

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

July 27, 2022 @ 2:00 PM

Minutes

Attendance: Tom Walker, Rochelle Reimert, Jessica Teel Sadler, Matt Bauder, Mike Ramsey, Barb Vaupel, Patty Marth, Ryan Flynn, Carl Kist, Susan Mondaca, Nancy Knoebel, Tisbine Moussa, Marissa Turner, Amy Appello, Jessica Apgar, Wendy Wright, Gwen Millets, Kristy Cole, Joe Simpkins, Drew Lazo, Jaleh Mohallatee, Elizabeth O'Connor, John Lees, Tamra McGee, Alicia Rohrer, Bill Leiner, Cliff Aulizio, Janet Verga, Paula Kenderski, Ken Garavaglia, Tim Custer, Lindsey Paisley, Janet Romero, Wendy Wright, Patty Marth

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 May 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

III. Provider Forum

- **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 Tel: 484 2038968. Program is fully staffed.
- **Wendy Wright, Treatment Trends.** Announced Fall 2022 Training Series. <http://www.treatmenttrends.org/index.php/training/tti-training-institute> Trainings are open to all providers. Registration fees may apply.
- **Mike Ramsey, Valley Youth House.** Offering Spanish-Speaking or English-Speaking Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapies. Grant funded. Referrals can be made to- Mike Ramsey mramsey@valleyyouthhouse.org
- **Tamra McGee, Pyramid Healthcare.** The outpatient clinic in Easton, Northampton County is open. The program will serve adults ages 18+, and offer IOP and OP services. The program will begin Adolescent treatment services in the future at that site location. Tamra also shared Pyramid is offering a new Veterans residential drug and alcohol treatment facility. Currently offered in Dallas. Tamra will update the CHA at future meetings. <https://www.pyramid-healthcare.com/pyramid-healthcare-inc-opens-outpatient-treatment-program-in-easton-pennsylvania/>
- **Elizabeth O'Connor, Lehigh Valley Adult Services.** Open for medication management, art, music, and talk therapies. Also Occupational therapy. <https://www.lehighvalleyadultservices.com/integrative-clinical-therapy>
- **Alicia Rohrer, Access Services.** Moving staffing from contracted status to full time employee status in effort to retain staff and build caseloads in IBHS program. There is current availability. <https://www.accessservices.org/services/intensive-behavioral-health-services/>
- **Ken Garavaglia, KidsPeace.** Promoted Clinical Café training series. Tom will send flyer out for Aug 3 training on Family Based Services. Future trainings are published here <https://www.kidspeace.org/clinical-cafe/>. Ken described the final steps related to the Orchard BH closure of the Allentown/Chew St. location. Most of the HealthChoices members choose to stay with their therapists and choose to stay with KidsPeace program for OP at an alternative Orchard location.
- **Bill Leiner, Jr, New Vitae.** Discussed New Vitae's efforts to hire staff. <https://www.newvitaewellness.com/about-new-vitae-wellness-and-recovery/careers/>
- **Tom Walker** provided a summary of the physical/behavioral health provider surveys for employment and a planned jobs fair (Spring 2023). Event will be held at Iron Pigs stadium, likely March 2023. Cost will be shared with provider agencies. Keeping cost low is a priority. There is a committee working on planning. The recent survey released to PH and BH Health and Human Services providers revealed that the workforce

mostly needs entry level positions, although all staffing levels and degreed/licensed/credentialed staff are sought. The committee is planning to engage area colleges and universities for marketing to students.

- **Tom Walker, reporting for 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> Also, Tom will send out information on the upcoming NAMI Walk. Lastly, Donna wanted to share the family and peer support groups available <https://nami-lv.org/support-and-education/support-groups/>

IV. Advisory Committee Reports

a. Member/Family Advisory Committee – Paulette Hunter thanked KidsPeace for promoting Family Based Services at the upcoming Clinical Café series. This information will be helpful to families in need of support, steps to get connected, and what to expect from behavioral healthcare treatment.

b. Provider Advisory Committee – Cathy Murphy reported

Psych rehab regulations are currently under review for revision and they're out for public comment, one of the biggest changes is that psych rehab will now be available to anyone 14 and older and they've expanded the diagnostic criteria to include.

