



HealthChoices Advisory Committee Meeting SouthWest Zone

Thursday, October 10, 2019

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

West Moreland Intermediate Unit
Fred Rogers Conference Room
102 Equity Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601

Meeting Agenda

10:00am Welcome & Introductions

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

- Roll Call Committee:
 - In Attendance: Ronel Baccus (Parent/Legal Guardian); Laurel Spence (Aetna); Harry Manley (Gateway); Jacki Porter (United HealthCare); Skip Boykin (UPMC); Curtis Upsher (CCBH); Suzanne Klaus (Beacon Health Options/VBH); Tracy Shultz (Magellan); Jason Rilgio (Magellan); Bobbie Jo Comes (PA EAP)
 - Absent: Dena Hoke (Consumer/Parent); Sara Stenger (Parent); Jody Kris (Center for Independent Living); George Ifill (Gateway); Lindsay Wiefeling (United HealthCare); Geraldine Green (Beacon Health Options/VBH/Parent); Rita Lane (Southwest Behavioral Health Management)
- 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. Suzanne Klaus approved the minutes. Ms. Rita Lane 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 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:

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

10:20 am DHS

- a. BMCO Report -- Mr. Stephen Luckie 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.



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- 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



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○ **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.

- Pennsylvania declared a hepatitis A outbreak in May 2019.



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- 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: Who do I contact for non-emergency transportation?
Answer: You would contact your health plan for non-medical transportation. For non-emergency medical transportation you contact the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP). IT's the same process as you were using with MATP previously when you had been under HealthChoices.
 - Question 2: Are the Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations the same as they are in the HealthChoices Program?
Answer: Yes, they are.
 - Question 3: Under non-medical transportation, can you go to more than one place in a day?
Answer: Yes, if it is built into your service plan. So for example, you could go to the gym in the morning to work on range of motion issues and a birthday party in the afternoon for socialization skills.
 - Question 4: Is there a set time line when a consumer makes a request to their Service Coordinator for example with home modifications?
Answer: There currently is not a time line/frame for home modification requests. We have heard that this is an issue and we are looking at these and working on this issue.
 - Question 5: Do you call MAXIMUS (PA-IEB) if you want to change your plan?
Answer: Yes, if you want to change your CHC plan you call the Pennsylvania Independent Enrollment Broker. If you are HealthChoices, you would contact the Pennsylvania Enrollment Broker, PA-EAP to change your plan.



- Question 6: Can a consumer change his/her CHC plan at anytime?
Answer: Yes, a consumer can change his/her CHC plan at anytime. We use the same dating rules as HealthChoices.
- Question 7: Will they ever have statistics on complaints that consumers can see and access? Will the MCO's ever have Consumer's serve on their complaint committees?
Answer: The requirements for the MCO's under Community HealthChoices regarding Complaints, Grievances and Appeals are the same as in HealthChoices. You would have to review your MCO's policy and procedure in this area. Regarding statistics on complaints, the MLTSS SubMaac Meetings review this information which you can call into the meetings if you would like to hear information in this area.

11:50 am Regional Report

SDHP - Regional Housing Coordinator Update – Ms. Jennifer Malone, Regional Housing Coordinator shared the following information:

- Regional Updates

Funding: PHARE RFP opened RFP opened – September 9th . ♦ Applications due by 2pm on November 15th awards will be announced spring/summer of 2020

<https://www.phfa.org/legislation/act105.aspx>

What is PHARE? Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund (PHARE)

The PHARE Act outlines specific requirements that include preferences, considerations, match funding options and obligations to utilize a percentage of the funds to assist households below 50% of the median area income. The PHARE Act provides a fairly broad canvas regarding the types of programs and the specific uses of any funding to allow flexibility in working with other state and federal acts and programs.

For Program Year 2019/2020, the PHARE Fund includes funds available through:

Marcellus Shale (Act 13 of 2012) Erie is not one of the qualifying counties

Realty Transfer Tax ("RTT") Funds (Act 58 of 2015) All 67 counties are eligible

National Housing Trust Fund ("HTF"), Each state receives 3 million, 90% of which is to be used for low income households in rental units

Open this link below for a complete list of the first round of 2019 PHARE summary awards to see how other county agencies, municipalities, county governments, for profit and non profit organizations are working together to increase affordable housing



in their communities.

https://www.phfa.org/forms/phare_program_phare_fund/funding_announcements/2019_project_summaries_final.pdf

Funding: PHARE funding for 2019 Summaries for SWPA

What is PHARE? Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund (PHARE)

Southwest Zone was awarded \$15,071,737.00 to provide funding for 45 projects in your southwest zone. These projects range from new construction of affordable housing, home modifications, rental and utility assistance, purchasing and rehabbing foreclosed properties into low income rental properties, landbanks for blighted properties, creation of accessible units, mortgage conciliation, down payment and closing cost funds, credit counseling and more.

