

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

March 22, 2023 @ 2:00 PM

Minutes

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.

Attendance recorded in the chat: Paul Berlet, Justine Kacer, Gwen Millets, Alexis Harvey, Jana Morris, Patty Marth, Marissa Turner, Jaleh Mohallatee, Mirka Picone, Susan Mondaca, Kenneth Garavaglia, Brad Newhard, Almut Dubischar, Janna Morris, Mike Ramsey, Janet Verga, Tisbine Moussa, Jodi Matthews, Gwen Millets, Brad Newhard

Attendance in person: Matt Bauder, Kristy Cole, Tom Walker, Drew Lazo, Paul Iannacone, Access Services team (Louisa Enrique), Haven House team

I. Review of 1/25/23 Meeting Minutes. Minutes are approved.

II. Provider Forum

Jaleh Mohallatee, Community Services Group, announced immediate openings for IDD/MH subacute partial hospital program (in person). Mental health outpatient therapy (in person or telehealth) is also taking referrals.

<https://csgonline.org/csg-bethlehem/>

Jana Morris, Recovery Revolution – accepting referrals for outpatient and intensive outpatient drug treatment, as well as Certified Recovery Support. Case management is on staff to help. <https://recoveryrevolution.org/> Recovery Revolution is planning for the next Highmark walk/benefit. Twenty-five nonprofits will benefit. The walk will be held at DeSales University on Saturday 6/3/23.

<https://www.walkforahealthycommunity.org/whc3/locations/central.shtml> Jana announced that the two-year residential program for women that are dealing with trauma, trafficking and or abusive situations and addiction has openings. <https://bloomforwomen.org/about>

III. Advisory Committee Reports

a. Member/Family Advisory Committee – Ronnie Colbert

Described experience using the new 988 call number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Ronnie finds the service to be helpful.

Discussed recent advocacy provided to individuals residing in area Community Residential Rehabilitation programs. Such housing is an intervention that is specifically designed to address the recovering person's need for a safe and healthy living environment while supplying the requisite recovery and peer supports leading to successful rehabilitation. Ronnie discussed that house culture and various policies, procedures and resident expectations are not always clear to residents as they need to be, creating confusion. Ronnie asks that staff at these programs try to prepare the residents for basic expectations on an ongoing basis, assure understanding, and hold team meetings to support the residents. This is very important as well when there will be changes to roommates.

LantaVan services and Lanta services in general are undergoing changes. Ronnie mentioned some late pickups are resurfacing.

Janet Verga shared that the general bus routes are also undergoing some changes. Lanta created some new routes it may have adjusted or affected some current routes that people may have gotten used to, and there is a fair amount of adjusting to these changes required/occurring.

Matt asked providers and advocates to bookmark and circulate the various ways to resolve questions or issues with Lanta services.

LANTaVan is for paratransit services (shared door-to-door ride) in Lehigh and Northampton counties <https://lantabus.com/lantavan/>

Contact numbers are listed under Magellan of PA [Member Handbook](#) (English language; Spanish Language version [here](#)) on pg. 10.

There are few supplemental forms to be aware of here <https://lantabus.com/applications> For folks that need it, reduced fare is a great solution for those that don't qualify for paratransit services. This is also the page where complaints forms and procedures are listed.

b. Provider Advisory Committee – Vacant position

Cathleen Murphy resigned as Chair due to the need to cover staffing responsibilities at the agency. The CHA recognizes and thanks Cathy for her service and commitment to HealthChoices program and supplying leadership.

The CHA is seeking a new Chair to backfill the post. Please email Matt, Kristy and Tom with interest.

c. Children's Advisory Committee – Mike Ramsey

Mike supplied updates from the recent OMHSAS Children's Bureau meeting and workgroup.

Focused on the need to advance workforce development, including the offering of Family Support Specialists in our system in PA. The PRTF Regulations remain in process currently. There is an expected movement toward assuring all agencies are Trauma Aware by the end of 2024.

Addressing crisis training for workers receiving crisis calls from youth and young people contacting the 988 number was a topic discussed.

OMHSAS is interested in advancing a direct role in supporting area schools which were provided \$ for mental health care. OMHSAS is looking for opportunities to get more involvement in planning for comprehensive school-based mental health services access and growth.

OMHSAS is planning to conduct site visits of area RTF programs. These are not for monitoring purposes, but mainly to get reacquainted to changes and culture since the pandemic, and identification of best practices.

Also, Mike shared OMHSAS will be facilitating focus groups to address the rise in children/multi-system/complex cases. Complex case discussions with OMHSAS, County systems, HealthChoices and Magellan are at an all-time high.

IV. Magellan Behavioral Health Report

a. Patty Marth – Compliance Department

Email Blasts:

Jan 2023: includes an important announcement from OMHSAS about MA-funded telehealth services.

Feb 2023: includes important updates for Magellan contracted Peer Support Services (PSS) providers.

Bulletins:

OMHSAS has extended the bulletin suspension specific to consent to treat, service verifications and treatment plans until 3/31/23. Effective on April 1, 2023, providers are expected to capture consent to treat, service verifications and approval of treatment plans in a manner that creates an auditable file and in accordance with the timelines outlined in regulation.

Act 65 governs who can provide consent for voluntary mental health treatment of minors who are 14 years of age and less than 18 years of age (“minor”), in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Act 65 also addresses which individuals may grant consent to the release of a minor’s medical records.

