

## **Community Healthcare Alliance (CHA) Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** May 28, 2025

**Location:** Haven House, 1411 Union Blvd, Allentown, PA 18109

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**Kristy Cole, HealthChoices Administrator for Northampton County, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.** Kristy announced the Advocacy Alliance's special presentation on the Pediatric Resource Center and Pediatric Coaching program has been postponed. These programs support families of children with complex medical needs by offering coaching and planning services. Attendees are encouraged to learn more about available supports at:

[Children with Medically Complex Conditions – PA DHS](#)

### **Attendees included representatives from:**

#### **County Representatives**

- Matt Bauder, Lehigh County HealthChoices
- Kristy Cole, Northampton County HealthChoices
- Tisbine Moussa, Northampton County HealthChoices
- Paula Kenderski, Northampton County HealthChoices
- Aaron Scharper, Lehigh County MH/SPORE
- Erica Panella, Lehigh County
- Mary McGonigle, Lehigh County Integrated Services
- Veronica Lafurgy, Lehigh County Integrated Services

#### **Magellan Behavioral Health**

- Tom Walker, Senior Account Executive
- Jim Marchetto, Community Transition Coordinator
- Kelsey Crane, Community Transition Coordinator -Older adults
- John Lees, Member and Family Advocate

#### **Provider Agencies and Community Organizations**

- Michael Ramsey, Valley Youth House
- Alleya Busko-Thompson, Bethlehem Health Bureau
- Carissa Cam, Bethlehem Health Bureau
- Drew Lazo, Lehigh County HealthChoices
- Dan Pratt, Pinebrook
- Justine Kacer, Merakey
- Maria T. Zubillaga, HAO + Life Guidance
- Tamika Hollis, The Lehigh Conference of Churches
- Cliff Aulisio, KidsPeace
- Erin McFadden, Haven House
- Laura Keiderling, Haven House
- Jessica Katzbeck, Haven House

- Melvin Henry, Friends Hospital
  - Paul Iannacone, KidsPeace
  - Luke Harmon, Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital
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## II. Review of 03/26/25 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and approved without corrections.

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## III. Provider Forum

**Haven House** announced an upcoming **Art Show and Open House** at their facility on **May 30, 2025**. They currently have **openings for outpatient counseling and medication management** services. Additionally, they are offering **two Anger Management classes**, which are accepting new participants.

**Bethlehem Health Bureau** shared outcomes from a recent **CARE (Coordinating Assistance Resources Event)** aimed at engaging individuals experiencing homelessness.

- Key partners included:
  - **Conference of Churches**
  - **New Bethany Ministries**
  - **City Paramedics**
  - **Holcomb Behavioral Health**
  - **Treatment Trends**
  - **RISE Van (Northampton County Drug and Alcohol Division)**
  - **Bethlehem Health Bureau STD Testing Van**
- **30 individuals** were engaged during the event.
- **7** were connected to mental health treatment.
- **9** requested drug and alcohol treatment.
- **26** updated their records in **HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)**.  
Future CARE events are planned. Providers interested in participating may contact **Carissa Cam** at: [csamonte-cam@bethlehem-pa.gov](mailto:csamonte-cam@bethlehem-pa.gov)

**KidsPeace** reported **openings or a short wait list for mental health outpatient services**, including **therapy** and **medication management**.

The agency recently **hosted a liaison meeting**, originally focused on psychiatric hospital utilization trends, which has now expanded to include discussions around **customer relations, hospitality, and referral engagement** to support census-building efforts.

Meetings will continue **via Zoom**. Interested providers may contact:

[kenneth.garavaglia@kidspeace.org](mailto:kenneth.garavaglia@kidspeace.org)

**Merakey** shared that their **Wellness Recovery Team** is actively seeking **referrals for integrated physical and behavioral healthcare services**. Providers may send referrals or inquiries to: Justine Kaser – [jkacer@merakey.org](mailto:jkacer@merakey.org)

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#### **IV. Advisory Committee Reports**

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

Ronnie was excused.

The CHA discussed the new payment structure for Lanta rider services. Bus passes are being phased out in favor of an app-based payment and collection system.

<https://lantabus.com/2024/10/24/new-fare-collection-system-introducing-valleyride/>

##### **b. Provider Advisory Committee – John Jones**

John was excused. No report.

##### **c. Children’s Advisory Committee – Mike Ramsey**

Liability insurance premiums are rising significantly due to increases in jury awards and settlements. Agencies should anticipate and budget for these increases accordingly.

