

HealthChoices Advisory Board

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc.
1 W. Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018
(Remote meeting due to COVID restrictions)
February 17, 2022 2pm

- I. Introductions: Those in attendance were: Janet Verga, Tom Walker, Kristy Bernard, Tisbine Moussa, Chelsea Jones, Donna Thorman, Matt Bauder, Cathy Murphy, Andrew Lazo
 - Janet Verga introduced herself as a new Advisory Board member. Janet was invited due to her role as Certified Peer Specialist, Magellan Recovery Support Navigator, and for the work she does on other various Advisory boards. Janet explained her role and how she attempts to support members through her work.
- II. Review of November 18, 2021 minutes – No issues and accepted.
 - There was discussion regarding the HealthChoices Advisory Board by-laws. Matt explained that he, Kristy and Tom recently met to review the current by-laws and explore changes that could result in larger membership representation on the Board. Janet noted that other advisory boards are experiencing similar challenges and struggles with membership. By-laws will continue to be reviewed and updated as needed.

III. Community Healthcare Alliance Report:

Member/Family Advisory Committee

- Ronnie was not present, but Matt spoke with him and provided an update
- Haven House programs continue to receive new members
- Members are happy that restrictions are starting to be lifted
- Members are still being seen either through telehealth or in person if that is what they desire

Provider Advisory Committee – Cathy Murphy

- Staffing recruitment and retention funds are a hot topic across the provider network currently
 - Providers are attempting to figure out how best to utilize these funds
 - These funds have come from both state and county
- The state is reconvening the Call 2 Change in March
 - Members are being identified for the committee
 - Horizon House has a staff identified for it

- RCPA will be forming a Value Based Purchasing Committee and they are currently putting together the membership for such
 - It was noted that it would be good for Magellan to have a representative on the committee

Children's Advisory Committee – Vacant

- Continued outreach at CHA but there has been no interest shown. Targeted outreach is being discussed.

IV. NAMI/OMHSAS/Provider/Peer/News

- Donna noted that NAMI is hoping to start Family to Family in person classes again in March
- NAMI is holding it's community dinner on April 2, 2022
- NAMI's Peer to Peer classes are on-going; information can be found on NAMI's local website
- Donna reported that NAMI has been looking into an advocacy campaign called SMART advocacy
 - This campaign helps members and families learn how to contact local and state representatives when there are needs present

V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report

- Tom reported that the Magellan/Centene merger was completed on January 4, 2022
 - Tom noted that there will be little if any noticeable change but did indicate that there will likely be more resources available given that Centene is a national company
- Tom noted that Magellan is following the states lead on a number of various initiatives including:
 - Algorithmic Bias Analysis
 - QPQM (Quality Projects Quarterly Meetings)
 - Integrated Care and Whole Person Health
- Tom indicated that the Provider Profiling process is being reviewed with the hopes of providing greater global feedback to providers and better help inform the QA processes
- Tom reported that the counties continue to discuss plans and duration for provider gap payments and Alternative Payment Arrangements that were put in place as a result of the pandemic
 - Tom noted that the current APAs have been extended through the end of June 2022 with the possibility that they may be extended further should circumstances warrant such.

VI. Northampton County HealthChoices Report

- Northampton County continues funding for the Conference of Churches Housing Program. A 5 year extension to the housing plan was requested as well as adding money to the plan to keep it sustainable.
- The ORLTSR is still under construction but has a tentative completion date of Mid-March as long as there are no manufacturing or supply issues. The hope is to begin admitting members by May. A 6 month extension was requested for this plan given the construction delays.
- The Respite program continues with no changes.
- Discussions have started again with Haven House regarding the MH program at Gracedale. Currently exploring options to transition funding from Northampton County Base funding to HealthChoices funding.
- Contract with the Easton Neighborhood Center to implement the Social Determinants of Health reinvestment plan has been completed. They are currently working on hiring for the program.
- The Community Based Care Management programs for each County were discussed with regards to current plans and feedback from the state. The role of the Community Health worker was reviewed and how he is attempting to support members that are currently in AIP and with few housing options or supports.

VII. Lehigh County HealthChoices Report

- Matt provided updates on Reinvestment Plans including Respite, High-Fidelity Wraparound, 2:1 Program, and Clearinghouse. All reinvestment plans are approved through December 2022 with extensions submitted for HI-FI Wrap, 2:1 Program and Clearinghouse. An extension for Respite will be requested in fall.
- Providers of the respective reinvestment plans remain Valley Youth House for Respite, Pinebrook-Family Answers for High-Fidelity Wraparound, ABA Support Services for the 2:1 program, and Conference of Churches for the Housing Clearinghouse.
- Lehigh requested to add money to the Project Based Operating Assistance Program run through PHFA as part of the Comprehensive Housing plan. Lehigh MH Base continues to note how beneficial the program has been in stabilizing housing for members but that

the funding is beginning to decrease such that new members are not being referred to the program.

- Lehigh has implemented a First Episode Psychosis program operated by Child and Family Focus. Initial referrals have been very slow and strategies to increase referrals continue to be discussed.
- Lehigh County is still waiting for feedback from the state regarding the re-submitted Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) Reinvestment plan to address issues such as transportation, food insecurity, education, clothing, and child-care. The re-submission occurred in January but nothing has been received back to date.
- A Discussion regarding current challenges with salaries and staffing occurred. Many providers are running into staffing issues.
- Lehigh County HealthChoices received Board of Commissioner approval for the 2022 Magellan sub-contract at the December 15th BOC meeting.
- Lehigh County HealthChoices received Board of Commissioner approval for the Letter of Intent to Contract with Magellan Behavioral Health for Calendar Year 2023 at the February 9th BOC meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Next meeting will be held on **May 26, 2022 at 2:00pm** at the Magellan Bethlehem office or via Zoom depending on COVID circumstances.