

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

November 16, 2022 @ 2:00 PM

Minutes

- I. Welcome and Introductions. Matt Bauder opened the discussion. Stakeholders are reminded to enter their names/affiliations in the chat room at the start of each meeting after the recording starts. Meeting attendance was recorded, but not all individuals entered.

Attendance recorded in the chat: Nolan Steffen, Shannon Salvo, Rikki Swavely, Alexis Harvey, Chelsea Jones, Donna Thorman, Amy Appello, Jody Matthews, Marie Lisby, Rosemary Fraley, Bill Leiner, Jr., Christine Higgins, Shannon Salvo, Gerardo Grasso, Kyia Davis, Jana Morris, Marissa Turner, Ronnie Nase, Don Panto, Joanne Matthews, Tamra McGee

Attendance in person: Matt Bauder, Kristy Cole, Drew Lazo, Ronnie Colbert, KC Carpenter, Tom Walker, Mirka Piccone

- II. Review of 9/27/22 Meeting Minutes. Minutes are approved.

III. Provider Forum

Almut Dubischar, Bet El Counseling Services – Bet El Counseling Services will be closing program operations by 12/23/22. Providers able to receive referrals should contact Almut with availability. Especially critical is the ability to receive Medicare Primary and Dually Eligible HealthChoices members. Gerardo Grasso with Pennsylvania Integrated Services has Medicare therapy and medication management services and can receive Medicare primary and dually eligible HealthChoices members by referral.

Bill Leiner, Jr., New Vitae – Announced a ribbon cutting ceremony @Mount Trexler Manner facility. Opening an eight-resident cottage for traumatic brain injury 11/17/22.

Shanon Salvo, Access Services – Entering into contract with Lehigh County to provide respite services for children and families. The project is slated to open January 2023, contingent upon workforce development. Services are inclusive of in-home respite, and out of home respite in family homes specifically licensed and credentialed for this purpose. Access Services is also the provider of respite services for Northampton County and this addition affords a single referral resource for the Lehigh Valley families.

Christine Higgins, Merakey Wellness Recovery Team – Christine announced staff hiring and expansion of integrated health services. Members in need of physical and behavioral integrated care should contact Christine for more information about the program.

Jana Morris, Recovery Revolution – Now has five recovery specialists on staff, delivering peer support impacting addictions. Additionally, case management/assessment services can travel and lend support with other needs in the area. Jana expressed interest in consulting on difficult cases. Even if the services would not be the right placement, Jana and team will provide guidance and support leading to improved clinical outcome.

Kristen Bertucci, Recovery Partnership. Announced the Easton Drop In Center has a new home, located at First Presbyterian Church, 333 Spring Garden St., Easton. Program runs in the basement. Hours: Tue-Thu 10-4.

Donna Thorman, Parent – Donna continues involvement as a volunteer with NAMI since retiring earlier this year. Please consider promoting NAMI services and please build this into information shared with families and individuals. NAMI is hopeful to backfill Donna's role with NAMI LV, and anticipates a staffing announcement in December.

Ronnie Nase, PeerStar – Provided information about Certified Peer Support and a new program collaboration with Lehigh Valley Crisis Intervention Services. PeerStar is embedding CPS services into the Crisis teams 20 hours

per week for mobile assessment and community connections to recovery services. Also, PeerStar has entered into collaborative agreements with area nursing facilities. Please consider referrals to PeerStar for peer support needs, and recovery support services for forensic and older adult populations.

Joanne Matthews, therapist in private practice, requested support for a child (age 7) in need of potty-training services in the home. Family has MA insurance and is receiving services provided by Lehigh County Office of Children, Youth and Families. Donna Thorman suggested The Arc may be able to provide support to the family. Joanne said she does not believe the child has an intellectual disability and is looking for medical and other in-home services engagement. The first step is to discuss the need with the pediatrician to rule out medical issues, or contact the Special Needs Unit of the member's physical health plan.

Jaleh Mohallatee, Community Services Group, announced that registration of the subacute partial hospital program for members with IDD/MH dual diagnosis is underutilized. The program is considering reducing partial hospital hours and increasing therapist time for 1:1 services. There is a waiting list for 1:1 talk therapies, and the change will meet the community demand for services.

IV. Advisory Committee Reports

a. Member/Family Advisory Committee – Ronnie Colbert

Ronnie Colbert – Discussed the need for transportation, housing subsidy, and social connection opportunities for members. Ronnie promoted mobile psychiatric rehabilitation for members who may not want to travel to program, but still have identified recovery needs. Ronnie discussed Thanksgiving plans and options for members. Please consider promoting psychiatric rehabilitation programs and, to be sure to make calls to individuals that might not have seen in treatment program for a while and are not showing up to scheduled appointments. There is always a reason. Ronnie has found that making the time to contact individuals really helps individuals to remain connected.

