy Wright, Patty Marth, Matt Bauder, Jaleh Mohallatee, Jason Haller, Laurie Kraemer, Maria Flores

I. Welcome and Introductions

Kristy Bernard, HealthChoices Administrator for Northampton County, opened the discussion. The meeting is held virtually. Attendance is recorded in the chat box.

II. Review of November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were distributed prior to the session. The minutes are approved

III. Provider Forum

- **Donna Thorman, NAMI of Lehigh Valley.** Peer to peer education classes and weekly online family support groups are promoted. <http://www.nami-lv.org/nami-lehigh-valley-support-groups/>
- **Jason Haller, Kidspace.** Is celebrating 140 years anniversary; there will be a variety of events that will mark the anniversary. Please watch for the newest edition of Healing Magazine. www.kidspace.org The program is building up bed capacity for diagnostic and hospital programs. Jason also reported on staff vaccination rates. 69.53% of staff are fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
- **Christine Higgins, Merakey Wellness Recovery Team.** The Merakey Wellness Recovery Team (WRT) is an integrated behavioral and physical healthcare service for vulnerable members. They are accepting referrals. They are seeking to hire nurses. Please contact Christine for more information Christine.higgins@merakey.org or 484-456-3490
- **Wendy Wright, Treatment Trends.** Staffing is an issue. The COVID-19 spike impacted SUD treatment providers, both on staff and member side of the equation. Things are starting to stabilize. Job Fairs have been a successful strategy to gain workforce. The other update shared is that the Recovery Center, currently housed at St Johns UCC in Allentown, has outgrown the space. They are looking for a new program location. There is a sneaker drive for folks that attend the recovery center. Please email Wendy if you can help. The distribution date is 3/24/22. Email contact is Wendy Wright wendywright@treatmenttrends.org
- **Jana Morris (Recovery Revolution), Laurie Kraemer (Mid Atlantic Rehabilitation Services – MARS), Lisa Duarte (Bet El Counseling Services), John Jones (Lehigh Valley Integrated Clinical Services) and Tom Walker (Magellan)** discussed a recent trend in denials for behavioral claims for Medicaid Magellan members that are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. There is a cost-avoidance rule with Medicare being a primary payor for SUD treatment services effective 1-1-22, with an implementation date for providers to credential with Medicare by mid-August 2022. There is some confusion to the system with the services Medicare will credential and contract. Tom is collecting information from providers and is sharing with the Primary Contractors and the OMHSAS Field Office for guidance. It is becoming increasingly clear that the bulletin issued by the state and Medicare most directly applies to OBOT services and not drug-free SUD services. Tom is seeking direction from the state about the overall Medicare and State position, in writing, of what is in-scope and what is out of scope for cost avoidance. Mental health providers and Office Based Opioid Treatment providers seem to be able to credential with Medicare without an issue. Matt Bauder suggested this be taken to an upcoming state monitoring meeting, and work through the state channels equipped with as much information as possible.
- **Suzanne Makary, St Luke's Health System.** Announced the opening of a new Adolescent Acute Inpatient Hospital Unit in Easton, ages 12-18. Please contact 484-602-2733 for more information.

- **Tamra McGee, Pyramid Healthcare.** Announced plans to open an outpatient office in Eastern Northampton County. There is not a set projected date of program opening but is anticipated to open as early as March or April 2022. The program will offer a full array of outpatient MH and SUD treatment services.
<https://www.pyramidhealthcarepa.com/about-us/>
- **John Jones, Pennsylvania Integrated Clinical Services** is one of the newest providers for Medicaid/Magellan members. The program offers occupational therapy, music therapy, art therapy, medication management and outpatient psychotherapy for Magellan members, including Medicare. The program serves all ages and is accepting new patients. The program specializes MH and IDD integrated care. Located at 41 Community Drive Easton Pa., Info@onepensservices.com Tel: 610-438-5827 Web: <http://onepensservices.com/>
- **John Mooney, Step by Step.** The COVID-19 virus heavily impacted residential and outpatient treatment programs in January severely. Many were breakthrough cases for vaccinated individuals. The program reverted to telehealth services for safety. The programs are slowly recovering. Like many providers, staff are needed. <https://stepbystepusa.com/>
- **Bill Leiner, Jr, New Vitae.** Discussed COVID-19 breakthrough infections among staff and residents. These infections do seem to be tamping down. The program is also seeking to hire staff. The TBI, Traumatic Brain Injury, residential program has expanded and secured funding to expand the program eight beds.
<https://www.newvitaewellness.com/>
- **Maria Flores, Concern.** Offers MH OP in school and two clinics, one in Bethlehem and one in Easton. The programs are open for referrals, currently offering telehealth and in person services. The agency also provides residential adoption and foster care services. Seeking psychiatry staff.
<https://www.concern4kids.org/>
- **Jaleh Mohallatee CSG Partial Hospital Program.** Is offering MH/ID in person services for full days 8:50 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and is fully staff. Please connect for referrals - mohallated@csgonline.org or Tel: 484 203 8968