[School bus safety enforcement has increased](#). Buses are now equipped with external cameras to monitor whether vehicles stop as required. Staff are encouraged to be reminded and to reinforce with clients and families the importance of observing these rules.

As a follow-up to the OMHSAS Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) Regulatory Forum held on May 21, 2025, a presentation [slide deck](#) has been made available for providers and stakeholders to review.

PHEAA (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency) is now offering \$5,000 grant scholarships through its Grow PA Scholarship Grant Program for students pursuing in-demand occupations in Pennsylvania. The program includes funding opportunities for those entering social work and related behavioral health professions. More information is available at:

[Grow PA Scholarship Grant Program – PHEAA](#)

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#### **V. Magellan Behavioral Health Report**

##### **a. John Lees reporting for Patty Marth – Compliance**

Recent email blasts covered:

Magellan’s Compliance Department provided updates on recent provider communications:

##### **Email blasts:**

- **March 2025-**[This month's communication](#) includes important reminders about provider self-audits and self reports of fraud, waste or abuse.

- **April 2025-** [This month's communication](#) includes important guidelines for Magellan contracted Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (PRS) Providers.

#### **OMHSAS Bulletins:**

- **OMHSAS Peer Support Services Bulletin Update:** The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) updated the Peer Support Services (PSS) Bulletin and Provider Handbook, issued as OMHSAS-24-05 (effective December 20, 2024). An accompanying Peer Support Services Frequently Asked Questions document is available to providers (posted on the Department of Human Services website) to assist with implementing the updated guidance. The FAQ document is now available and attached at link provided below.

#### [Peer Support Services Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Also posted to the Department of Human Services' website. [Peer Support Providers | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

- **FQHC/RHC Billing Guidance:** The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) has issued a new bulletin advising Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) on the appropriate procedure codes, modifiers, and places of service for billing Medical Assistance (MA) covered services. This guidance applies to FQHC/RHC providers in the Fee-for-Service system; those in managed care were advised to contact the relevant managed care organization for any billing or coding questions.

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/docs/publications/documents/forms-and-pubs-omap/mab2025041602.pdf>

- **[Medical Assistance \(MA\) Bulletin #99-25-02](#)**– Behavioral Health Fee Schedule Changes: Medical Assistance Bulletin #99-25-02 outlines revisions to the MA fee schedule, with several changes specific to behavioral health services effective May 1, 2025. Key changes include:
  - Place of Service (POS) 10 — Telehealth Provided in the Patient's Home is now an allowed setting for procedure code 90853 (group psychotherapy) for provider type 08, specialty 110 (Psychiatric Outpatient clinics).
  - Procedure code 99452 (Interprofessional consultation) is now opened for provider type 08, specialty 184 (Outpatient Drug & Alcohol clinics).
- **OMHSAS Bulletin Series Update:** OMHSAS announced Bulletin Series Update [OMHSAS-25-01](#) (effective May 14, 2025), which provides an updated list of obsolete OMHSAS bulletins. Providers were advised that the bulletins listed in this update are no longer in effect and should no longer be referenced for guidance going forward.

- [The PRTF Stakeholder Webinar](#) was held on May 21, 2025

#### **b. John Lees reporting for Mike Ditty – Network**

The next **Provider Town Hall** is scheduled for **September 17, 2025, at 3:30 PM**. Invitations will be sent in the coming months. Providers are encouraged to attend for important updates and opportunities to connect.

#### **c. John Lees – Member and Family Advocate**

- The Magellan Member Advisory Workgroup will meet on July 17, 2025, at 12:00 PM, hosted at NAMI Lehigh Valley. Transportation stipends are available for attendees. John encouraged providers to promote participation among their members and families.
- John highlighted the [Behavioral Health Matters Podcast](#), noting Episode 11 (focused on suicide prevention with special guest Jim Presto (AFSP Lehigh Valley Chapter – Co-Chair; Aavidum Lehigh Valley Chapter President; and suicide loss survivor) will release next week.

#### **d. Recovery and Resiliency – Janet Verga**

Janet will share information on the upcoming Peer Support Coalition meetings by email.

#### **e. Strategic – Tom Walker**

**Tom presented the current Request for Information (RFI) opportunity for CAMS Care training, due June 30, and shared details about the upcoming Education Day scheduled for June 2 at Colonial Academy.**

Tom also addressed concerns about flat or declining enrollments in the HealthChoices program. He noted that he will circulate information from the County Assistance Office (CAO) to support both member and staff training efforts. Providers were reminded to use the materials previously distributed by Magellan regarding Medicaid enrollment renewal dates and to regularly check members' eligibility status.