Janet Verga, Peer Support Network – discussed changes in LANTA Van services, especially staffing changes, is creating some hardship for members. New drivers are not aware of the usual places to drop off and pick up individuals for medical and nonmedical transportation services, and not yet built the relationships to know the members by name and by need. One member was not allowed on the van due to a clerical error, and the name was not correctly identified on the list. Ronnie said it is important to work with the services to help them gain orientation.

b. Provider Advisory Committee – Cathleen Murphy

Cathy was unable to attend today's meeting. Discussion centered on the topics of trainings, especially trainings for Certified Peer Support (PA Certification Board Approved) and Question Persuade Refer (QPR) trainings. Janet shared that Chelsea Jones with Northampton County HealthChoices can help to provide trainers for Northampton County providers through the Suicide Prevention Task Force initiative.

Getting trainings approved through the PA Certification Board for Peer Support is a newer challenge. One of our local Lehigh Valley groups was able to gain approval to host an ethics training for CPS workers, which is encouraging.

c. Children's Advisory Committee – Vacant

V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report

a. Tom Walker – Reporting for Patty Marth/Compliance

October 2022: includes important reminders for Partial Hospital Program (PHP) providers specific to billing and other regulatory reminders.

Bulletins:

The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) released Licensing Alert 02-2022 related to the process for establishing Mobile Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTPs).

DHS ALERT — Civil Rights Regulatory Compliance Update

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is providing a critical update to those providers who hold a license to operate a facility licensed by DHS. On August 18, 2022, DHS and RCPA released an alert regarding changes in how licensed agencies provide information related to civil rights compliance. Since that time, DHS has received several questions and is providing further clarification.

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) is pleased to share the Pennsylvania Behavioral Health Telehealth Phase II Roadmap, developed in collaboration with the OMHSAS Telehealth Steering Committee and Mercer Government Services Consulting. This report focuses on identifying and prioritizing recommendations for short term and long term implementation of telehealth services in the Commonwealth.

On October 28, 2022, House Bill 1630 was signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf as P. L. Act 98 of 2022 and is effective immediately. This law repealed three sections of the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) regulations at 55 Pa. Code § 1153.14(1); § 1223.14(2); and § 5230.55(c) that were previously suspended by the Public Health Emergency. Behavioral Health (BH) providers now may deliver and bill for BH services through audio-only telehealth for both Outpatient Psychiatric Services and Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Services that is consistent with OMHSAS bulletin OMHSAS-22-02, titled “Revised Guidelines for the Delivery of Behavioral Health Services Through Telehealth” that was issued on July 1, 2022. Additionally, BH providers delivering Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services now have the ability to provide supervision through a video or audio platform. To restate, the purpose of this email is to inform you that the following sections have officially been repealed.

Outpatient Psych Services

1153.104(1) –

§ 1153.14. Noncovered services.

Payment will not be made for the following types of services regardless of where or to whom they are provided:

(1) A covered psychiatric outpatient clinic, MMHT or partial hospitalization outpatient service conducted over the telephone.

Outpatient D&A

1223.14(2) -

§ 1223.14. Noncovered services.

Payment will not be made for the following types of services regardless of where or to whom they are provided:

(2) Clinic visits, psychotherapy, diagnostic psychological evaluations, psychiatric evaluations and comprehensive medical evaluations conducted over the telephone, that is, any clinic service conducted over the telephone.

Psych Rehabilitation Services (PRS)

5230.55(c) -

§ 5230.55. Supervision.

(c) A PRS director or psychiatric rehabilitation specialist designated as a supervisor shall meet with staff individually, face-to-face, no less than two times per calendar month.

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has extended certain flexibilities with the expiration of the Pennsylvania Public Health Emergency on October 31, 2022. The temporary suspension of provisions in certain OMHSAS bulletins and other non-regulatory guidance documents will expire on December 31, 2022.

b. Mike Ditty – Network

Announced Magellan Provider Town Hall will be held 12/19/22. Registration notice will be sent to contacts on file.

With the recent move to Availity Essentials on November 1 to access PA HealthChoices claim status, Magellan wants to ensure our provider community stays up to date with the training resources available through Availity Essentials. Please see the information below to access the most current resources available, with materials being updated frequently. We ask providers to reach out to us at MBHofPA@magellanhealth.com with any service-related issues and appreciate your patience with this transition. You can access the Availity Learning Center by taking the following steps: • Log in to the Availity Portal (for login assistance please contact, Availity Customer Support at 1-800-282-4548). • Click Help & Training | Get Trained in the top navigation bar. The Availity Learning Center displays in a separate tab/window. • Locate and search by keyword or filter by category to locate the course. • Once the course is located, click Enroll at the top right of the screen. • Once you have selected enroll and start, you'll also be able to access a handout.

c. Carl Kist, Clinical

Training was held 11/10 on the best practices, and ABA IBHS coordinated care for members living with autism spectrum disorder. Recorded sessions are available on Magellan's website under the Providers/Training tab.

d. Tom Walker for John Lees - Member and Family Advocate

We are preparing for our next Member Advisory Workgroup meeting. The theme will likely focus on identifying solutions to the challenge our members have shared with their experiences in trying to access services. We are looking at having the meeting at NHCLV, at their Easton location as a follow up to our August meeting. Next location in the 1st quarter of 2023 will be a Lehigh County site.

This meeting would be open to all HealthChoices members, but we also hope to pull from members in the centers NHCLV. We will promote widely. This will be an in-person meeting.