Rochelle Reimert noted proposed regulations as they are stated do not autism and that will still be an exception, which is why the psych rehab providers, Magellan, and even state workers advocated for expansion during the public comment window. The public comment period closes 8/8/22 and is time to submit comment.

Cathy continued with updates. Across the Commonwealth suicide rates fell to 12% for every 100,000 people. Rising risk is also indicated among older Pennsylvanians– 30% increase in completed suicides among individuals over 54 years of age.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is a national effort to make for safer communities; key features include expanding community care behavioral health centers, broadening Telehealth use in schools and providing funding for 988. Here is a one-page description

https://www.murphy.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/bipartisan_safer_communities_act_one_pager.pdf

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/>

May 2022: Remind all contracted providers of their obligation to report Performance/Outcome Management System (POMS) data. This communication provides a description of the requirement and reviews the mechanism by which the information must be reported to Magellan. Effective July 1, 2022, Magellan will no longer accept hard copy or paper submissions of POMS data. The information must be submitted online through the Magellan Provider Portal.

June 2022: Remind contracted Outpatient Clinics about the Pennsylvania Medicaid regulatory limitations for Group Therapy (90853) size. The regulations currently differ slightly for licensed Psychiatric Outpatient Clinics and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Outpatient (OP) Clinics. However, there is a waiver process that SUD OP Clinics may follow to request an expansion in the allowable size for up to twelve individuals.

Bulletins

- **OMHSAS Policy Clarification**
Student Interns: Service and Billing Standards

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has provided a [policy clarification](#) on the ability of providers to bill for services provided by students in accredited internship programs. Specifically, it addresses the question of whether services rendered by the student intern can be recognized under payment conditions if the student intern meets the requirements of a lesser credentialed position.

- **OMHSAS Releases Updated IBHS FAQ**

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has released an updated [Intensive Behavioral Health Services \(IBHS\) Frequently Asked Questions](#) document. RCPA and the IBHS Work Group have reviewed the document, and the only update pertains to the recently signed Act 12 of 2022, which allows for a 45-day provisional hiring period for new employees as they wait for the completion of or the rewiring of clearances.

- **[DDAP announced](#) that it had published regulations for the licensure program for drug and alcohol recovery houses was accepting applications.**

Those regulations stated that the provision for issuance of fines would not take effect until 180 days after they were published.- June 9th

- **The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has issued an update to the IBHS Bulletin titled “Provision of One-to-One Intensive Behavioral Health Services in a Licensed Location,” which is now Bulletin OMHSAS-22-03**

- This Bulletin has been updated for several reasons that include removing the reference to service description addendums. Providers that want to provide individual services or ABA services at a center should address these services in their initial service description or in an updated service description as described in 55 Pa Code § 5240.5.
- OMHSAS is also updating this bulletin to remind providers that regardless of where services are provided, assessments should be conducted across the home, school, and community environments to best inform treatment and to clarify for how long it is clinically appropriate to provide center-based services.

- **Gov. Wolf Signs HB 2401: COVID-19 Regulatory Flexibilities**

To Be Continued to October 31, 2022

The signing of the bill [extends certain suspensions](#) of regulations and statutes that were previously issued by agencies under the COVID-19 disaster declaration to October 31, 2022.

- **OMHSAS New Telehealth Bulletin: Revised Guidelines for the Delivery of Behavioral Health Services Through Telehealth**

OMHSAS has released the new telehealth bulletin titled “[Bulletin OMHSAS-22-02](#)” that updates the guidance contained in OMHSAS-21-09 regarding documentation of consent and the use of electronic signatures as well as revises the billing instructions related to the place of service (POS) codes and modifiers to be used for telehealth. In addition, this bulletin addresses the ability of licensed practitioners who serve less than five individuals to request approval to deliver services using telehealth where they do not maintain a physical location in Pennsylvania within 60 minutes or 45 miles (whichever is greater) of the area served.