If a member disagrees with a CAO determination, there is an escalation process available. Providers are encouraged to advocate for members and escalate cases when eligibility decisions do not align with the family's needs.

#### **County Assistance Office Contacts for Provider Use Only:**

- **Northampton County:** Jennifer Werkheiser – [jwerkheise@pa.gov](mailto:jwerkheise@pa.gov)
- **Lehigh County:** Dino Mincin – [dmincin@pa.gov](mailto:dmincin@pa.gov)

Note; Providers should not share CAO supervisor contact information directly with members; However, they are encouraged to engage CAO supervisors for referrals to the Disability Advocate Program or to request support in troubleshooting issues; Frequently, denials or changes to another Medicaid product (e.g.; HIPPA - Health Insurance Premium Program or CHIP - Children's Health Insurance Program) result from missing or incomplete information during the application process;

Several providers expressed concern about the federal budget and proposed changes to Medicaid funding. Matt Bauder acknowledged these concerns and added that the state budget—due June 30—presents additional challenges. Although the June 96 deadline has passed, negotiations continue, and Governor Shapiro has expressed optimism about reaching an agreement soon. The proposed state budget includes significant investments in education, workforce development, and economic development, while also addressing a structural deficit and potential impacts of federal spending cuts.

Providers were encouraged to contact their state representatives to gain a clearer understanding of the budgetary landscape and to advocate for maintaining Medicaid funding.

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## **VI. Lehigh County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues**

**Presenter: Matt Bauder**

- 2:1 ABA Reinvestment (ABA Support Services): One member actively served; seeking a new referral.
- High-Fidelity Wraparound (Pinebrook): 22 members served in April.
- CBCM Housing (Conference of Churches): 110 individuals received short-term rental assistance.
- SDoH Fund (Conference of Churches): 41 members supported with transportation, food, and other needs. Daycare underutilized.
- DUOS: For ages 65+ focused on transportation and food vouchers. 87 members received services through the SDoH funding. Provides flexible supports for seniors.
- Concern Respite: 11 members served in April. 7 families served in Kinship model.
- Drew promoted the need for grievance and complaints panel members. Must be receiving services or a parent/guardian of a HealthChoices Magellan member. We are seeing an increase in substance use disorder grievances, and especially in need of individuals with lived experience in those treatment domains.
- Drew shared the next PIP (Population Improvement Program) is on assessment of suicidality and suicide prevention. Providers can expect to receive additional information from Magellan about the PIP.

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## **VII. Northampton County: Updates / Reinvestment / Issues**

**Presenter: Kristy Cole**

- High-Fidelity Wraparound (Pinebrook): Seven served in April with one on the waiting list.

- Concern Respite: 9 members served. Kinship care is being used. Group services are also being provided.
- Restoration LTSR (COMHAR): Full occupancy. Funding transitioned from reinvestment to Magellan capitation.
- Safe Harbor Expansion: Awaiting construction start.
- SDoH and Housing Plan (Conference of Churches): SDoH plan is up at the end of this year, and it is not yet determined whether the program will continue, and if it is possible to expand the plan for seniors, such as what Lehigh is doing with DUOS program.
- CAMS Care Rollout: RFI announcement set for April 17 symposium. Education Day TBD. Multi-year plan includes 200 clinicians over 4 years.

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### **VIII. Other**

No additional topics raised.

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### **IX. Meeting Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
January 22, 2025	Kristy Cole	Magellan
March 26, 2025	Matt Bauder	Magellan
May 28, 2025	Kristy Cole	Magellan
July 23, 2025	Matt Bauder	Magellan
September 24, 2025	Kristy Cole	Magellan
November 19, 2025*	Matt Bauder	Magellan

\*Third Wednesday

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### **X. Contact Information**

<b>Committee / Organization</b>	<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Member/Family Advisory Committee	Ronnie Colbert	burail1980@yahoo.com
Provider Advisory Committee	John Jones	jjones@lehighvalleyadultservices.com

Children's Advisory Committee	Mike Ramsey	<a href="mailto:mramsey@valleyyouthhouse.org">mramsey@valleyyouthhouse.org</a>
Lehigh County HealthChoices	Matt Bauder	<a href="mailto:mattbauder@lehighcounty.org">mattbauder@lehighcounty.org</a>
Northampton County HealthChoices	Kristy 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>