We are working on finalizing the agenda and I will forward that once it's complete. Please let me know if there are any county specific agenda items you would like to include.

The date and time will be: Wed 12/7 from 1-3. Please hold the date and please promote. Tom sent out the promotional flyer to the CHA distribution list.

e. Tom Walker - Strategic

For some individuals with complex health and behavioral health conditions and social determinants of health needs, care is fragmented across providers. Police and other first responders have limited options in a behavioral health crisis and rely on emergency departments and jail -- Magellan seeks to strengthen Integrated Care approaches.

Throughout 2022 Magellan held a monthly Crisis Systems meetings as a bi-county initiative. The key areas of focus were to define opportunities to increase viability of existing crisis residential facilities and explore the overall Crisis System Model for hospitals and first responders.

More currently, Magellan convened a bi-county meeting to evaluate the OMHSAS SFY 2022-23 Crisis System Planning, Mobile Response Teams, and Crisis Walk-in Centers Services RFP. Magellan chartered a member focus group on crisis services. Magellan led the plenary discussion on addressing stigma at Harvest Full of Hope Recovery Conference.

Magellan will be attending a planning meeting for the Garrett Lee Smith youth suicide prevention grant under Lehigh County Dept. of Human Services.

Kristen Bertucci of Recovery Partnership provided some details about the focus group findings. Members are concerned about having to travel long distances to receive inpatient care due to local hospital diversions attributed to the pandemic. Where this also matters are in cases when individuals end up “stuck” in other regions and potentially lose insurance. Kristen presented on peer desires to see more CPS services embedded in crisis services, and thanked Ronnie at PeerStar for the innovative model. Ultimately, the HealthChoices member focus group would like to see a true co-responder model in place in the Lehigh Valley, and prevent law enforcement interventions.

Tom provided an update on provider stabilization investments, which are slated to end in December 2022, with final payments continuing through Q12023.

A Lehigh Valley Health and Human Services Jobs Fair is announced to be held 4/13 at Penn State Lehigh Valley. Over 40 providers will engage students (college, high school, and recent alumni) in a robust curriculum of how to find, get and keep jobs/internships as well as opportunities to meet with key local providers.

VI. Northampton County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues

Kristy provided key updates on the status of reinvestment plans.

Social Determinations of Health – Operated by Easton Neighborhood Center. They are providing coordination with daycare, clothing, assistance, and transportation services that couldn't be accessed elsewhere. Contact is Chelsea Jones with Northampton County HealthChoices to make a referral.

Lehigh Conference of Churches Housing Program – still maintaining the program. The program offers contingency and bridge rental assistance \$ subsidies.

Access Services – Respite program is open to Northampton County members.

ORLTSR – still finalizing construction. The reinvestment plan has been updated to extend the plan through CY2023, allowing for finalization of construction and eventual funding under Magellan/HealthChoices.

The homeless population is a new reinvestment plan/proposal for a warming shelter in winter and cooling shelter in the summer. In early phase of development, new housing opportunities and services may be provided. More information will be shared at future meetings.

VII. Lehigh County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues

Respite Plan – Valley Youth House discontinued services in September. The new Respite Services provider will be Access Services. The program is slated to open January 2023.

HIFI Wraparound – Pinebrook Family Answers engaged 11 members in treatment, and there are additional eight members that are being engaged for admission. They are doing a nice job in hiring staff and working through the referrals and connecting members to care. The waiting list is substantially down, now about six members, and is manageable.

2:1 ABA Services – One member is enrolled in this highly specialized program, looking to step down to more traditional IBHS supports. The program is seeking referrals.

Housing Clearinghouse – Operated by Conference of Churches. Thirty-two members were served in September.

Social Determinants of Health – Plan is approved by the State. Lehigh County is in discussions with the Conference of churches as they will be implementing the program plan. The Conference of Churches is already implementing our community based care management plan to the State, and this is the best fit to be able to supply the commodities required for members with SDoH needs engaged by the Community Health Workers and the community based care management plan.

Matt provided critical updates to the CHA about the Emergency Declaration and the unwinding of the Public Health Emergency. We want to make sure that our members can maintain their MA to continue to receive services. We will continue to discuss at the CHA meetings.

The Behavioral Health Commission completed recommendations for spending the \$100M allotment – the plan recommendations was provided to Legislators in Harrisburg. A formal plan is expected after the new administration is established in January 2023.

VIII. Other

IX. Meeting Schedule

Date	Chair	Minutes
January 25, 2023	Kristy Cole	Magellan

* Third Wednesday

X. Contact Information

Committee / Organization	Contact Name	Email Address
Member/Family Advisory Committee	Ronnie Colbert	burail1980@yahoo.com
Provider Advisory Committee	Cathy Murphy	CATHLEEN.MURPHY@hhinc.org
Children’s Advisory Committee	Vacant	
Lehigh County HealthChoices	Matt Bauder	mattbauder@lehighcounty.org
Northampton County HealthChoices	Kristy Cole	KCole@northamptoncounty.org
Magellan Behavioral Health of PA, Inc.	Tom Walker	twalker@magellanhealth.com