IV. Advisory Committee Reports

- Member/Family Advisory Committee** – Ronnie Colbert, Chair, was not able to present this month. Donna Thorman of NAMI provided a case example of an issue related to LantaVan paratransit services. One NAMI member was recently denied continuation of transportation services due to doing well at his community employment setting at the time of revalidation. Unfortunately, this is a setback to the member. Rochelle Reimert of Salisbury informed the group that six of their members were also recently denied at revalidation. The appeal process for service is listed on the website.
<https://lantabus.com/applications/> (page of all applications). Direct link to appeal information <https://seureservercdn.net/198.71.233.86/0g3.a45.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Eligibility-Appeal-Questionnaire-Medical.pdf>
Lisa Duarte of Bet El Counseling Services discussed a new ride program which is helping members get a ride to SUD treatment programs. The service is called Danny's Ride. <https://dannysride.org/>
- Provider Advisory Committee** – Cathy Murphy shared RCPA announcements. The telehealth survey outcomes report is published. <https://www.paproviders.org/rcpa-member-telehealth-survey-outcomes-report/> Cathy attended a RCPA presentation on the benefits of the carve out in Pennsylvania and detailed the many demonstrations of impact. All information is listed on RCPA website and goes back to 2008. Cathy suggests this as a good read. On the legislative front, Pennsylvania has a senate bill that's been introduced to make permanent many of the regulatory waivers allowed during the pandemic. National Council announced there are stalled funding provisions and credible threat to The Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act. The Act expands access to medication-assisted treatment and counseling and reduces regulatory burdens providers experience when seeking to provide MAT medication services. It was suggested by National Council to contact house and senate representatives. Cathy announced Magellan extended all COVID-19 Alternative Payment Agreement payments through June 2022.
- Children's Advisory Committee** – Vacant. No report.

V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report

- Patty Marth – Compliance**

Email Blasts:

- **Nov 2021:** we would like to ensure that licensed and contracted Outpatient Psychiatric Clinics have received the state's Chapter 5200 Regulatory Compliance Guide.
- **Dec 2021:** we provide a summary of the compliance e-mail blasts that were distributed during calendar year 2021.

Bulletins

- As part of the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) licensing quality initiative, OMHSAS is committed to developing Regulatory Compliance Guides for each level of care we license. We are beginning today with the distribution of the Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic Regulatory Compliance Guide (RCG). The RCG is a tool for providers, OMHSAS staff and the public to use for clarity on the state office's interpretation of each regulation.

This guide is a companion piece to 55 Pa. Code Chapter 5200; it should be used along with the regulations, not instead of them. The explanatory material in this guide is not meant to be "new regulations" or to extend meaning of the regulations beyond their original intent.

- The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs released [Licensing Alert 03-2021](#) related to Staffing Regulations - Qualifications/Degree in a Related Field
- The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) released [Policy Bulletin 21-05](#) which documents modifications made to the Standard General Terms & Conditions (SGTC), DDAP Fiscal and Operations Manual, and Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG) Provisions.
- **Recovery House Licensure Program is Live** December 11, 2021, the *Pennsylvania Code and Bulletin* published the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' (DDAP's) regulations at 28 Pa. Code Chapter 717, Standards for Drug and Alcohol Recovery House Licensure.

