

Community Healthcare Alliance (CHA)

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 23, 2025

Location: Haven House

Facilitator: **Matt Bauder** (Lehigh County HealthChoices Administrator)

Recorder: Tom Walker (Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania)

Recording note: Audio captured on a small phone recorder; verbatim is rough.

Confidentiality: Member surnames redacted to initials.

1) Welcome & Minutes Approval

- Matt Bauder welcomed attendees, noted lighter summer turnout but adequate participation.
 - Prior minutes reviewed; **no changes voiced**. Minutes **approved as final**.
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2) Provider Forum – Updates (from introductions/discussion)

- **Haven House:** Two staff **passed LCSW**; credentialing & **Medicare** enrollment to be expedited; this will increase capacity once in place.
 - **Treatment Trends:**
 - **Allentown Residential** site under renovation; targeting **mid-late August** to open; **co-occurring capable**; **not dual-licensed at launch**; open house details TBD.
 - **Slatington Outpatient: DDAP approval** received; pending building inspection; also targeting **mid-late August** start.
 - **Halfway house: beds available**.
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3) Member / Consumer Advisory

- **Ronnie Colbert (Haven House)** introduced a member concern on **LANTA** paratransit.

- Member **M.E.** described **3–4 hour delays**, early/late drop-offs, and **lack of driver assistance** despite mobility needs; some pickups occur **half a block** from home on a hill (member has **scoliosis**).
 - Staff experience suggests complaints **filed with dispatch** may not be logged; **direct contact with JoLena (LANTA Paratransit Director)** has produced **better, documented follow-through** (e.g., removing a problematic driver from Haven House runs).
 - **Action guidance:** Members should **log dates/times** for all rides and outcomes; continue filing complaints; consider **Disability Rights Network** for advocacy; explore CHA/provider presence at **LANTA advisory board** meetings; Tom Walker to **call LANTA** to clarify the **current complaint process** (website form reportedly broken).
 - Program note: **Haven House art show** announced (**Friday, 12:30–2:00 PM**).
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4) Committee / Initiative Reports

a) Provider Advisory Committee

- **No report.**
- **John Jones excused.**

b) Children's Advisory Committee — Mike Ramsey

- **Federal/HHS landscape:** Concern about potential **folding of SAMHSA** functions into a **Healthy America Administration** under HHS; implications and timing still unclear.
- **Regulatory items:**
 - **Psychiatric RTF** proposed regulations expected to be issued for **public comment** (August timeline referenced).
 - **Family-Based MH:** State appears to be moving toward **clarifications** (bulletins/state plan updates and provider dialogue) rather than a full regulatory rewrite.
 - Anticipated **trauma-informed care** reviews of providers may return; agencies should ensure training/practices are current.

c) Magellan — Compliance (*reported by Tom Walker for Patty Marth*)

- **May 2025 Email Blast:** Reminders to Child & Adolescent RTF providers re: **RTF Bed-Hold & Therapeutic Leave** and the coming **PRTF/RTF** regulatory package.
- **June 2025 Email Blast:** Updated **Consent to Release PHI** aligned to **42 CFR Part 2** final rule; online consent updated.
- **Bulletins/Policy highlights:**
 - **MA Bulletin #99-25-02** (eff. **May 1, 2025**): Telehealth **POS 10** now allowable for **90853 (group psychotherapy)** for PT/specialty **08/110; 99452 (interprofessional)** opened for PT/specialty **08/184 (Outpatient D&A)**.
 - **OMHSAS Bulletin 25-02** (May 2025): Updated **voluntary/involuntary commitment forms**; DHS forms site has new packets.
 - **Joint inspections pilot: Voluntary DDAP + OMHSAS streamlined inspections** available for **co-licensed SUD/MH** providers to reduce administrative burden.
 - **“Four Walls”**: CMS to propose **exceptions**; public comment expected in **September**.

d) Magellan — Network *(reported by John Lees for Mike Ditty)*

- **Provider Handbook** undergoing revision; notice to follow when posted.
- **Magellan Town Hall: September 17, 2025** — watch for agenda/logistics.
- **Screening “G-codes” communication** was sent; details and narrative attachment to be shared with minutes.
- Reminder: review **TPL requirements** (Provider Handbook, Section 5).

e) Magellan — Member & Family Advocate (John Lees)

- **Member/Family outreach metrics (H1 2025):**
 - **243** member/family contacts (Northampton **131**, Lehigh **112**).
 - **3** formal complaints filed; multiple provider concerns resolved collaboratively.
 - **19** calls regarding **Medical Assistance** (often related to loss/changes); provided navigation to CAO/website resources.
 - **35** member meetings (largely child/family) coordinated with counties.