Allegheny: 20 projects funded totaling \$10,007,237.00

Armstrong: 2 project totaling \$398,000.00

Beaver: 3 projects totaling \$275,000.00

Butler: 4 projects totaling \$1,234,000.00

Fayette: 2 projects totaling \$225,000.00

Greene: 2 projects totaling \$900,000.00

Indiana: 1 project totaling \$100,000.00

Lawrence: 2 projects totaling \$225,000.00

Somerset: 1 project totaling \$75,000.00

Washington: 5 projects totaling \$1,332,500.00

Westmoreland: 3 projects totaling \$300,000

SDHP Programming; Webinars on various topics will be offered, please refer to the handout and contact me if you would like to know more about the topics

- Housing 101
- Fair Housing



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- Prepared Renter Education Program (PREP)
- Landlord Engagement
- 811 PRA

811 Updates

- Beaver short wait list so referrals are strongly encouraged. Koppel Terrace- four 1BR units and Riverview Apartments. **Currently sending referrals for two of this units that are available as we speak**
- Butler-Madison Grove has four 1BR apartments committed. **Currently one unit will be available on Nov 1st and we are sending referrals now.**
- Fayette county has a short wait list so referrals are strongly encouraged. Rose Square Apartments has one 1BR and one 2BR
- ****Cambria has no wait list. Currently available 2BR unit at Crossroads Meadows;** overall this property has two 1BR, two 2BR, and two 3BR units committed
- ****Indiana has no wait list. Currently available one 2BR units at The Homestead;** overall this property has three 2BR units. Hickory Meadow has four 1BR units committed to the program
- Westmoreland is one of the newer counties to be active with 811. They are anticipated to have 811 units at Pioneer Apartments. It is a good idea to add people to the wait list now so when the property is ready, we can immediately send referrals. We are holding a stakeholder meeting on October 24th at 11 am. For information on the location of this meeting please see me afterwards.
- Allegheny has a very long wait list and only a handful of designated units with the 811 program. Both housing authorities have leveraged HCVs for individuals on the 811 wait list but again the list is very long. (over 200 people and I am not sure how many vouchers are left)

Lawrence, Washington, Greene, Somerset, Bedford, and Armstrong are not currently active with the 811 program. If providers from that area want to refer individuals to the 811 wait list they may still do so. Individuals can select up to three counties if they wish and they may change their interested counties at any time.

Local Lead Agencies: Have some copies of Western PA, SDHP's Region 3 PHFA's list of LLAs:

https://www.phfa.org/forms/local_lead_agencies/dhs-local-lead-agencies.pdf

If you or your agency want more information on 811 PRA:

- Upcoming Overview for 811 (Wed. October 23 @ 10 am)
- Request to participate on the webinar by e-mailing 811@sdhp.org



12:00 pm Physical Health Managed Care Initiatives, Updates & Upcoming Events

- Aetna Better Health Plan - Ms. Spence shared the following information:
 - Partnering with WQED – Sesame Street Days
 - Pittsburgh Food Bank & CBS – Offering flu shots
 - Expanded our Community Health Worker programs – go out to meet with members in their home and get them connected to the services and resources they need
- Gateway Health Plan - Mr. Manley shared the following information:
 - 11/12/19 Thanksgiving Day Convention
- United HealthCare Community Plan – Ms. Porter shared the following information:
 - 10/29/19 Salvation Army – Overcoming Barriers to Housing
- UPMC For You - Mr. Boykin shared the following information:
 - We partner with many community organizations
 - Allegheny County – McKeesport Hospital

12:05 pm Behavioral Health Managed Care Updates & Upcoming Events

- Community Care Behavioral Health - Mr. Upsher shared the following information:
 - Providing Behavioral Health Services in Bedford and Somerset counties.
 - Continuing meet and greets for members – being done by Jennifer Stubbs, Community Relations Coordinator
 - Forming our Advisory Meetings in these areas
 - 5/12/20 Conference in the spring at the William Penn Hotel – the focus will be on trauma
- Magellan Behavioral Health – Ms. Shultz shared the following information:
 - Our Suicide Prevention event “Out of the Dark” raised \$24 million dollars
 - 9/24/19 Recovery in the Valley a success. Jason Rilgio instrumental with this event.
 - Issued an RFP to providers for Transition to Independence services
 - New – Case Management to Care Management: Training to help them integrate both the behavioral health and physical health components.
- VBH/Beacon Health Options - Ms. Klaus shared the following information:
 - Hosted our Family Forum last week – 225 individuals attend the event
 - Tobacco Cessation – Outreached and presented to all the Drop Inn Centers in our network. One more scheduled to occur.
 - Transition Age: We had two youth’s proposals selected for the National Federation of Families Conference.



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- 11/07/19 will host our NorthWest 3 forum for families and adults in those counties.
- Monster Mash coming up in October

12:15 pm Community Based Organization Updates & Upcoming Events

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

12:16 pm Consumer & Family Feedback

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

12:17 pm Open Discussion

- No items shared by the Committee nor the Audience during the Open Discussion.

12:18 pm Adjourn

- **Please complete the survey in your packet, your feedback is very important to us.**

Total Number of Attendees: 39

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

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