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) is announcing a forthcoming funding opportunity for behavioral health providers. The opportunity will allow qualified entities to request funding to invest in technology and training for behavioral health telehealth providers. OMHSAS will accept funding requests beginning today, February 1, 2023.

On January 30, the Biden Administration announced that the COVID-19 national emergency and public health emergency (PHE) will both expire on Thursday, May 11, 2023. Under Act 30 of 2022, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs’ (DDAP) regulatory suspensions that are “related to federal exemptions granted under the federal public health emergency declaration” were extended until “the last day federal exemptions granted under the federal public health emergency declaration are authorized.” In other words, Act 30 aligned the timing for DDAP’s regulatory suspensions with the deadline for flexibilities granted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) — not with the deadline of the PHE itself.

b. Mike Ditty – Network

Magellan will have a new authorization platform soon and that scheduled communications and provider demos are occurring. Only auths that are going through Magellan's website are transitioning for now.

c. Tom Walker, Clinical and Strategic

Carl Kist left Magellan. Tom will report for Clinical team for the time being.

The Clinical update centered on the 2/27 notification of suicide risk assessment, and 2/10 provider notice on MA Unwinding procedures. The strategic focus was on the local efforts underway to promote the Lehigh Valley Health and Human Services Job Fair.

[March 13, 2023: Students, Alumni, and Young Professionals Are Invited to a Job Fair on April 13 at Penn State-Lehigh Valley](#)

[February 27, 2023: Suicide Risk Assessment Protocol Provider Notification & Expectations](#)

[February 10, 2023: 12-Month Process for MA Unwinding Starts April 1 – Please Review Resources Available](#)

[February 9, 2023: Please Share This Video – Immediate Job Openings in Behavioral Health](#)

[January 27, 2023: Survey Status Update for Provider Access and Capacity](#)

[January 5, 2023: Updates to MNC for Assertive Community Treatment with Continued Stay](#)

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

Magellan’s Autism Action Committee, a bi-county initiative to improve services for families, completed a DRAFT of a NEW Autism Navigation Guide for individuals who are of transition age. Representation on the Committee includes County IDD Administrative Entity, Magellan, Families, and HealthChoices Administration. The group expects a Spring release of the guide and this will be available in hard copy and electronically.

V. Northampton County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues – Kristy Cole, Tisbine Moussa, Jodi Matthews

Kristy provided key updates on the status of reinvestment plans.

Northampton County submitted a new Program Reinvestment Plan. Northampton County will be financially supporting Safe Harbor shelter physical plant expansion. The new reinvestment plan will be 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.

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 or Kristy Cole 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. The Conference of Churches will be opening a physical site within County limits. More information will be shared at a future meeting once plans are finalized.

Access Services – Respite program is open to Northampton County members. Kristy mentioned they are working on a flyer for families.

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.

Tisbine Moussa shared that the Triennial OMHSAS monitoring of County HealthChoices and BH-MCO will be held soon.

Jodi Matthews thanked Mike Ramsey for bringing up the issues surrounding multi-systemic children and in general the challenge in placement of children with complex issues. The acuity of such cases is rising. Providers are reporting not feeling they can meet a child's needs when there are multi-issues involved, and placement is challenging.

VI. Lehigh County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues –Matt Bauder, Gwen Millets, Brad Newhard

Matt Bauder provided Reinvestment Plan updates

Respite Plan –The new Respite Services provider will be Access Services. The program is slated to open Q12023. Access Services are seeking respite families to provide support members. There will be an online process for connecting families to respite services. For more information, please visit <https://www.accessservices.org/services/childrens-respite/>

HIFI Wraparound – Pinebrook Family Answers engaged 13 members in treatment, with 4 pending enrollments. There are additional 5 on the waiting list, related to staffing. The first 2023 HIFI graduation happened in February.

2:1 ABA Services – One member is enrolled in this highly specialized program and will remain in services until this member can be admitted to a community based residential program at the member's eighteenth birthday. There is one referral being considered; this member is current at CHOP.

Housing Clearinghouse – Operated by Conference of Churches. Forty-four members were served in January between the contingency and transition to independence program; 41 contingency and 3 transitional. The Master Leasing program was reintroduced in CY2023. Leased properties are being sought.

Social Determinants of Health – Plan is approved by the State. The Conference of churches will be the supplier of commodities, such as food, childcare, etc. 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.

Lehigh County will be updating the process for submission of reinvestment ideas. This will be driven through the County website. More information to follow once details are worked through.

Gwen Millets, Integrated Services, thanked Access Services for joining the meeting and excited to learn about the much needed family respite program.

Brad Newhard, reporting for CYF and Base MH, discussed work on a new QA tool for non-licensed residential providers. Lehigh County is hiring case managers, TCM. This is a Civil Services listed position. The County is diverting new TCM member cases, as they are currently maxed at 30 individuals.

VII. Other

VIII. Meeting Schedule

Date	Chair	Minutes
May 24, 2023	Kristy Cole	Magellan

* Third Wednesday

IX. Contact Information

Committee / Organization	Contact Name	Email Address
Member/Family Advisory Committee	Ronnie Colbert	burail1980@yahoo.com
Provider Advisory Committee	Vacant	
Children’s Advisory Committee	Mike Ramsey	mramsey@valleyyouthhouse.org
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