

## COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

May 25, 2022 @ 2:00 PM

### Minutes

Attendance: Matt Bauder, Patty Marth, Alexis Harvey, Christine Higgins, Emily Hersh, Kristen Bertucci, John Lees, Tisbine Moussa, Almut Dubischar, Jessica Teel Sadler, Don Panto, Gwen Millets, Kenneth Garvaglia, Michael Ramsey, William Leiner Jr., Mike Ditty, Scott Kiefer, Lauren Henry, Kyia Davis, Tom Walker, Chelsea Jones, Andrew Lazo, Tamra McGee, Yalexia Duran, Amie Allanson-Dundon, Susan Mondaca, Katie Detweiler, Paul Berlet, Tim Custer, Wendy Wright, Jana Morris

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

Kristy Bernard, HealthChoices Administrator for Northampton County, opened the discussion. The meeting is held virtually. Attendance is recorded in the chat box.

#### II. Review of March 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were distributed prior to the session. The minutes are approved

#### III. Provider Forum

- **Tamra McGee – Pyramid Healthcare** – Planning for a July 2022 Open House and Ribbon Ceremony for the grand opening of a new Outpatient D&A treatment center in Easton. The clinic will provide OP and IOP, D&A assessments, for individuals 18+
- **Kristen Bertucci – Recovery Partnership** – Northampton County is providing funding for a justice-involved peer support training. Applications have been sent out with deadline of 6/17. Training date: 6/27, 9am-3 pm.
- **Yalexia Duran – LV Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit** – Certified Recovery Specialist program census is at capacity and temporarily not able to accept referrals. The program is hiring/seeking staff to provide case management services.
- **Amie Allanson-Dundon – St Luke’s** – In July 2022, St Luke’s will open a walk-in crisis center in Lehigh. This is a day walk-in center which provides psychotherapy. It is not urgent care and is not an emergency room.
- **Kenneth Garavaglia – Kidspace** – Announced the Clinical Café Training will host Liz Bradbury, Director of the Bradbury-Sullivan Training Institute, to present on becoming an educated ally for LGBTQ+. Kidspace is expanding services in NC.
- **Jana Morris – Recovery Revolution** – Announced the hiring of a bilingual, English/Spanish, case manager for Slate Belt area. The program is accepting referrals for Certified Recovery Specialist services. Jana also discussed the Highmark Walk for a Health Community 6/4 at DeSales University.
- **Bill Leiner, Jr – New Vitae** – Opening a new traumatic brain injury cottage to serve up to six individuals at a point in time. Seeking staff of all roles, and licensed nursing staff.
- **Christine Higgins – Merakey Wellness Recovery Teams** – Program is accepting referrals and is growing.

#### IV. Special Presentation – Scott Kiefer – Recovery Partnership, Consumer/Family Satisfaction Team –

- [Recovery Partnership](#) is an organization authorized by Lehigh and Northampton County Offices of Mental Health to provide consumer satisfaction team services of monitoring and reporting satisfaction within the mental health system.
- Recovery Partnership is a team of individuals who are either consumers of mental health services or family members of consumers. Through regularly scheduled visits and telephone communications, they compile information regarding each individual's level of satisfaction and report their findings to service providers, counties, Magellan and their appointed representatives so that services may be adapted to better fit an individual's needs, providing advocacy and culturally competent services.

- Member and family member satisfaction surveys are part of the 360\* audit process for Magellan providers. Please be aware that member names and contact information is shared in advance of scheduled Magellan audits and that members will be offered an opportunity to participate in the survey process.

**For more information, contact:**

Office (610) 861-2741

24/7 Toll Free Peerline 1-(855)-727-3377

**V. Advisory Committee Reports**

**a. Member/Family Advisory Committee – No report**

**b. Provider Advisory Committee – Cathy Murphy reported**

- Governor Wolf’s 2022-3 Budget includes \$100M in new funding to behavioral healthcare, including both mental health and substance abuse treatment services. Dollars will also be used to restore some county funding that had been eliminated from the state budget ten or so years ago.
- In July 2022, 988 will become the national three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, linked to the current phone number of 1-800-283-TALK (8255). However, Pennsylvania still has more work to do with crisis services in general, so will not be promoted by the Commonwealth to PA residents until July 2023; this is to allow for some more time to truly integrate all aspects of crisis response and to build the infrastructure. Pennsylvania is receiving dollars to support infrastructure change. The state handles and routes calls from a Lifeline Center for local dispatch and must be ready for increased capacity.

