

HealthChoices Advisory Board

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc.
1 W. Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018
(Remote meeting due to COVID restrictions)
May 26, 2022 2pm

I. Introductions: Those in attendance were: Janet Verga, Tom Walker, Kristy Bernard, Tisbine Moussa, Chelsea Jones, Donna Thorman, Matt Bauder, Andrew Lazo

II. Review of February 17, 2022 minutes – No issues and accepted.

III. Community Healthcare Alliance Report:

Member/Family Advisory Committee

- Ronnie was not present

Provider Advisory Committee – Cathy Murphy (Not in attendance)

- Discussed Potential end of PHE at CHA yesterday.

Children’s Advisory Committee – Vacant

- Discussed at CHA yesterday looking for candidates. Matt remembers Tom heard from someone last time and gave info to the potential candidate. Tom never heard back again. Tom will send another email out to see if the person is interested.

IV. NAMI/OMHSAS/Provider/Peer/News

- Donna noted that she is retiring on June 24th. She will continue to participate as parent/family advocate on many committees including this one and only represent NAMI if needed at other meetings when NAMI asks.
- NAMI has an opportunity to get more info out on MH. Contacted by Greater Orlando Florida NAMI. They put on a play called ‘Every Brilliant Thing’. They are putting it on during the Shakespeare Festival starting June 7th for two weeks. Looking for anyone to volunteer, they get two free tickets also. It will include putting a table up for first half hour and then 10-15 minute Q&A after play.
- July 13th is annual picnic. Band plays and lunch provided.

- Might be holding rare summer Peer to Peer 8 week class. They are trying to put it together.

V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report

- Certain things within the program that are changing and we need to prepare for. Medical Assistance program roll backs once the Emergency Declaration at the federal level ends. The newly enrolled and those that were receiving Pandemic Related MA, once declaration ends, there will be return to pre pandemic practice. There is a 60 day requirement to be given to those individuals. DHS at state level has assembled a list of tools to help providers/counties/MCOs to prepare to protect those who still need it. This will help individuals getting alerted to this change. . LAST PHE was extended for 90 days. Mid October is potentially when it can end. We would be given notice the end of August if it were to be ended. We were given toolkit to help work with members and will begin to do so.
- Janet and Tom have been collaborating with providers to discuss workforce issues. It was a subset of Employment Task Force. An employment Jobs Fair will be occurring. Sue Latera from Lehigh is working on a venue at Iron Pigs stadium, sometime in October. Kidspace has agreed to supply marketing and HR personnel to assist. Also New Vitae and VYH are assisting. Hope is to have on the spot Job Offers. Full Health and Human Services job fair. Promotion should be started end of summer.
- Provider Closures is a pressing issue. 3 notification over last quarter. APA extended through end of calendar year 2022 to help with this.
- Looking at several key investments next year and awaiting OMHSAS rate request decision. Won't hear until fall. Focus on Episodes of Crisis and crisis needs, Work force investments and stabilization, and continued investment in Evidence Based Practices particularly focused on children and families and justice involved members.

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. Still awaiting response.
- Easton Neighborhood Center has hired a person for the SDOH plan. Will start with soft Opening. Referrals will go through Chelsea
- The ORLTSR is still under construction but has a tentative completion date of June as long as there are no manufacturing or supply issues. COMHAR is hiring and planning. Base has begun to work with the Court to identify members that will be appropriate.

- The Respite program continues with no changes. Very little utilization. Some changes through the state have been requested to assist with access and awaiting state response. Getting info out to CYF as well.
- Northampton has historically piggy backed on Lehigh's efforts for reinvestment planning. Offer is to assist and help with anything that would be both county members to support those efforts. Matt said an idea that was brought to him was to grow Trauma Focused CBT to OP services. When Matt asked the state, training can only be approved if tied in to a startup. Cannot work as a training collab by itself, but response was can't just be training. 'Likely get it through if more to the collaborative than training' was the wording they used. Maybe they meant transfer of learning, ongoing support. Could be worth looking into more and we will put on our thinking caps. Northampton Base had asked about cross training between MH and DP.
- 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.
- Northampton County has new CASSP coordinator. Paula Kenderski. Came from CYF. MH has many openings and MH supervisor position has just posted.

VII. Lehigh County HealthChoices Report

- Matt provided updates on Reinvestment Plans including Respite serving 7 members in community based and 4 in family driven, High-Fidelity Wraparound have 6 members, 2:1 Program has 1 member, and Clearinghouse has 23 members served with waitlist (spend on members going up because rents and other expenses are going up). An extension for Respite will be requested in fall. Seeing under- utilization and staffing issues with all of these providers. Hoping Job fair in Fall could be helpful. Gwen is the new replacement for Karina in children integrated services unit and she will get more involved in Respite to approve utilization.
- Received response from OMHSAS for some extensions. Providers of the respective reinvestment plans remain Valley Youth House for Respite, Pinebrook-Family Answers for High-Fidelity Wraparound through 2024, ABA Support Services for the 2:1 program through 2024, and Conference of Churches for the Housing Clearinghouse through 2026.
- Social Determinants of Health Reinvestment plan is still in process of approval through OMHSAS. June 8th it will be reviewed. There was some confusion that it included housing, which it did not. That has been cleared up. It had to do with his 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. Money was added but the money is not meant to be permanent and Base will be looking at how to get members out of the program into permanent solutions.

- Drew has been going through the Reinvestment Planning Process and getting letters out to solicit ideas for service needs and gaps.- Some ideas have been submitted. Compiling list through August and will prioritize. And then see what can be operationalized and put into practice. Some focus groups will be occurring. Hopefully Haven House, MyLife (first face to face next Friday June 3rd) as well as looking for other opportunities. If NAMI would be interested in holding something like that it may be a nice opportunity to get input on needs.

VIII. Adjournment

Next meeting will be held on **August 18th, 2022 at 2:00pm** at the Magellan Bethlehem office or via Zoom depending on COVID circumstances.