

## COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

March 23, 2022 @ 2:00 PM

### Minutes

Attendance: Tom Walker, Kevin Brockel, Almut Dubishar, Mike Ramsey, Jason Haller, Nolan Steffen, Cathy Murphy, Lisa Duarte, Chelsea Jones, Matt Bauder, Paul Berlet, Susan Mondaca, Terry Sears, Ken Garavaglia, John Lees, Drew Lazo, Bill Leiner Jr., Jessica Teel Sadler, Wendy Wright, Christine Higgins, Carl Kist, Marissa Turner, Sue Lettera, Tamra McGee, Nikki Baker, Kristy Bernard, Rochelle Reimert, Paul Iannacone, Tisbine Moussa, Jaleh Mohallatee, Barb Vaupel, Kyia Davis, Leslie Ten Broeck, Donna Thormann, Suzanne Makary, Janet Verga, Yalex Duran, Corinna Labish

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

Matt Bauder, HealthChoices Administrator for Lehigh 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

- **Yalex Duran, Treatment Trends.** Celebrating the one-year anniversary of the recovery center in Allentown. Food/refreshments will be available to celebrate. Assessments in-person or telehealth are available at the center. The agency is recruiting CRS providers.
- **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 staffed for partial and their Outpatient programs. Referrals can be made for both programs, attention: [mohallated@csgonline.org](mailto:mohallated@csgonline.org) Tel: 484 2038968
- **Jason Haller, KidsPeace.** Outpatient and partial hospital services are available in person or through telehealth. The program lifted mask restrictions for fully vaccinated individuals. OMHSAS licensing, Joint Commission review, Evidence Based Practice reviews are complete; all reviews have gone well. Jason reminded of availability of three diagnostic programs (one for adolescent boys, one for adolescent females, and one coed diagnostic and shelter care).
- **Tamra McGee, Pyramid Healthcare.** Licensing and enrollment are next steps for the outpatient clinic in Easton, Northampton County. There is not a set projected date of program opening but will not happen in April, as was previously reported. The program will offer a full array of outpatient MH and SUD treatment services.
- **Bill Leiner, Jr, New Vitae.** Discussed New Vitae's efforts to hire staff. It may be time to start thinking any available worker that meets minimum standards and see if these workers make it through probationary period. This was done in the past, and there were downstream issues. However, given the staff shortage, it might be time to try this again.
- **Cathy Murphy, Horizon House.** Recent gas prices have negatively influenced job offers. Individuals are telling the recruiter they cannot afford to drive to work and declining jobs.
- **Mike Ramsey, Valley Youth House.** Successfully recruited a Spanish-Speaking Certified Peer Support Worker. Referrals can be made to- Barb Vaupel [bvaupel@valleyyouthhouse.org](mailto:bvaupel@valleyyouthhouse.org)
- **Donna Thorman, NAMI Lehigh Valley.** Promoted NAMI Basics OnDemand in the chat. NAMI Basics OnDemand is a free, six-session online education program for parents, caregivers and other family who provide care for youth aged 22 or younger who are experiencing mental health symptoms. NAMI Basics OnDemand is an adaptation of the in-person course. <https://nami.org/Videos/NAMI-Basics-OnDemand>

#### IV. Advisory Committee Reports

- a. **Member/Family Advisory Committee** – Ronnie Colbert, Chair, discussed LantaVan issues do continue and encourages members to self-advocate and file complaints. Increasingly, there are now different

support staff in programs. Consistency in support staff in programs, be these LantaVan drivers or the greeters in programming, is very important. One LantaVan driver did return an item accidentally left behind on a van, because he knew who this belonged to. Ronnie said this sort of thing matters greatly.

Ronnie shared another topic that has not been discussed with the CHA. Specifically, Ronnie shared his thoughts on how perceived neighborhood safety is an important aspect of reaching long-term recovery goals. Ronnie asked providers and the state to consider safety when building new programs and licensing them. So often people fail in reaching their treatment goals, if they are not safe at home and their neighborhoods are not safe. Ronnie will report on this topic in future meetings.

