

HealthChoices Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date:	Thursday, October 5, 2017
Zone:	NewWest
Total # of Attendees:	23
Consumer/ Parent Attendees	2
Health Plan Attendees:	3
DHS Attendees:	3
PA EAP Attendees:	2
Facilitators:	Teresa McDonnell, Outreach Operations Manager; Bobbie Jo Comes, Senior Outreach Coordinator
Agenda:	<p>1. Introductions</p> <p>a. Teresa McDonnell welcomed all who were in attendance to the New West HealthChoices Advisory Committee Meeting and gave an opportunity for all to introduce themselves.</p> <p>b. Bobbie Jo Comes also asked all in attendance to please fill out the contact information sheet to take attendance as well as the Survey form at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>2. Review of the meeting minutes from July 2017:</p> <p>a. Ms. Comes asked all in attendance to review meeting minutes. There were no questions regarding the July 2017 meeting minutes.</p> <p>3. Enrollment Assistance Program Update</p> <p>a. Data review: Ms. Comes provided data from PA Enrollment Services from June 2017 to August 2017 for the New West Zone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollments • Transfers to different health plans • Reasons for disenrollment. <p>Included were the 10 top reasons given for transfer. When consumers select a transfer, the reason is asked; Enrollment Assistance Program does not pressure consumers and remain unbiased in their selection. Ms. Comes explained PA Enrollments role with Medical Assistance and how they provide unbiased information regarding HealthChoices plans and providers, so that consumers can make the best decision regarding their enrollment. She further explained</p>

that they send out mailings and make outbound phone calls to secure consumer enrollments.

**4. Feature Presentation: " Supporting Pennsylvanians through Housing
Presented by: Ben Laudermilch, Executive Housing Director
Pennsylvania Department of Human Services/Housing**

- Too many Pennsylvanians in Institutions could live in the community with assistance.
- Transitioning 500 individuals from the 53, 754 from nursing homes to independent living could save \$15.7 million per year.
- 15, 421 experienced homelessness in January of 2015 alone: among them were veterans, school aged children and families. The average test school of a child with a home was 71%, a child without a home; 45%
- PA had a 4.65 increase in homelessness.
- Too many are rent burdened due to low income.
- No more than 30% of housing budget should take up the income but to afford an average one bedroom of \$739 per month you would need to make \$14.21 per hour yet the minimum wage is \$7.25.
- Solutions: Remove barriers, connect people with housing opportunities, expand affordable housing, partner with local agencies, pool resources and share ideas and utilize data to share ideas.

Strategy No. 1: Connect People to Housing

- Goal No. 1: Build better local and state housing partnerships.
- Goal No. 2: Provide IT tools to the local referral network to better connect individuals and families to housing.
- Goal No. 3: Expand the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program in partnership with PHFA.

Strategy No. 2: Strength Services and Supports that address housing needs.

- Goal No. 1: Maximize Medicaid funding for housing-related services and supports
- Goal No. 2: Increase housing opportunities and services for individuals in the criminal justice system with mental illness and substance abuse disorder.

Strategy No. 3: Expand Funding Opportunities for Housing

- Goal No. 1: Develop public and private partnerships.
- Goal No. 2: Target existing DHS resources for housing programs.
- Goal No. 3: Redirect existing homeless and housing services resources toward housing; partner with DCED, PHFA and the Homeless Continua of Care.

Strategy No. 4: Measure and Communicate Progress

- Goal No. 1: Track metrics and measure outcomes
- Goal No. 2: Continually improve DHS programs.

- Goal No. 3: Communicate the progress of the DHS Housing Strategy to stakeholders and advocates.

DHS Five Year Housing Strategy: www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/housing

Other resources:

- www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/healthcaremedicalassistance/healthchoicesgeneralinformation
- DHS waivers: www.dhs.pa.gov/learnaboutdhs/waiverinformation
- CMCS Housing Services Informational Bulletin:
www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/CIB-06-26-2015.pdf
- PHFA's Online Rental & Homeownership Search Tool
www.pahousingsearch.com

Contact Information:

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Q: If someone maxes out of a facility and is moving into the community, are they eligible across programs/funding streams.

A: Yes, they may be. The concern is that social workers do not always know where to go and/or what resources are available especially when it comes to housing. Housing occurs at the local level. Reviewed contacts for housing. State contacts listed above. In Erie, Jennifer Moore is part of the local referral network. Discussed engagement of Managed Care Organizations and Housing partners during discharge planning.

Opened and reviewed the DHS Housing Website:

www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/housing and explore other resources on the link.

*See additional Questions & Answers on Housing from the Health Choices Advisory Committee Meeting on the Housing Q&A document.

**5. Department of Human Services Update
Mike Wilkinson, DHS, Division of Monitoring/Compliance**

- a. Medicaid Expansion:
 - Approximately 2 years ago, Phase II of the PA Medical Assistance Expansion.
 - Due to PA Medical Assistance Expansion, 708, 870 Pennsylvania citizens have healthcare coverage. (as of 9/28/2017)
 - The Pennsylvania's uninsured rate prior to the expansion was approximately 10%; with the Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Expansion dropped, the uninsured rate dropped to 5.4% in 2016.

- b. Re-procurement:
 - Currently in a stay; the appeal from the disappointed Managed Care Organizations is to be heard in Commonwealth Court.
 - No further information is available.

- c. Teresa Miller, is the new Acting DHS Deputy Secretary

- d. Community Health Choices Roll out
 - Start Date: January 2018 Southwest Zone; other zones will roll out at a future date.

- e. Resource for information regarding services: HealthChoices PA Website
 - Reviewed the information and resources available on <http://www.healthchoices.pa.gov/>

- f. Social Media
 - Facebook: Visit the Facebook page and "Like Us"
 - Twitter: See our posts on twitter and "Like Us"

6. Physical & Behavioral Health Managed Care Upcoming Events

- a. St. Martins Center: 10/07/2017 Shining Star Program
- b. CCBH: 11/02/2017 12:00pm Autism Society
- c. CCBH: 11/06/2017 Consumer Satisfaction Team
- d. VBH: 11/09/2017 9:00am – 4:30pm @ Park Inn Radisson, Off Interstate 80
10th Annual Family & Adult Behavioral Health Forum – Crawford, Mercer, and Venango Counties

7. Open discussion

Next Meeting: To Be Announced

