



HealthChoices Advisory Committee Meeting Lehigh/Capital Zone

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Giant Community Rooms B&C

2300 Linglestown Road

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Meeting Agenda

10:00am Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Miller welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order and had the committee and audience attendees introduce themselves.

➤ Roll Call Committee:

- In Attendance: Daris Delbrey Rivera (Aetna); Henry Hernandez (AmeriHealth Caritas); Erin Moore (Gateway); Yolanda Colon (Gateway); Tom Walker (Magellan); Anthony House (PerformCare); Nikki Bagby (United HealthCare); Sandra Skvasik (UPMC); Dawn Horst (Healthy Beginnings); Tia Whitaker (PA CHC); Issac Miller (PA EAP)
- Absent: Vera Carter, Michelle Howard, Tanka Karki, Maria Zavala, Brittany Shutz (CCBH)

➤ Introductions by Audience

- In Attendance: Refer to Sign-In Sheet

10:05 am July Meeting Minutes

- July Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved by the committee. Ms. Bagby approved the minutes. Ms. Horst and Ms. Whitaker seconded the approval.
- Mr. Tom Walker noted a discrepancy in the July minutes with the date of the Harvest Full of Hope Conference in Bethlehem being held on October 22, 2019. The date has been corrected in the July minutes.

10:10 am Enrollment Assistance Program Report

- a. Data Review -- Ms. Teresa McDonnell provided enrollment data from PA Enrollment Services from January through May 2019. Additional data was provided from June 2019 through August 2019 regarding:
 - Enrollments
 - Web Transactions
 - PCP Selection Rates
 - Plan Transfers – Health plans consumers are transferring from
 - Plan Transfers – Health plans consumers are transferring to
 - Top 10 Transfer Reasons – Specific to the Zone, Overall top 10 transfer reasons across the state.



- b. 2019 Webinar Series -- Ms. Teresa McDonnell referenced webinars are posted on the www.enrollnow.net website. There are webinars that are posted on the website for all to attend. Registration invitations are sent out to the email distribution list within 30-45 days of the scheduled webinar. A reminder email is sent to all registered attendees 7 days prior and 1 day prior to the webinar. Webinars held since the July meeting included:

- o Tuesday, October 8, 2019; 10:00am LIHEAP -- 76 individuals attended this webinar

Upcoming webinars include:

- o Tuesday, November 12, 2019; 10:00am Immunizations – By the Department of Health, Bureau of Immunizations

10:20 am DHS

- a. BMCO Report -- Ms. Nan Mavor from the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Managed Care Operations gave the following updates:

Medical Assistance/HealthChoices: As a follow-up to the information presented at our meeting in July regarding the Suicide Prevention Task Force:

- On August 21, 2019, the Suicide Prevention Task Force held a session at the PA Mental Health Planning Council meeting with the goal of gaining insight and perspective on the development of a comprehensive suicide prevention plan.
- The task force began its focus on addressing the prevalence of suicide by firearms.Gov. Wolf announced an executive order taking action to reduce gun violence. As part of this effort, the Suicide Prevention Task Force will focus more closely on suicides by firearms and issue recommendations to reduce their prevalence, promote safe storage policies, and help those in crisis who are considering using a gun.
- The recommendations will be shared with the Special Council on Gun Violence later this fall.
- The Task Force also announced a series of public listening sessions around Pennsylvania over the next several months.
- Individuals and families affected by suicide through their own experience or a loved one are invited to share their experience to help inform the task force's work and reduce stigma around discussing topics like mental health and suicide.
- Representatives from Pennsylvania's National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Mental Health Association of Pennsylvania (MHAPA), and the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association (PMHCA) will be on site during the listening sessions to facilitate meaningful discussion and consolidate feedback from listening sessions to provide a report to the task force to inform the plan.
- Listening sessions were scheduled around the state through November 15.
- The locations in October are York, Scranton, and Allentown.



