

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

March 27, 2024 @ 2:00 PM

MINUTES

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Matt Bauder opened the meeting. Attendance reported in the chat.
- II. **Review of 1/24/24 Meeting Minutes** – Minutes are approved with edits supplied by Jody Matthews, Northampton County DHS.

III. Provider Forum

Crystal Jones, Clarion Psychiatric Center

Crystal Jones announced that Clarion Psychiatric Center is hosting "Let's Talk Mental Health," a virtual meeting initiative. The first session, held last month, saw 40 participants. The next session is scheduled for April 11th from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM. For further details, visit the event page [here](#).

Jaleh Afsah-Mohallated, Community Services Group

CSG's MHID partial and outpatient programs currently have openings. The programs are accepting new participants, and while outpatient therapy is limited to MA, the partial program accepts various insurances. More information about CSG can be found on their [website](#).

Charlotte Leckow, Move Forward Counseling

Charlotte Leckow from Move Forward Counseling shared that their Lehigh Valley office is expanding the private insurances accepted for outpatient therapy online across Pennsylvania. They now accept Geisinger and Evernorth, with more insurers being added soon. Additional details can be accessed on their [website](#).

Jason Haller, KidsPeace

Jason Haller, a representative from KidsPeace, announced the agency will host the next Lehigh Valley Provider Meeting in April and encouraged attendance, emphasizing the campus's accessibility. He also introduced the use of VR technology in their residential program to teach mindfulness to children. Additionally, the next Clinical Cafe in April will provide professional education on the ethical treatment for nonverbal autistic clients, hosted by Rob Harvey, BCBA, one of their directors. Contact information was provided for further inquiries. Furthermore, KidsPeace's IBHS group services program in Bethlehem is now open to referrals after a period of closure due to staffing changes. Referrals are accepted for all ages, and they are actively seeking referrals that fit the ABA group service model for IBHS. More information about KidsPeace can be found on their [website](#).

Donna Thorman, NAMI

Donna Thorman from [NAMI Lehigh Valley](#) reminded attendees about their upcoming annual community dinner and raffle event. It will be held at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, featuring exciting raffles and a ticket price of \$12 in advance or \$15 at the event. Children under 12 eat for free.

Bill Leiner, Jr, New Vitae

New Vitae has openings in their traumatic brain injury residential program. For more information about their services, visit [New Vitae Wellness](#).

IV. Advisory Committee Reports

a. **Member/Family Advisory Committee – Ronnie Colbert**

Ronnie Colbert shared several concerns about transportation and residential services:

- Early or late pickups by drivers, leading to extended wait times for consumers, sometimes up to three hours.
- Inconsistent scheduling that disrupts program activities.
- Issues within residential settings, such as a consumer dealing with theft and harassment from a roommate, leading to significant stress and a concussion due to physical altercations.

Ronnie emphasized the importance of addressing these issues and mentioned that the executive director is investigating. Additionally, Ronnie highlighted a supportive LGBTQ class offered on Fridays at 10 AM and a fundraising effort involving the sale of stuffed moose to support anxiety management.

b. Provider Advisory Committee – vacant

c. Children’s Advisory Committee – Mike Ramsey

During the update, Mike Ramsey, Children's Advisory Committee Chair, highlighted progress on key initiatives. Efforts are underway to develop regulations for Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF), with plans to advance to the Attorney General's Office by February and aiming for completion by late 2025. Following this, attention will shift to crafting regulations for family-based mental health services. Collaboration with providers continues to support the state mandate for trauma-informed care, potentially including a seal on provider websites to denote compliance, although discrepancies in evaluation processes have been noted.

Additionally, the Social Connections subgroup of the CHA is spearheading plans for quarterly community-building events.

V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report

a. Patty Marth, Magellan Compliance Update:

January Email Blast:

- Reminders on telehealth documentation and signature requirements.

February Email Blast:

- Annual reminder on self-auditing and self-reporting of fraud, waste, and abuse.

