



HealthChoices Advisory Committee Meeting NorthEast Zone

Thursday, October 3, 2019

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Albright Memorial Library

500 Vine Street

Scranton, PA 18509

Meeting Agenda

10:00am Welcome & Introductions

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

- Roll Call Committee:
 - In Attendance: Mary Morrison; James Morrison, Sr.; Vionecia Hobson; Adria Laboy (Aetna Better Health); Lillian Russell-Burnett (AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast); Jeff Romey (CCBH); Cinthia Acencio (PA EAP)
 - Absent: Rebecca Held; Netecia Reeves; Stacy Gibson; Rebecca Dominguez (CCBH); Antoinette Flynn (Geisinger Health Plan); Annmarie Jennings (Maternal & Family Health Services); Tanya DeHaas (CIL NE PA)
- 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. Mr. Romey approved the minutes. Ms. Laboy seconded the approval.

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



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days prior and 1 day prior to the webinar. Webinars held since the July meeting included:

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

Upcoming webinars include:

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

10:20 am DHS

- a. BMCO Report -- Ms. Casey Hayes 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.
- 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:**



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- 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.



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- 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.
 - 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.



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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: What is the cost difference for pest eradication for the new fungus treatment?
Answer: It is pretty much a wash. The costs end up being about the same.
 - Question 2: Regarding the pest eradication, do you know if this information has been shared with the Headstart agencies? We’ve been told that bed bugs has been an issue for them.
Answer: I don’t know that it’s previously been shared with them. After the meeting if I can get your card/contact information I’ll send you the webinar information when the topic of pest eradication is scheduled and you can share it with them.
 - Question 3: How is transportation for nursing home transition coordinated?
Answer: The Nursing Home Transition Coordinator from the Managed Care Organization (MCO) and the Nursing Home Service Coordinator plan and organize the transition. This would include the transportation. Each MCO has a transportation broker.
 - Question 4: If you currently work with a Home Care Agency for Service Coordination, will you keep them when you roll to CHC?
Answer: Yes, for the first 180 days. The MCO’s are contracting with providers to provide the service you would have to see if the agency is contracted by the MCO and could continue to provide the service or if you would need to find a new contracted provider.

11:20 am Regional Report

- SDHP - Regional Housing Coordinator Update – Julia Hoskins, 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 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.



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- 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:
 - Carbon
 - The Housing Authority has 15 mainstream vouchers for which they are struggling to find eligible applicants.
 - The Section 8 list is long with a wait of over a year. There is a homeless preference.
 - One of the problems with RRH and voucher programs in Carbon County as in many rural counties across the state is that the rental housing stock is so degraded that units can’t pass the basic inspection that is required by those programs.
 - Centre
 - The Housing Authority has applied for the current round of Mainstream Vouchers for non-elderly people with disabilities.
 - The Section 8 waitlist is open, and they currently have approximately 350 people on their waitlist.
 - Rental housing is difficult in Centre County because of the high student population meaning that rents are high, most wages are low and housing is scarce.
 - Clinton
 - There is no Section 8 program in Clinton County.
 - The Public Housing Waiting Lists are open. They currently have 28 households with disabled individual and 46 with elderly individuals waiting for apartments. The average wait time is 12+ months.



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- The SEDA-COG Housing Development Corporations is about to break ground on a new 34 unit LIHTC elderly affordable housing project in Clinton County. Apartments should be online around January 2021.
- Lackawanna
 - The Housing Authority of Lackawanna County Section 8 Choice Voucher Program will be temporarily reopened on Monday, 10/07/2019. Individuals and households must apply online before the closing date of Monday, 10/21/2019. The Housing Authority of Lackawanna County Public Housing Program will also reopen on Monday, 10/07/2019. This program will remain open until further notice and applications must be submitted online.
- Luzerne
 - The Scranton Housing Authority will reopen Public Housing on 10/07/2019. Application will not be given out until that day.
- Monroe, Wayne, Pike Counties
 - SHARE is an affordable housing choice that brings together homeowners who want to share their home with home seekers who are looking for housing in exchange for rent, help around the house, or a combination of both. The home seeker receives their own bedroom and agreed upon use of the common areas. Every arrangement is unique depending on the needs, preferences, and abilities of the participants involved.

