

HealthChoices Advisory Board

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc.
1 W. Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018
In Person and Zoom Meeting
August 24, 2023

- I. Introductions: Those in attendance were: Janet Verga, Drew Lazo, Mike Ramsey (zoom), Kristy Cole, Tom Walker, Ronnie Colbert
- II. Review of May 25, 2023 minutes
- III. Community Healthcare Alliance Report:

Member/Family Advisory Committee

- Ronnie updated the below info
- 2 tours at Haven House this week. Another one today at 230. One new client started yesterday and likes the program. One client came back to the program also.
- July Activity Pride Fest was successful. Tomorrow is the 1st Haven House Prom. Little Mermaid-Under the Sea theme.
- Community-No further problems with Lanta services. No complaints recently.
- LGBTQ class Fridays at 10. Open to all to attend.
- Giving out Warmline number as well as 988 to those that need more help. Ronnie has had good feedback on 988. They have focused line for LGBTQ and Veterans when you listen to the options.

Provider Advisory Committee –Kendall Gazzo

- Kendall not present. No update.

Children’s Advisory Committee – Mike Ramsey

- January 2022 there was the Home and Community Based Work force payments went from OMHSAS to Specific Providers. Related to COVID relief issues to address hiring and retention purposes. It has been helpful to many providers and the funds for VYH has gone to direct line staff. The funds have to be spent by October 21st 2023 or they must returned to DHS. Will discuss at CHA next month as well
- Navigation of Medical Assistance enrollment issues has continued. Talking to families and supporting them to ensure they remain active.
- Kristy added that she heard on a state call the due to many Children Boarding in Emergency Departments due to no beds available. The state is allowing out of state facilities to be approved if they are ‘secured facilities’ until more beds are added in the Commonwealth while there is this crisis. It still has to be approved on a case to case basis. There are workgroups happening to help alleviate the issue as well.

IV. NAMI/OMHSAS/Provider/Peer/News

- Donna was not present
- Janet is hosting a self-care for Peer Specialists forum. Hoping it helps with retention. One next week. 2 more before the end of the year
- Macroaggression training for Peer this month, anyone can attend. This is modified from a previous training. Not just MH bias, but all around.
- Janet will be doing Lehigh County QPR training for Clubhouse staff in September.
- March on Harrisburg on September 27th. Waiting on details of speaker time. There is regionally a survey monkey to see who is interested and will potentially pair people with transportation to get as much representation as possible. Maggie Murphy from NAME spoke at Regional CSP meeting and talked about advocacy and suggestions about what to say when speaking with lawmakers.

V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report

- Tom reported the following- Medicaid unwinding began in April. It was supposed to be slow and purposeful. Have received some info from OMHSAS about membership and who would be losing benefits due to Pandemic changes. Some members staying on the rolls have allowed the Counties to retain reinvestment funds. We were told that there was a potential of up to 30 percent that could be lost due to the unwinding and that would negatively impact our program. The program was then put on hold and refocused to see what the needs were for the members and we were very focused. In April we ended up seeing growth-which was unexpected. This was because a category was changed, some members were moved from CHIP to MA. Also SNAP renewals were aligned with MA application to make a single date and easier for members. Magellan has been sending targeted letters to providers that had a significant amount of members that may be losing benefits. Then Magellan also follows up with certain member that were at risk to lose eligibility.
- Because the numbers have not been near worst case scenario, actually closer to best case we have been able to do a few targeted items such as-Market rate adjustments for providers, ability to grow program based on applications (Haven House Gracedale project and COMHAR LTSR application) We still do not have 2024 HealthChoices rates yet (delayed due to In Lieu of Services issues-supplemental services not built into the medical delivery system-which cannot be over 5% of the medical spend) We are still moving forward with the changes and support to providers in hopes this issue is resolved favorable to the system.
- Emergency Department Boarding issue-ok that individuals can be shipped out of state and put in secure facility. But not a great option. Best thing to do is a community support plan and get them on Complex Case schedules to bring people together to help solve for the issues. Tom is meeting with LVHN tomorrow to discuss new Behavioral Health Codes that allow certain places of services to be billed. There will soon be a pilot that will help track what BH services are being given to members in the hospital since this is traditionally covered by PH plans and Magellan doesn't get the info.