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- The locations in November are Pittsburgh, Slippery Rock, Radnor and State College.
 - There is a link to the location date and times and to register online for one of the Listening Tour Locations at www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/SuicidePrevention/
MEDIA CONTACT: Erin James - 717-425-7606
- **Shift Care Update:**
- As the shift care work group continues its efforts, there are some new and upcoming ideas for bettering reporting across all MCO's. DHS continues these workshops to collaborate services between the providers and the MCOs. DHS is working towards developing a stronger support system in this area.
- **DHS – SNAP:** Secretary Teresa Miller submitted public comment to the Trump Administration opposing its proposal to drastically reduce Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SNAP, previously known as food stamps, helps more than 1.8 million Pennsylvanians access nutritional meals and puts food on their tables.

BBCE is a policy that gives states, including Pennsylvania, the flexibility to determine appropriate income thresholds and extend SNAP benefits to low-income families and individuals who would otherwise struggle to afford food.

- With BBCE, a Pennsylvania family of four is eligible for SNAP if they earn no more than about \$40,000 a year. If BBCE is reduced, that family of four's SNAP income limit will drop from about \$40,000 a year to no more than \$32,000 a year. For elderly single-person households, the income limit would change from approximately \$24,000 a year to about \$15,000.
- Reducing BBCE would also jeopardize free lunches for nearly 22,600 households whose children who currently qualify. This would not only cause more students to go hungry at schools – it also risks access to programs that provide nutritious meals for children after school and during summer months.
- Reduced BBCE would increase Medicaid spending and reduce long-term health outcomes due to the direct connection between food security, proper nutrition, and good health.

DHS Comments to the Trump Administration can be viewed at:

http://dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_291772.pdf

Information about SNAP program can be found at:

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/supplementalnutritionassistanceprogram>.

MEDIA CONTACT: Erin James - 7174257606



○ **DHS/Other:** Blood lead

Governor Tom Wolf has discussed his initiative to create a lead-free Pennsylvania by calling on the legislature to increase access to blood testing for children in alignment with federal guidelines, increasing local response efforts, and planning for training of more certified lead abatement professionals.

- “Pennsylvania has the sixth-highest percentage rate for children suffering from lead poisoning and this is only the number who have been formally diagnosed,” Gov. Wolf said.
- The governor called on the legislature to increase access to blood testing for children in alignment with federal guidelines.
- Currently, only about 30 percent of children in Pennsylvania have been tested for lead, and about 4.6 percent of those children had elevated blood lead levels.
- The federal guidelines advise parents and guardians to have their children given a finger prick test for lead exposure between age 9 and 12 months and then again at age 24 months.
- If children are not given this test in that timeframe, it is recommended that schools encourage testing when children enter the classroom at age 6 or sooner. The preference, though, is for early detection so the source of the lead exposure can be eliminated before any permanent damage occurs

In addition to calling for legislation for universal blood testing that follows the federal guidelines, Gov. Wolf outlined other initiatives associated with creating a lead-free Pennsylvania, including:

- **Local Response Teams**
- **Workforce Training**
- **Resources for Families-** The departments of Health and Human Service have updated online resources for families to access information on lead testing, lead poisoning and lead remediation. That information is available at on pa.gov/lead.

Lead Poisoning symptoms – www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Lead

- Childhood lead poisoning at low levels may make learning difficult, interfere with growth, harm hearing and delay development.
- Childhood lead poisoning at high levels may cause coma, convulsions and even death.

Information about the free water testing website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/data/index.htm>

- **Department of Health:** As a follow up to the DOH Hepatitis A outbreak: The Wolf Administration announced \$50,000 in state funding for vaccines and outreach to slow the spread of hepatitis A. Pennsylvania is currently in the midst of a hepatitis A outbreak, along with 28 additional states, including neighboring states New Jersey, Ohio and West Virginia.



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- Pennsylvania declared a hepatitis A outbreak in May 2019.
- Pennsylvania has seen 376 outbreak related hepatitis A cases, with 82 percent of patients hospitalized and seven deaths.
- The case count for 2019 is nearly nine times the number expected based on historical data.
- In addition to using the state funds to purchase vaccines, the Department of Health is exploring federal funding streams that will be used to enhance Pennsylvania's outbreak response by purchasing additional vaccines and providing more local hepatitis A outreach.