The regulations can be found here:

<http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol51/51-50/2058.html>

b. Mike Ditty – Network

- **Confirmed** Magellan and County partners are extending the APA gap payments and APA bridge payments through end of June 2022. Information for providers is available on Magellan's website, or by contacting Mike. msditty@magellanhealth.com
- Mike reminded about Pennsylvania enrollment requirements when moving practices or adding locations. It is important to notify Magellan early in the process. Please outreach to Mike at the above email address if this situation applies to your organization.

c. Tom Walker – Clinical

- There are some FBS providers in LV with availability.
- IBHS availability remains limited but we encourage families to outreach Magellan and our current providers are using our twice monthly Access Survey to try to assist families in connecting with providers who have some availability.
- Magellan continues to meet regularly with interested IBHS providers to bring in network to increase capacity.
- Magellan held another webinar with CHOP this past week to assist them in understanding IBHS and how they can assist families best.
- Magellan held our Q1 2022 IBHS provider webinar recently and reviewed with the providers some enhancements to our Care Management approach which will be driven by data.
- We continue to update our provider IBHS webpage, offer technical assistance calls as needed, and respond to questions on our IBHS email.

a. John Lees - Member and Family Advocate

- Provided an overview of Member and Family Advocacy services in 2021.
- For 2021 the Member and family advocate supported 243 unduplicated members from Lehigh and Northampton counties.
- Over 600 contacts were made averaging anywhere between two and three contacts per Member.
- 11% included individuals or families, parents and others involved with folks receiving services looking for assistance with a referral to services.
- 18% of the contacts were related to services themselves, such as inquiries about services; maybe they've been told they should investigate a particular service but they're not quite sure what is involved, so they would outreach with questions related to that.
- 24% were escalated within Magellan. Often the Clinical department can help, and occasionally the escalation would be to the Quality Department, depending on the need.
- Please do not hesitate to refer members to John or call to discuss member needs.

jglees@magellanhealth.com Tel: 610-814-8025

b. Tom Walker – 2021 Strategic Update

- A big THANK YOU goes out to all providers for their achievements and support to the Medicaid program despite an incredible challenge these past two years. Magellan is proud of the work done, and brave support to deliver high quality services to members with behavioral health and physical healthcare needs.
- Tom provided some key areas to highlight among the 2021 program achievements. New goals will continue to evolve.
- 2021 selected accomplishments:
 - NCQA Distinction for Multicultural Healthcare is maintained
 - Implementation of Successful Prevention, Early Detection, Treatment and Recovery (SPEDTAR) for Substance Use Disorders: Addressing the Continuum of Care for Individuals with Substance Use Disorders Performance Improvement Project (PIP). Magellan received feedback from IPRO the EQR that Magellan “passed” the Year One submission of the PEDTAR PIP. Magellan initiated COD project in collaboration with State PIP to identified providers, introduced Value Based Purchasing Model and Metrics to identified OP COD providers, and self-audit tool to identified providers. Collaborated with DHS, COEs, MCOs and PERU to establish VBP metrics/data sharing.
 - Magellan is incorporating nonprofit Community Based Organizations (CBOs) into VBP arrangements with Network providers to address SDOH in line with Key Performance Indicators. An example is the Conference of Churches Pathways Housing Program which helps stabilize rents for members at risk of losing housing and who had a recent acute psychiatric hospital admission
 - On the Drug and Alcohol Front, Magellan transitioned providers who have demonstrated consistent Co-Occurring Disorders standards, to engage as needed and graduate from intensive support. This is a program Magellan offers all providers seeking to expand services and gain new co-occurring competencies. Additionally, Magellan initiated and provided COD training for all MBH clinical staff. Additionally, Magellan monitored residential providers inclusion of MAT as treatment option, assisted providers and counties with the full implementation of ASAM criteria, and amended QI audit tools to reflect ASAM implementation.
 - The Clinical Team developed an IBHS management plan to implement in 2022. More information will be shared in future CHA meetings and on the provider webinars. Other accomplishments include completing Transition to Independence Audits. Magellan’s Virtual MY LIFE events continue to be offered monthly. Team continues to brainstorm ideas for youth development once in person activities resume.
 - Integrated PHBH care remains a top priority for Magellan. Progress remained stable for IH daily notifications and coordination topics with the PH MCOs. Tobacco cessation remains stable.