**b. Provider Advisory Committee – Cathy Murphy reported**

- As many as 200,000 children stand to lose Medicaid coverage across PA, and the impact will occur on the adult side as well, when the federal emergency declaration ends. Over 600,000 Pennsylvanians gained MA coverage during the pandemic that had not had these benefits previously. When the emergency declaration ends, many are at-risk of losing coverage or will need to change benefits to another plan. Providers should be working with their clients to be sure healthcare coverage applications are made ahead of what looks to be a possible April 14<sup>th</sup> deadline when these rollbacks could start. Matt Bauder clarified that the rolling back of MA benefits would be as a phased approach to best meet the needs of individuals and families, possibly over six months or more to afford individuals time to prepare.
- Governor Wolf is calling for a July 1<sup>st</sup> increase in minimum wage to \$12 per hour, and then ultimately growing to \$15 per hour in incremental increases. At this time, the state has no provisions to increase provider revenue to match these wages, amounting to an unfunded mandate which may be a significant issue for providers that are still struggling to remain solvent.
- Governor Wolf's 2022-3 Budget includes \$100M in new funding to behavioral healthcare, including both mental health and substance abuse treatment services. Dollars will also be used to restore some county funding that had been eliminated from the state budget ten or so years ago.
- In July 2022, 988 will become the national three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, linked to the current phone number of 1-800-283-TALK (8255). However, Pennsylvania still has more work to do with crisis services in general, so will not be promoted by the Commonwealth to PA residents until July 2023; this is to allow for some more time to truly integrate all aspects of crisis response and to build the infrastructure. Pennsylvania is receiving dollars to support infrastructure change. The state handles and routes calls from a Lifeline Center for local dispatch and must be ready for increased capacity.
- On the topic of crisis intervention and crisis concerns among our members, Tom Walker shared movie screenings will be held regionally with moderated panel discussion with film director, film subject, and local advocates and experts May 3,4, and 5. The movie My Ascension is a documentary film about a young person that attempted to take her own life by suicide and survived with a mission to help build peer to peer support in schools and strengthen community understanding of suicide prevention and what is involved. The movie is meant to trigger a community dialogue.

**c. Children's Advisory Committee – Vacant. No report.**

**V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report**

**a. Patty Marth – Compliance**

**Email Blasts:** <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/>

- **January 2022:** Reminders made to Assertive Community Treatment Team providers
- **February 2022:** Reminders made to Substance Use Disorder Case Management services providers.

## Bulletins

- The Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) added a third option to its' list of approved ASAM criteria, education, and modified the ASAM transition web page. <https://www.ddap.pa.gov/Professionals/Pages/ASAM-Transition.aspx>
- DDAP also announced they are seeking members for the Medication Death and Incident Review Team. Application is due 5/19/22
- Providers in need of Telehealth waivers from OMHSAS, covering deliverable considerations for MH Intensive Case Management, Outpatient Psychiatric Services and Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Clinic Services, is due 3/31/22

### b. Mike Ditty – Network

- An updated fee schedule is released to Drug and Alcohol providers impacted by ASAM have been sent out and are in place with effective date of 1/1/22.
- Alert: ASAM changes require termination of the H0018 code – this code will end 7/1/22.
- Drug and Alcohol Partial Hospitalization services has an updated code; H0035, HF, is now a 15 min. code.
- For providers enrolling in Medicaid for programs, DHS now provides a Tracking Number through the website portal. This tracking number allows providers to go back to the application and track the status and progress of the enrollment application.

### c. Carl Kist – Clinical

- Once the emergency declaration ends, there will be a return to the pre-certification process and Medical Necessity review criteria. Once the declaration expires, and when calling Magellan, we will need the clinical information to be able to support the need for 24-hour levels care, for example. A full listing of requirements is here <https://www.magellanofpa.com/providers/provider-resources/medical-necessity-criteria/>
- The Magellan youth festival MY Fest event is being planned for as in-person this year. Please visit <https://www.magellanhealthcare.com/about/mylife/>
  - Lehigh Valley MY LIFE groups will be returning to in-person meetings in near future.
  - Please contact Michele Davis for more information and for promoting meetings with youth [MLDavis@magellanhealth.com](mailto:MLDavis@magellanhealth.com)

### a. John Lees - Member and Family Advocate

- Magellan is seeking families to serve on the Lehigh Valley Autism Action Committee. This group is looking to create a Transition Guide for Autism and IDD members as members age out of the children's system. Meetings are in-person and hybrid/virtual option.
- Please do not hesitate to refer members to John or call to discuss member needs. [jglees@magellanhealth.com](mailto:jglees@magellanhealth.com) Tel: 610-814-8025