If you are uninsured or underinsured, contact 1-877-PA-HEALTH to find a state health center near you where you can be tested and monitored.

For more information about hepatitis A, visit www.health.pa.gov

MEDIA CONTACT: Nate Wardle, 717-787-1783

- b. OLTL Report – Community HealthChoices Rollout -- Ms. Jill Vovakes, Chief of Staff from the Office of Long Term Living presented on the Phase 3 rollout of Community HealthChoices for January 1, 2020.
- Refer to the Power Point Presentation – “Community HealthChoices”
 - Question 1: In regards to Service Coordination: Will this be delivered telephonically or face-to-face?
Answer: It is face-to-face. Service Coordination is to have regular contact. Some of it may be telephonically. The Person Centered Planning and Assessment are face-to-face. There is a fact sheet on Service Coordination on our website.
 - Question 2: Where can we find the fact sheets on Community HealthChoices?
Answer: The fact sheets can be found on our website. Go to <http://www.healthchoices.pa.gov/> then click on information on services. Click on Community HealthChoices. If you are a provider, go to <http://www.healthchoices.pa.gov/> then click on provider resources. Click on Community HealthChoices then in the middle of the screen click on view, read important updates/communications from DHS.

11:20 am Regional Report

- a. SDHP - Regional Housing Coordinator Update – Ms. Barbara Huggins, Regional Housing Coordinator shared the following information:
- The Self Determination Housing of PA is a statewide non-profit who works to connect stakeholders with information and resources – to increase choice and



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- affordability in housing for people with disabilities. Stakeholders include service providers, non-profits as well as state and local government.
- We offer training on the following topics: Fair housing, Housing 101, PREP, Landlord/Property Manager Education, 811 PRA Program and Accessible Housing.
 - Upcoming Webinars being offered include:
 - 10/17/2019 Housing Accommodations Topics Series: Assistance Animals, from 2:30 – 3:30pm. To register:
<https://sdhp.secure.force.com/EventRegistration/EventRegistration?eventID=a1D4P00000E4Zr1>
 - 10/24/2019 Housing 101, from 12:00 – 1:00pm. To register:
<https://sdhp.secure.force.com/EventRegistration/EventRegistration?eventID=a1D4P00000E4Zqm>
 - Regional Housing Updates:
 - 11/18/2019 – 11/20/2019 Statewide Homes within Reach Conference, See the Housing Alliance’s website for additional information.
<https://housingalliancepa.org/homes-within-reach/>
 - DCED awarded nearly \$5.5 million in ESG funding to counties across the state for homelessness programs
 - Easter COC – The Fiscal Year ’19 Continuum of Care Application has been submitted.
 - PHFA has release the PHARE RFP – this funding stream is to support local affordable housing initiatives. Applications are due 11/15/2019.
https://www.phfa.org/forms/phare_program_phare_fund/2019_phare_rfp_final.pdf
 - County Housing Updates:
 - Adams
 - Office of Aging exploring a Shared Housing Model – Granny houses/trailers on the property of family/loved ones
 - Cumberland
 - Developing Veteran Housing - 42 units
 - First time home buyer program
 - Dauphin
 - Mainstream 811 Vouchers

11:30 am **Physical Health Managed Care Initiatives, Updates & Upcoming Events**

Check the Health Plans’ Websites for specific dates, times and locations of upcoming events

- [Aetna Better Health Plan](#) – Ms. Delbrey Rivera shared the following information:
 - 50 year celebration: Will have free screenings; BMI, Glucose, and Family Activities
 - 2019 Clinic Summit
 - 10/12/2019 Women’s Expo
- [AmeriHealth Caritas](#) – Mr. Hernandez shared the following information:
 - Heart Walk in Harrisburg