**c. Children’s Advisory Committee – The CHA does not have a chair for this subcommittee. Any provider interested in serving to represent children’s services, please contact Matt, Kristy or Tom with your interest.**

Kristy Bernard with Northampton County announced an unprecedented number of cases for children in need of specialized residential care. Complex Case meetings are escalated to state-level Children’s Bureau and OMHSAS for solutions.

**d. Magellan Behavioral Health Report**

**Patty Marth – Reporting for Magellan’s Compliance Dept.**

**Email Blasts:**

- Apr 2022: includes reminders and encouragement for agencies, groups, and individual practitioners to take advantage of the variety of educational tools and opportunities that Magellan offers related to Fraud, Waste & Abuse.
- Mar 2022: provides important clarification and guidance for Substance Use Disorder providers regarding member access to Medication-Assisted Treatment, especially Methadone Maintenance Treatment while in residential programming.

**Bulletins:**

- The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) released Information Bulletin 01-22: **Reminder of requirements for recovery house licensure.**
- **Emergency Services 302 Commitment Timeframe.** The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the part of the Mental Health Procedures Act (MHPA) referring to the involuntary commitment process under Section 302 and the 120-hour limitation on holding a consumer for involuntary emergency examination and treatment.
- **OMHSAS Releases New Waiver Submission Process.** The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has developed the “Request for Waiver Form” and a newly revised “Information and Guidelines for Providers Regarding Waiver Submission” document to assist

providers when submitting a request to waive an OMHSAS licensing regulation or bulletin. These documents are also available on the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Mental Health Programs Licensing website. Any questions can be directed to your licensing representative or applicable OMHSAS Regional Field Office.

- **OMHSAS Policy Clarification Student Interns: Service and Billing Standards.** The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has provided a policy clarification on the ability of providers to bill for services provided by students in accredited internship programs. Specifically, it addresses the question of whether services rendered by the student intern can be recognized under payment conditions if the student intern meets the requirements of a lesser credentialed position.
- **OMHSAS Releases Updated IBHS FAQ**

#### **Patty Marth, Reporting for Magellan Clinical Dept.**

- **Announced that Magellan will be returning to in-person MYLIFE** meetings for transition-aged youth. Our first meeting on Friday 6/3 \*at this time masks are not required but you are welcome to wear one if you feel more comfortable\*
- **Coffee Hour with Magellan's Psychologist Advisor** is an opportunity for psychologists and other service prescribers to dialogue with John Siegler, PsyD Psychologist Advisor, Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania. The Coffee Hour will focus on questions and concerns specific to testing/assessment, the level of care (LOC) decision process, and specific elements to address in the assessment/written order for each LOC. Next meeting 6/20 by Zoom. The training series will run throughout 2022.
  - Please direct any questions to Dana Lombardi – [dmlombardi@magellanhealth.com](mailto:dmlombardi@magellanhealth.com)
  - If you are interested in contacting Dr. Siegler, please send him an email at [sieglerj@magellanhealth.com](mailto:sieglerj@magellanhealth.com)

#### **Mike Ditty – Reporting for Magellan's Network Dept.**

- For providers enrolling in Medicaid for programs, DHS now provides a Tracking Number through the website portal. This tracking number allows providers to go back to the application and track the status and progress of the enrollment application.
- For providers seeking to grow and expand services, move, or otherwise change the practice, please contact Magellan early in the process. Programs seeking to expand must apply with Magellan in order to be contracted. Contact Mike Ditty for an application. [MSDitty@MagellanHealth.com](mailto:MSDitty@MagellanHealth.com)
- Providers are reminded to carefully review Explanation of Payment statements and resubmit claims or contact Magellan for guidance early in the process. There have been numerous large claims projects lately, and is a hardship for providers, for Magellan, for County, and ultimately for members.

#### **John Lees - Member and Family Advocate**

- Magellan is seeking families to serve on the Lehigh Valley Autism Action Committee. This group is looking to create a Transition Guide for Autism and IDD members as members age out of the children's system. Meetings are in-person and hybrid/virtual option.
- Please do not hesitate to refer members to John or call to discuss member needs. [jglees@magellanhealth.com](mailto:jglees@magellanhealth.com) Tel: 610-814-8025

#### **a. Tom Walker – 2021 Strategic Update**

- **It appears that the COVID-related Public Health Emergency (PHE) will be extended again. This time to October 2022.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has promised to provide a 60-day

advance notice before ending the PHE. Because the administration had not announced an end to the PHE by May 16, 2022, we can expect a new extension will be announced before July 15.