### b. Tom Walker – 2021 Strategic Update

- \$4M invested in ASAM rate increases across Pennsylvania
- Northampton County DUOS pilot program, personal assistance for older members (ages 60+), is now steady state. If you know of an individual that may benefit from 1:1 support to help with connections to social determinants of health, benefits, or coordination of services, and is a Northampton HealthChoices member, please do not hesitate to make a referral. Up to four hours of services is available per member per month, not including time spent in finding resources. <https://member.getduos.com/partner>
- A subcommittee of the Lehigh Valley Employment Task Force is organizing to produce a health and human services jobs fair. We are looking for human resources or marketing professionals from organizations to help us with promotion and coordination, particularly with area colleges and graduate alumni and internship programs. Please email Tom and Janet with your interest and availability [twalker@magellanhealth.com](mailto:twalker@magellanhealth.com); [vergaj@magellanhealth.com](mailto:vergaj@magellanhealth.com)

- Tom reported that community-based crisis residential programs and CPS Reflections 24/7 peer-to-peer respite programs are underutilized while our local emergency rooms are overflowing and unable to keep up with mental health crisis demands. Please make all appropriate referrals through County Crisis or agency-to-agency referrals to possibly prevent unnecessary use of emergency departments and lengthy waiting times to access acute inpatient psychiatric treatment. Crisis intervention services are listed in the Magellan Member Handbook, on page 6. Additional information is available through Provider Search on the Magellan website. Cathy Murphy with Horizon House/Robbins Bower Crisis Residence is also available to discuss referral processes for admission criteria for crisis residence program [CATHLEEN.MURPHY@hhinc.org](mailto:CATHLEEN.MURPHY@hhinc.org)
  - <https://www.magellanoofpa.com/provider-search/>
  - <https://www.magellanoofpa.com/documents/2021/06/pa-member-handbook-2.pdf>  
<https://www.magellanoofpa.com/documents/2021/06/pa-member-handbook-spanish.pdf>

#### **VI. Northampton County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues, shared by Kristy Bernard.**

- All reinvestment programs previously reported as expiring in June 2022, have been extended until 12/2022.
- Easton Neighborhood Center for SDoH Plan is approved and contract is executed. Staff hiring is underway, with one person already onboarded. Will provide an update on availability for making member connects at next CHA meeting.
- The ORLTSR, construction project is pushed back due to supply chain issues. Will update CHA as things progress with construction.
- Kristy and Chelsea are available to discuss any questions about accessing housing programs through Conference of Churches or making connections to the respite plans through Access Services

#### **VII. Lehigh County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues - Matt Bauder presented on key reinvestment plan updates. Drew Lazo presented on the reinvestment planning process. Corinna Labish announces retirement.**

##### Matt Bauder, Reinvestment Plan Updates

- Experiencing staffing issues with 3 of the 4 plans reporting being understaffed. The Clearinghouse housing program is the one reinvestment program that does not have a staffing issue currently.
- Pinebrook's HIFI Wraparound served 10 cases in February with 12 pending referrals
- Valley Youth House Respite Program served 7 members in February in the home and community-based program. There are 13 members on the waiting list.
- Conference of Churches Clearinghouse Housing Program served 43 members in January. February data is soon to come in. There are 67 members other new referrals pending intake for housing services. Lehigh County is going to add back in Bridge Housing subsidy.
- 2:1 ABA Autism Services assessed one member for services in January.
- All plans set to expire in 2022 have been extended with exception of 2:1 ABA, which is set to expire 12/22. 2:1 ABA will also be extended prior to this date to enable and continue the service in future years.

##### Drew Lazo, Reinvestment Planning Process

- Reviewed the document circulated with today's agenda on stakeholder ideas for Reinvestment plans and submission process for plan ideas. Please follow the guidance provided and submit to Drew [AndrewLazo@lehighcounty.org](mailto:AndrewLazo@lehighcounty.org)
- Drew and Matt would also like to run focus groups to review submission information and plan ideas.

##### Corinna Labish, Retirement and A Call to Action

- Is retiring after 30 years. Corinna expressed gratitude to work so closely with all the "amazing and wonderful" providers, families, and individuals over these many years.

- Corinna shared the team has a coverage plan and that Veronica could be consulted in the meantime with any questions or needs.
- Corinna shared her parting wish is to see some more solutions developed for kids, particularly in crisis, or those that are difficult to place. Thirty years ago, there were about 100 children in residential facility placement, and that number has shrunk down to less than a dozen. Working hard brought these numbers down and the process works in keeping children in their homes. But the struggles are very real for the few children that are not accepted anywhere. Not in hospital and not in residential facilities, mostly due to aggression.

#### 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  
 Cathy Murphy  
 Vacant  
 Matt Bauder  
 Kristy Bernard  
 Tom Walker

##### Email Address

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