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- Open to sponsoring and partnering with community events
 - 2020 Opening a Women's Center in Reading
 - Baby showers for the year just finished
 - Lehigh Valley Cancer institute – partnering with Walmart – Mobile van will be there to give mammograms.
 - Health Navigators Health Events
 - Streets on their feet: Engaging members in their homes; making referrals to different departments based on needs
- Gateway Health Plan- Ms. Moore and Ms. Colon shared the following information:
 - Annual PAC Conference
 - October Events:
 - Breast Cancer
 - Domestic Violence
 - Health Literacy Month
 - 10/29/19 – 10/31/2019 Latino Convention
 - 11/01/2019 Office of Health Equities Summit
 - United HealthCare Community Plan – Ms. Bagby shared the following information:
 - PA Coalition of Charter Schools – 167 Charter Schools
 - PA Clinical Conference
 - 43rd state PA Family Association Conference
 - 10/18/2019 Salvation Army Coat Drive
 - UPMC For You – Ms. Skvasik shared the following information:
 - 10/11/2019 Lehigh Valley Consult Diversity Conference
 - 10/16/2019 Lehigh Valley Health Fair
 - 10/30/2019 Berks Health Advisory Committee Meeting

11:40 am Behavioral Health Managed Care Updates & Upcoming Events

- Community Care Behavioral Health – Ms. Marshall shared the following information:
 - 10/12/2019 NAMI Walk in York County
 - 10/01/2019 – 10/02/2019 Opioid Summit
 - 11/06/2019 Adams County Member Advisory Meeting
- Magellan Behavioral Health – Mr. Walker shared the following information:
 - Behavioral Health OMHSAS:
 - 07/01/2019 Opioid Centers of Excellence oversight rolled out to the Physical Health and Behavioral Health MCO's under their HealthChoices Agreement.
 - Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB) – Rolled out the Certified Peer Specialist full certification process which is necessary to provide Medicaid



billable peer support services. There was a time limited grandparenting process which ended on 08/31/2019

- IBHRS replaces BHRS – there are no more program exceptions such as previously with MST and FFT. It will roll in by phases. Stakeholder meetings are being held
- Outpatient regulations to change, currently in DRAFT
- Shortages of Psychiatrists in PA
- 10/16/2019 10:00am – 3:00pm Physical Health & Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting at the Camp Hill Giant
- 10/22/2019 Harvest Full of Hope Conference, Bethlehem PA
- 10/24/2019 DeSales University – Lehigh County Link – Special topics include the Dual Eligible Population; Seniors and Addiction; Drivers Ed. And Transportation
- New Member Handbook out and on our website <https://magellanofpa.com>; also, check out our Newsletters
- Suicide Prevention – Encourage everyone in the room to get involved. All counties have a task force and events.
- PerformCare – Mr. House shared the following information:
 - September: National Recovery Month – Substance Use, MH issues
 - Community Awareness & Suicide Prevention
 - Gearing up for the CHC rollout and resources
 - Outreaching to support groups and families regarding the BHRS to IBHRS rollout. BHRS also formerly known as wrap around services
 - Issues with Stigma: MH consumer will tell you they don't want to be labeled. Please be aware advocacy groups have sent letters to the Field of Screams in Lancaster PA regarding their Halloween Asylum depiction with no response. This is harmful to those with MH issues.

11:45 am Community Based Organization Updates & Upcoming Events

- No updates and upcoming events shared by Community Based Organizations present

11:50 am Consumer & Family Feedback

- No updates shared by the Committee nor the Audience in regards to Consumer and Family Feedback.

11:55 am Open Discussion

- 7/03/2019 Act 42: State Health Insurance – In 2020 Open Enrollment is being handled through <https://www.healthcare.gov/>, in 2021 PA will have it's own health coverage and navigators.
- Recommendation to have monthly events from the MCO's and organizations sent out to the committee and/or access a site with the information.



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12:00 pm Adjourn

Total Number of Attendees: 50

Committee Meeting minutes and presentations available at www.enrollnow.net

Next Meeting: HealthChoices Advisory Committee Meeting Lehigh/Capital Zone
April 2020
Date, Time, Location – To Be Determined