- In March the Suicide Risk Assessment protocol for individuals was enacted. This identifies individuals who were hospitalized for suicidal attempts and allows Magellan to obtain the info and provide support and outreach as well as administering Suicide Risk Scales. There have been about a dozen from each county since March that have been identified. 50 percent of members have been connected post hospitalization. There is a lack of evidence based suicide specific treatment in our area according to stakeholder input (schools, Lehigh County Garret Smith grant team). CAMS Care model has been identified to be successful. This is being looked into as to how to deploy this out to the Lehigh Valley area.
- There was a summit at DeSales University for Older Adults and their behavioral access. There is now a bi-county work group that meets monthly. There is a behavioral Health Navigator for older adult's position funded by P4A, Jade Rodriguez. She is chairing these meetings. There is a need for more Medicare providers in the area especially since number of older adults across PA grows exponentially. LPCs and LMFTs will be able to be credentialed by Medicare so of 2024 so this will expand to more that can serve this population and help get waitlists down.
- Transition Aged Youth Navigation guide fro those on the Autism Spectrum has been created by the Autism Action Committee which is a bi-county committee.
 - [Autism Resources | Magellan of PA](#)
 - <https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-members/services-programs/autism-resources/>
- IBHS video series is complete. 5 minute short video on what they are, how to access, and what to expect. For referral partners and families to assist with getting knowledge out there. There is also a one page fact sheet.
 - [Intensive Behavioral Health Services \(IBHS\) | Magellan of PA](#)
<https://www.magellanofpa.com/for-providers/services-programs/intensive-behavioral-health-services-ibhs/>

These will both be linked on County websites.

VI. Lehigh County HealthChoices Report

- Drew updated for Matt.
- Pinebrook High-Fidelity Wraparound has 19 members served in June and 6 pending and 3 on waitlist, ABA Support Services 2:1 Program currently exploring 2 potential members, and Clearinghouse has 39 members served through contingency and one through bridge (the spend on members has been going up because rents and other expenses are going up). Social Determinants of Health Reinvestment plan has 6 members.
- The Access Reinvestment plan has ended. Lehigh and Northampton will be looking to see what options there are and if any other providers are interested.
- There is an ASAM training at Lehigh County on 9/11 and 9/12. This is the American Society of Addiction Medicine is the criteria used for Medical Necessity for Drug and

Alcohol Placement. Based on denial letters Drew sees there appears to be some misunderstanding for the ASAM process. This will be helpful to get the info out to providers.

VII. Northampton County HealthChoices Report

- The TAY guide and IBHS videos will be on the County websites.
- The Respite reinvestment plan has ended with Access. Hope is to have a provider continue plan, however are realistic that staffing for this type of program is difficult.
- Housing Plan through Conference of Churches remains active.
- The Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) reinvestment plan was through the Easton Neighborhood Center. There was turnover and very low utilization of the program. We are ending that contract and will be contracting with Lehigh Conference of Churches. They opened an Easton location and are currently doing this plan for Lehigh County. Childcare, clothing, food, furniture, transportation needs will be supported, as well as others that will be identified.
- The Outpatient Restoration Long Term Support Residence (ORLTSR) is still nearing the end of construction. Ribbon cutting has occurred. Members are not ready to be admitted yet. Still waiting on Certificate of Occupancy to be finalized. Once final details are complete, licensing and enrollment with the state will occur. COMHAR continues to be preparing to move in as soon as they are able. There are already several members that have been identified that could be appropriate for the program. Plan ends 12/31/2023 so we are nearing the end and need things to be wrapped up soon.
- New plans need to be submitted in the next few months with reinvestment funds. Will look at current plans and then Risk and Contingency funding. New plans being considered are HFW like Lehigh, but only for those members not involved with CYF since CYF has a grant and funds anyone open with them. And also will be submitting a CAMS Care training (Tom reported above) for Lehigh Valley Providers plan to help fund the trainings.
- Kristy indicated that Northampton County executed contracts Safe Harbor Plan in Easton for expansion of their warming and cooling shelters and 4-6 transitional housing unit.
- Gary Ruschman, Director of Information Referral and Emergency Services (IRES) has retired. Chelsea Jones, HealthChoices Program Specialist, has been promoted to this position and has left HealthChoices. Reach out to Tisbine or Kristy if you have been working with Chelsea on anything.

VIII. Adjournment

Next meeting will be held on **November 16th at 2:00pm** at the Magellan Bethlehem office or via Zoom depending on COVID circumstances.