- **Gov. Wolf Signs Act 76 of 2022**

Expands Psychiatric Telehealth Flexibilities

- **Update: OMHSAS Telehealth Bulletin Provides Verbal Consent Clarification**

RCPA continues its review and discussions with the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) regarding the changes in the recent publication of the [OMHSAS New Telehealth Bulletin: Revised Guidelines for the Delivery of Behavioral Health Services Through Telehealth](#), we wanted to provide members an updated clarification on the standards on verbal consent. The guidance we have received from the Department of Human Services (DHS) is that verbal consent is acceptable if a specific process is in place.

b. John Lees (Reporting for Mike Ditty)– Network

- Reminder to providers to work to resolve denied claims. For any claims resolution questions, the first step is to call the Customer Service Associate (CSA) line. Lehigh/Northampton Providers Call: 866-780-3368
- It is important to notify Magellan and County if your agency is moving location of practice.

c. Carl Kist – Clinical

- <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/>
- Magellan hosts virtual education conferences on a variety of topics. August 25th, there will a Motivational Interviewing presentation for Medication Assisted Treatment. Registration information will be sent to providers by email.
- Magellan Provider Town Hall is announced. Date: August 29,2022. Registration information was supplied in the meeting chat.
- 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 are now in-person.
 - Please contact Michele Davis for more information and for promoting meetings with youth MLDavis@magellanhealth.com

d. 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 Tel: 610-814-8025
- There is an August 2022 Magellan Member Advisory Workgroup meeting. Tom will email details to the group once finalized.

e. Tom Walker – 2021 Strategic Update

- Tom provided details about upcoming events, the importance of promotion of the member meetings shared by John, and reminder that the end of the Public Health Emergency Declaration will have impact on individuals in care. With the PHE declaration, some requirements are suspended, which once lifted, may put members at risk of losing coverage. Please see this website for helping HealthChoices members stay enrolled. It is time to act before the end of the PHE.
- <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/phe/Pages/default.aspx>

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

- Housing reinvestment plan is extended five more years. Provider: Lehigh Conference of Churches. The County is possibly seeking to expand rental subsidies for contingency and bridge rental assistance.
- Respite Services. Provider: Access Services. There will be some program changes to the Respite Program in response to family feedback. Kristy and Chelsea are working on a redesigned flyer, which will be shared in the Fall 2022, highlighting changes and improvements.

- Social Determinants of Health. Provider: Easton Neighborhood Center. Chelsea Jones is the lead County worker that can answer questions. The provider is in “soft-launch” state of program build out. It is open, but more limited while the workflows are tested. The provider will coordinate daycare, clothing and transportation services that members cannot get access to elsewhere.
- The ORLTSR construction continues delays due to supply-chain issues. The construction project is going on 30 months.
- Operational Update: Paula Kenderski has been named Northampton County Children’s CASSP Coordinator. pkenderski@northamptoncounty.org Welcome aboard Paula! Kristy said Paula has “hit the ground running.” Paula introduced herself and discussed the multi-system approach in Northampton County. Please connect for children’s placement, advocacy and welfare needs.
- Operational Update: Jackie Foley was named Forensic Program Specialist within the Mental Health Base team.

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

Matt Bauder, Reinvestment Plan Updates

- Experiencing staffing issues.
- In June, Valley Youth House Respite Program served 10 members in the home and community-based program. There were 5 members served in the family driven component, and 3-5 members attending site-based services.
- Pinebrook’s HIFI Wraparound served 8 cases in June with 8 waitlisted/pending referrals
- Conference of Churches Clearinghouse Housing Program served 62 members in June. The transition to independence program helps members achieve independence in rental payments within three months. There were 39 individuals served through the Housing Contingency program.
- 2:1 ABA Autism Services is serving one member with multiple complexities and intensive staffing support.

VIII. Meeting Schedule

Date	Chair	Minutes
January 26, 2022	Kristy Cole	Magellan
March 23, 2022	Matt Bauder	Magellan
May 25, 2022	Kristy Cole	Magellan
July 27, 2022	Matt Bauder	Magellan
September 28, 2022	Kristy Cole	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 Cole
 Tom Walker

Email Address

burail1980@yahoo.com
CATHLEEN.MURPHY@hhinc.org

mattbauder@lehighcounty.org
KCole@northamptoncounty.org
twalker@magellanhealth.com