Anyone over age 18, is eligible for this program. Homes must be located in Monroe, Pike or Wayne Counties. Each home must have a designated bedroom for the sharer.

Monroe County homes, contact Ryan Lohman at 570-832-0538

Pike and Wayne County homes, contact Larisa Yusko at 570-832-5133

- Monroe
 - Mainstream Vouchers – The Housing Authority applied for 50 vouchers for a Move on Strategy so this will be to help move on households from RRH and PSH programs into more independent but affordable housing, leaving room in the supportive programs. They are working closely with the county MH/DS office to coordinate with them for Mainstream Vouchers targeting and/or prioritizing those with a Mental Health (MH) disability.
 - Monroe County's Section 8 waiting list has been closed for about 3 – 4 years with the wait for those on the list several years long.
 - The Public Housing waiting list is about 3 – 5 years. They do have a homeless, disability, DV, and veteran preferences.



- Monroe County struggles with affordable housing. The high HUD FMRs make it challenging for households who are receiving vouchers to find affordable rental housing within the parameters given to them by the Housing Authority.
- Monroe County has seen a rise in the short term rental industry so affordable homes that used to be available are now targeted for short term rental use.

- Pike and Wayne
 - Mainstream Vouchers – These counties did apply for the new Mainstream Voucher NOFA
 - They require that all Mainstream Voucher applicants be county residents. There is no homeless preference.
 - These counties also chose a Move On Strategy for their Mainstream Vouchers.

- 811 PRA Waitlist – Current Waitlist total as of 01/02/2019
 - Bradford – 29
 - Centre – 36
 - Clinton – 15
 - Lackawanna – 0
 - Luzerne – 7
 - Mifflin – 7
 - Mifflin, Luzerne, and Lackawanna are critical 811 PRA waitlist counties. Program eligibility criteria include: having extremely low income, being eligible for long term community supports and Medicaid, having a permanent disability. The person must also belong to a priority population: institutionalized, at risk of institutionalization, residing in congregate care. If you have any questions about or know of anyone who may be eligible for the 811 PRA program and want to reside in these counties, please contact jhoskins@sdhp.org.

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

- Aetna Better Health Plan– Ms. Laboy shared the following information:
 - Mondays at the Market –had CORA our 50 foot RV in the square; provided BMI testing and health smoothies
 - 10/05/2019 Child Career Fair – Scranton
 - 10/12/2019 Sponsoring PBS – 50 year celebration of Sesame Street from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Meet Abby Cadabby, we’ll be providing free screenings.
 - 10/12/2019 Steamtown Mall Event – Community Fall Fest from 10:00am – 4:00pm
 - 10/24/2019 Attending Utility Wise
 - 10/25/2019 Grandparents raising Grandchildren – event free for grandparents



- AmeriHealth Caritas – Ms. Russell-Burnett shared the following information:
 - October – Breast Cancer Month
 - Mt. Pocono – partnering with Walmart – Mobile van will be there to give mammograms.
 - Baby showers for the year just finished
 - Health Fair – Sullivan County
 - 10/12/2019 Steamtown Mall Event – Community Fall Fest from 10:00am – 4:00pm
 - November – Diabetes Screenings
 - 2020 Opening a Health & Wellness Center

- Geisinger –
 - Bloomsburg Fair – Administering Flu Shots
 - Scranton and Kingston – 65+ centers

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

- Community Care Behavioral Health – Mr. Romey shared the following information:
 - 10/12/2019 Steamtown Mall Event – Community Fall Fest from 10:00am – 4:00pm
 - 10/25/2019 Grandparents raising Grandchildren – event free for grandparents
 - Adult Member Meetings – Reimbursed \$40 stipend for their attendance and participation; will be held at the following locations
 - 10/07/2019 Mayfield House
 - 10/16/2019 New Beginnings Drop In Center
 - 10/28/2019 A Better Today
 - 11/17/2019 Friendship House

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



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- Clarification was asked for about the event at the Steamtown Mall being held in Scranton, PA – it is a Community Fall Fest being held at the mall on 10/12/2019 from 10:00am - 4:00pm. The event will host: over 100 tricky tray baskets, fun family friendly activities. The event is a fundraiser for two, non-profit, social service agencies in Lackawanna County: The Community Intervention Center and Friends of the Poor Scranton.

12:00 pm Adjourn

Total Number of Attendees: 32

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

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