- **The PHE was first declared on January 27th, 2020, at the start of the Coronavirus Pandemic.** During the PHE, states, including Pennsylvania, have received additional federal funding in exchange for providing continuous Medicaid (also known as Medical Assistance) coverage for most individuals who were enrolled in Medicaid on or after March 18th, 2020, even if they did not renew their coverage or would normally no longer be eligible.
- **When the PHE ends, Pennsylvania will return to being able to terminate Medicaid coverage for people who do not meet eligibility criteria or do not complete their renewal.** At that time, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has stated it will review enrollees who were kept on Medicaid due to the PHE. Coverage will continue until these individuals are reviewed, which DHS said will be within six months of the end of the PHE. As was the case prior to the PHE, renewals will be due within 30 days of receiving a renewal packet. Once reviewed, individuals may be terminated from Medicaid. If so, they will be able to appeal this decision by following the directions on the notice. If they appeal timely, they will not lose their coverage during this process.
- **If you are enrolled in Medicaid, it is important to update your contact information with the County Assistance Office so that you can receive their correspondence, including your renewal packet.** You can do so on the COMPASS website, on my COMPASS PA mobile app, or by calling the Statewide Customer Service Center at 1-877-395-8930. You will also have the option to sign up for text alerts.
- **Magellan and the Lehigh Valley Employment Task Force are planning a health and human services Jobs Fair.** The aim is as a recruitment effort for students/interns, healthcare professionals, and all types of employees from administrative to line cooks. If you would like more information, please contact Tom Walker at [twalker@magellanhealth.com](mailto:twalker@magellanhealth.com)
- **Magellan is seeking a venue to host member in-person focus group meetings.** Magellan's member advisory workgroup meetings provide an opportunity for members to share Magellan established member/family advisory groups to offer HealthChoices members an opportunity to take an active role in providing feedback, increasing access to services, identifying innovative solutions, and improving the overall quality of behavioral health services available to members. Discussion topics include service and program quality, membership information (including newsletters and other means to distribute information), service gaps, reinvestment opportunities, and other topics of interest. Please contact Tom if you have any questions or have room to host a meeting.

## **VI. Lehigh County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues - Matt Bauder presented on key reinvestment plan updates. Drew Lazo presented on the reinvestment planning process.**

### Matt Bauder, Reinvestment Plan Updates

- Experiencing staffing issues with 3 of the 4 plans reporting being understaffed.
- Pinebrook's HIFI Wraparound served 6 cases in April with 19 pending referrals
- Valley Youth House Respite Program served 11 members in February in the home and community-based program. There were 10 members served in the site-based respite.
- Conference of Churches Clearinghouse Housing Program served 23 members in April, down from the previous month.
- 2:1 ABA Autism Services assessed one member for services in April.
- All plans set to expire in 2022 have been extended with exception of 2:1 ABA, which is set to expire 12/22. 2:1 ABA will also be extended prior to this date to enable and continue the service in future years.

### Drew Lazo, Reinvestment Planning Process

- Thanked the CHA membership for ideas related to possible Reinvestment plans. The submission process for plan ideas includes member focus groups. Reinvestment plan ideas can be submitted to Drew @ [AndrewLazo@lehighcounty.org](mailto:AndrewLazo@lehighcounty.org)

**VII. Northampton County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues, shared by Kristy Bernard and Chelsea Jones.**

- All reinvestment programs previously reported as expiring in June 2022, have been extended until 12/2022.
- Easton Neighborhood Center for SDoH Plan is approved and contract is executed. Chelsea Jones provided a brief update.
- The ORLTSR, construction project is pushed back due to supply chain issues. Will update CHA as things progress with construction.
- Kristy and Chelsea are available to discuss any questions about accessing housing programs through Conference of Churches or making connections to the respite plans through Access Services. They are also collecting ideas for new reinvestment plans. Contact [KCole@NorthamptonCounty.org](mailto:KCole@NorthamptonCounty.org)
- Northampton County announced the backfill position of the Northampton County Child and Adolescent Social Service Program (CASSP) Coordinator. Paula Kenderski replaced Dominique Gray. Please contact [pkenderski@northamptoncounty.org](mailto:pkenderski@northamptoncounty.org)

**e. Meeting Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
January 26, 2022	Kristy Bernard	Magellan
March 23, 2022	Matt Bauder	Magellan
May 25, 2022	Kristy Bernard	Magellan
July 27, 2022	Matt Bauder	Magellan
September 28, 2022	Kristy Bernard	Magellan
November 16, 2022*	Matt Bauder	Magellan

\* Third Wednesday

**f. Contact Information**

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