- Magellan accomplished many strategies to increase the penetration rate of members engaged in PSS (CPS + CRS), particularly following discharge from Acute Inpatient and other 24-hour levels of care. Youth engagement strategies, CPS services delivered to individuals in nursing facilities, and support to expand and develop the workforce were all achieved in 2021. Magellan is working on a Peer Support Strategic Plan for 2022 which will be shared in future updates.
- Providers were invested in year-round through APAs and more recently, staffing recruitment and engagement payments

VI. Lehigh County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues - Matt Bauder presented on key reinvestment plan updates

2021 Results

- Respite [Valley Youth House]: 22 members served in 2021 including: 10 active cases in home and community-based services; 4 cases in family driven; and 3 in site-based. Of note, Mike Ramsey and Barb Vaupel of Valley Youth House wanted to promote the offering of site-based services every Saturday of each week from 11-3:30 (weather permitting), at Muslim Association of the Lehigh Valley.
- High Fidelity Wraparound [Pinebrook Family Services]: 27 unique members served in 2021 with 12 active cases in December
- Supported Housing /Clearinghouse [Lehigh County Conference of Churches]: 250 members served in 2021 with 25 new members served in December
- 2:1 Therapeutic Staff Support-ASD, Behavior Specialist Certified -ASD. One members in 2021 for about 1 ½ months. There were several referrals, but is highly specialized.

Updated plans

- Matt requested a five-year extension of Clearinghouse Housing Services through 2026, a four-year extension for High Fidelity Wraparound through 2024. The plans are approved but monies cannot be transferred until a formal letter of acceptance is received.
- The 2:1 and Respite Plans are set to expire at the end of 2022 and given these have been successful and beneficial programs, Matt is seeking to continue these plans through 2024.
- Reinvestment Plans that have been submitted, but waiting for state approval
 - Adding money to the comprehensive housing plan to greater support members through Project Based Operating Assistance given reported success of program
 - Seeking reinvestment program to provide commodities related to Social Determinants of Health – a SDoH plan was created and submitted for review on September 10, 2021.

Other updates from OMHSAS, shared by Matt:

- A few homes and community-based services have newly approved funding issued by the state for staff retention. This is somewhat of a mystery program announced through the OMHSAS Stakeholders Group. This OMHSAS Stakeholders meeting is a virtual webinar format held monthly.

Matt strongly encourages providers to attend these meetings for updates. Significantly, four programs have been identified by the state to receive lump sum payments to help with staffing. This is above and beyond anything Magellan and Counties have been supplying to providers. The state identified Family Based Services, Mobile Crisis Services, Psych Rehab and IBHS services to be eligible to apply for funding, through an attestation process. Matt does not have additional details, and this is one good reason for providers to attend the stakeholder calls.

VII. Northampton County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues, shared by Chelsea Jones.

- Easton Neighborhood Center for SDoH Plan is approved. Extremely close to a go-live date.
- The ORLTSR, construction project is pushed back until March 2022.
- Housing programs through conference of churches was submitted for extension, and is currently set to expire in June 2022.

- Northampton County’s Respite Program is evolving to possibly include an in-home respite option for families.

VIII. Meeting Schedule

Date	Chair	Minutes
January 26, 2022	Kristy Bernard	Magellan
March 23, 2022	Matt Bauder	Magellan
May 25, 2022	Kristy Bernard	Magellan
July 27, 2022	Matt Bauder	Magellan
September 28, 2022	Kristy Bernard	Magellan
November 16, 2022*	Matt Bauder	Magellan

* Third Wednesday

IX. Contact Information

Committee / Organization

Member/Family Advisory Committee
 Provider Advisory Committee
 Children’s Advisory Committee
 Lehigh County HealthChoices
 Northampton County HealthChoices
 Magellan Behavioral Health of PA, Inc.

Contact Name

Ronnie Colbert
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 Vacant
 Matt Bauder
 Kristy Bernard
 Tom Walker

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