For details, visit the [compliance section on our website](#).

Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) Regulation Updates:

- No longer need to self-identify with serious mental illness; attest to having a mental health diagnosis and being in recovery.
- High school diploma or GED no longer required; instead, submit a personal recovery statement.
- Recent employment or volunteer experience no longer required.

D-DAP Alerts:

- Reporting unusual incidents.
- Federal opioid treatment program regulations.
- Flexibilities during the opioid epidemic.
- High-dose medication for opioid use disorder treatment.
- Licensing alert on confidentiality laws.

Four Walls Rule Update:

- Provider communication sent with telehealth management recommendations.
- Seeking clarification from OMHSAS to minimize disruption.
- An anonymous survey will be conducted to gather insights.

a. Mike Ditty (John Lees Reporting) – Network

We encourage all providers to work with their billing staff and systems to ensure that you are billing at your usual and customary rate, which should be higher than your contracted rate. You'll be reimbursed up to your contract rate, but if rates increase, you'll already be set up to receive the higher amounts.

Mike reports that many providers have not billed claims at a rate that allows Magellan to pay the October 1, 2023 increase. Please consult with your billing staff to ensure claims are billed correctly. If your claims were not billed high enough, resubmit them either by paper or electronically, marking them as resubmissions and including the original claim number.

Please address this ASAP if you're experiencing issues. For any questions or concerns, reach out to Mike and the network team.

b. John Lees - Member and Family Advocate

John Lees announced that the Autism Action Committee is actively recruiting families, parents, and individuals with autism. A flyer with basic information and a QR code linking to a specific autism page is in progress. The committee, a collaborative group with Magellan representatives, county partners, and families, aims to address needs, develop new programs, and create resources like the navigation guide for autism transitions. Quarterly meetings are planned, and participation is flexible. For more details or questions, contact John Lees, as family input is crucial to the committee's work.

Additionally, a new episode of the [Behavioral Health Matters podcast](#) focusing on the opioid epidemic will be released soon, featuring a discussion with providers and experts.

c. Janet Verga – Recovery and Resiliency

Janet mentioned the upcoming Peer Support Network meeting on April 10th at Haven House, featuring a discussion on wellness. She also noted a quarterly training session on culturally competent suicide prevention this Friday, March 29th, led by Magellan psychologist advisor Dr. Segler. Janet reminded everyone to watch out for the event flyers.

d. Tom Walker – Strategic

Tom shared updates on key issues. He clarified the "Four Walls" policy for mental health and substance use disorder clinics using telehealth and encouraged participation in an upcoming survey to assess service provision status. He highlighted the Health and Human Services Jobs Fair on April 11th, promoting job opportunities in behavioral technician and service worker roles. Additionally, Tom addressed billing questions which may stem from cybersecurity incident affecting Change Healthcare. He stressed the importance of prompt communication for assistance and noted Magellan's website as a resource for claims submission.

VI. Lehigh County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues

Matt Bauder, HealthChoices Administrator for Lehigh County, delivered updates representing the county's efforts. Highlights included advancements in initiatives like Duos for seniors and respite services, alongside discussions on addressing housing needs.

VII. Northampton County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues

Tisbine Moussa, representing Northampton County, provided updates on the county's efforts. This included progress with the Social Determinants of Health Care program, now partnered with the Conference of Churches, showcasing developments in new locations and housing reinvestment initiatives. Discussions also covered the Restorative Restoration LTSR licensing and state enrollment processes.

VIII. Other

IX. Meeting Schedule

| Date | Chair | Minutes |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|
| January 24, 2024 | Kristy Cole | Magellan |
| March 27, 2024 | Matt Bauder | Magellan |
| May 22, 2024 | Kristy Cole | Magellan |
| July 24, 2024 | Matt Bauder | Magellan |
| September 25, 2024 | Kristy Cole | Magellan |
| November 20, 2024* | Matt Bauder | Magellan |

* Third Wednesday

X. 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

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 Tom Walker

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