

HealthChoices Advisory Board

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc.
1 W. Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018
(Zoom Meeting)
February 23, 2023 2pm

I. Introductions: Those in attendance were: Janet Verga, Tom Walker, Tisbine Moussa, Donna Thorman, Matt Bauder, Kristy Cole

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

III. Community Healthcare Alliance Report:

Member/Family Advisory Committee

- Ronnie was not present – no update provided

Provider Advisory Committee –

- Cathy Murphy was not able to attend but her update from CHA was provided
- New Crisis regulations from the state are still under review by the IRCC; no timeline was provided regarding when these new regulations will be promulgated
- RCPA was to be conducting a meeting for Crisis providers in mid-February to discuss the current draft regulations and possible changes that may occur

Children’s Advisory Committee – Vacant

- Discussed at CHA that we are still looking for a Children’s Committee Representative to bring up issues relevant to the Children’s Service System for others to be aware of.
- It was reported that Mike Ramsey from Valley Youth expressed interest in being the Children’s Advisory Committee representative
- All members in attendance today voted positively for Mike to be the Children’s Advisory Committee Representative
- Matt, Tom, and Kristy will schedule an orientation session for Mike in March

IV. NAMI/OMHSAS/Provider/Peer/News

- Donna will explore to see if anyone from NAMI wants to attend on behalf of NAMI now that Donna has retired

- Donna will also explore if there are any other members or family members that would like to attend
- Donna indicated that she was contacted by her son's Group Home provider regarding the end of the PHE and need to re-apply for MA benefits
- NAMI will be hosting its annual Community Dinner on April 1st
- NAMI's Family to Family course will be starting March 1st (5 people have registered thus far but 10 attendees is ideal)
- May is Mental Health awareness month and NAMI is having a week long training for the Crisis Intervention Team
- NAMI is attempting to educate the community on the "Green Light" campaign and helping support members and families that have been impacted by suicide
- NAMI is currently looking for 2 new Board members; NAMI's board meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:30
- Donna noted that Jeanine was hired as her replacement at NAMI; Maggie Murphy remains as the local Executive Director
- Donna promoted Danny's ride as a good, local organization that can assist in transporting members to appointments
- Janet reported that she has not heard much concern from members regarding the upcoming end of the Public Health Emergency
- Janet indicated that Lehigh and Northampton County's CSP have partnered to create a survey to be distributed to anyone that has been on a Behavioral Health Inpatient Unit in the past two years to assess their satisfaction with discharge plans that were developed in conjunction with their AIP stay
- Janet stated that anecdotal information indicates members aren't happy with their discharge plans and that planning doesn't begin to happen until the last two days of the stay. Results will be shared once the survey is distributed.

V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report

- Tom reported that he is impressed with the comprehensive work that is being done statewide regarding Suicide awareness, prevention and intervention
- Tom noted that there are a number of state-wide initiatives that are in the works and added that Lehigh County's ex-Coroners suicide assessment that was developed is being shared state-wide as a potential best practice.
- Tom indicated that the new Crisis regulations have moved from the Executive Committee back to OMHSAS. There is hope that there will now be movement on these regulations ahead of the July 1st implementation of 988.
- Tom reported that Magellan will be implementing a new suicide intervention assessment process as of March 1st. He added that anyone that is admitted to a local Acute Inpatient Unit because of a suicide attempt will have Magellan outreach conducted to see if there is additional support the member would like. Magellan's

Community Transition Coordinator will assist with the coordination of crisis plans and discharge disposition where possible.

- Magellan and the Counties have completed a Transition Aged Youth Navigation guide for members on the Autism Spectrum. We are awaiting feedback from the state and then the guide will be published for distribution.
- Tom indicated that there will be a Health and Human Services Job Fair held on April 13th at the Penn State Lehigh Valley campus in Center Valley.
- Tom noted that Magellan continues to work on promotions related to the unwinding of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and the need for all MA members to go through the reapplication process. This may be a topic for discussion added to the Member Advisory Work Group agenda, the meeting for which is being planned for in June in Lehigh County.
- Magellan will begin requiring medical necessity reviews to occur as of February 1st. These reviews had been suspended during the PHE. This is seen as a return to normal course of business.

VI. Northampton County HealthChoices Report

- The housing reinvestment plan with the Conference of Churches will continue for another 5 years. The Conference is currently looking for a site for an Easton office, which will be more centrally located for Northampton County members.
- The Respite reinvestment plan with Access remains in place and they are currently looking to hire employees to provide the respite services. Staffing has been a challenge for them. Once employees are in place, Access will engage in a marketing plan. Thus far this year, there have been no members served in Respite.
- The Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) reinvestment plan continues through the Easton Neighborhood Center. They recently had a leadership change so Northampton is working with the new Director around implementation of the program. Only a few members were served in 2022. Program can assist with transportation, clothing and child care.
- The Outpatient Restoration Long Term Support Residence (ORLTSR) is still nearing the end of construction. Once final details are complete, licensing and enrollment with the state will occur.
- Kristy indicated that Northampton County has submitted a reinvestment plan for approval to provide funding to Safe Harbor in Easton for expansion of their warming

and cooling shelters and transitional housing unit. A final letter of approval has not yet been received.

- Kristy reported that the issues of children and adults sitting in Emergency rooms waiting for inpatient beds has continued. There are also on-going challenges for members with Dual MH/ID needs as well as for children who have complex physical and behavioral health needs. These issues are being encountered across the state in all counties.
- Kristy indicated that she received notification that Lehigh Valley Hospital is planning on building and opening a new 144 bed, Behavioral Health Hospital across from their Muhlenberg campus. The anticipated opening is 2025.

VII. Lehigh County HealthChoices Report

- Matt provided updates on Reinvestment Plans including Respite now being implemented by Access services but no members yet served (please see Respite update above), Pinebrook High-Fidelity Wraparound has 13 members, ABA Support Services 2:1 Program has 1 member, and Clearinghouse has 31 members served (the spend on members has been going up because rents and other expenses are going up).
- Social Determinants of Health Reinvestment plan contract was executed for January 1, 2023 with the Conference of Churches. Implementation meetings are occurring with plans to admit first members by April. Matt noted that the SDoH plan for Lehigh is tied in to the Community Based Care Management Initiative.
- The Reinvestment Planning Process continues in Lehigh County. To this point, few ideas have been received from members and ideas that have been submitted by providers do not fit for how reinvestment dollars can be used. Lehigh will continue to engage stakeholders in the reinvestment planning process where possible including at Magellan's member and family workgroup. Lehigh is in the process of developing a specific webpage where reinvestment ideas can be submitted without the need for on-going solicitation. Lehigh hopes to go live with this page by Summer 2023.
- Matt noted that Lehigh County Office of Intellectual Disabilities has recently started a Bridge Housing pilot program for some of its members. This program will help pay for a member's rent when they are living independently in the community. Matt will provide more information and data once it becomes available. Matt indicated that there may be a nice connection to be made for members in this program that could benefit from the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services program developed for members with Autism.

VIII. Adjournment

Next meeting will be held on **May 25, 2023 at 2:00pm** at the Magellan Bethlehem office or via Zoom depending on COVID circumstances.