- **83** service/referral inquiries; **33** connected to services or community supports (e.g., NAMI, ARP, county departments).
- **29** cases elevated for **clinical team** involvement.
- **Member & Family Advocate flyer** updated and posted; **podcast** moving to “summer pods,” with several episodes lined up.

f) Magellan — Peer/Recovery (Janet Verga)

- **Peer Support Network:** Meets **2nd Wednesday** monthly (hybrid); **presenters wanted** (programs helpful to people receiving peer services).
- **Bilingual peers:** Omni reported hiring **Spanish-speaking** peers; seeking **referrals** (Spanish language need).
- **Northeast Regional CSP:** Offers **CEUs (certificate of attendance)** for **CRS/CPS** for the educational segment each month.
- **Employment Task Force: Work Incentives Screening & Assistance** session (**virtual**) on **Aug 7**; registration required.

g) Magellan — Strategic (Tom Walker)

- **Rates & fiscal status:**
 - Submitted **CY26** rate input to OMHSAS (base data SFY23/24 plus trend/changes); emphasized **rate sustainability**. Response expected **fall**.
 - Follow-up to the **Dec 2024** “hold” letter: **formal communication on 2025 rates/status** will be **released soon**; providers should watch for next steps.
- **Program development:** Interest submissions were acknowledged; non-enrolled programs were generally “**no thank you**”; others placed **on hold** pending fiscal clarity.
- **CAMS-Care (suicide-specific care) reinvestment:** **12 providers**, **~100** training slots requested; planning **orientation webinars** and onboarding; likely to **fully fund ~100** slots this phase (exceeds initial target of ~50).
- **United Way Day of Caring: Thursday, Sept 18, 2025** — CHA provider team forming; Tom coordinating sign-ups and site selection.

5) County Updates

Northampton County — Kristy Cole

- Kristy provided **multiple county updates**, including:
 - **Base/Operations:** Discussion of current **staffing pressures** and program operations; emphasis on maintaining access while vacancies are addressed.
 - **Court/Forensic & Intake units:** Acknowledged **open positions** impacting throughput; providers should route member needs via central access as needed.
 - **SCA (Drug & Alcohol):** Promotion of the “**Live Well, Be Well**” community event (United Way partnership): **Sunday, Sept 21, 2025, Northeast Middle School (Bethlehem)** — speaker **Tony Hoffman**, **resource tables**, **food trucks**; RSVP/info to be distributed.
 - **Advisory/Community engagement:** Encouraged provider/community participation in relevant meetings and events (including homelessness discussions and seasonal shelter planning updates).

Lehigh County — Matt Bauder

- **High-Fidelity Wraparound: 22 active, 8 pending/being explored** for appropriateness.
- **Clearinghouse (Conference of Churches) – SDOH: 146 members served YTD;** current caseload ~**42** (transportation, food, clothing primary). **First childcare case** now being assisted.
- **DUOS SDOH vouchers: ≥80** members enrolled/claiming; **food** spend > **transportation**.
- **2:1 ABA diversion (Autism/RTF diversion): 1** member preparing for discharge; **new referrals** under review.
- **Respite (Concern): 17** members served; after a drop in group usage, **summer uptick** in assigned-worker respite to offset childcare/school-hours gaps.
- **Reinvestment sustainability:** Legacy programs prioritized; collaborating with providers on **budget right-sizing** to **sustain through ~2028** where possible; capacity may tighten due to rate/capitation constraints.

6) Announcements / Community Events

- **Suicide Prevention Night — IronPigs Stadium** (same day as meeting): tables, **purple glow sticks**, moment of silence; **pet-friendly**.
 - **Allentown Homelessness Forum — Mon, Aug 26, 12:00–1:30 PM, YMCA** (United Way-hosted). **RSVP requested** for lunch count.
 - **Live Well, Be Well** community event (United Way partnership): **Sunday, Sept 21, 2025, Northeast Middle School (Bethlehem)**
 - **Next CHA meeting: Wednesday, Sept 24, 2025 — in-person only** (no virtual). Group will **reassess format in November** for 2026.
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Attendance (from sign-in)

- Matt Bauder — Lehigh County HealthChoices (Facilitator)
- Tom Walker — Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania
- Kristy Cole — Northampton County HealthChoices
- Janet Verga — Magellan Behavioral Health
- John Lees — Magellan Behavioral Health
- Justine Kacer — Merakey
- Carissa Cam — Bethlehem Health Bureau
- Lori VanDoren — Pinebrook Family Answers
- Michael Ramsey — Valley Youth House
- Erin McFadden — Haven House
- **M.E.** — Haven House (Member)
- Ronnie Colbert — Haven House (Member Representative)
- Ashley Bechtel — Haven House
- Marissa Turner — Holcomb
- Jim Marchetto — Magellan Behavioral Health
- Luke Harmon — Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital (LBHH)
- Samantha Armitage — Treatment Trends

- Tisbine Moussa — Northampton County HealthChoices
- Wendy Texter — Center for Humanistic Change
- Laura Keiderling — Haven House
- Laxmikant Rode — Lotus BHS