

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Behavioral Health Council
Wednesday
October 26, 2022

Present: Mary Monnat, Danielle Berner, Karen James, Carol Greenough, Colin McCoy, Eric Schmidt, Larysa Thomas, Sean Fields

Absent: Kim Cooper, Marcia Hille, Lynne Schroeder, Stephanie Rose, Dave Mowry, Becky Jones, Emily Matkar, Preet Singh, Steven Youngs

Staff: Nick Ocon, BH Director; Ian May, BH Program Manager; Kathy Prenevost, Addictions Supervisor; Jasmine Cuddigan, Administrative Specialist II; Aika Fallstrom, Program Specialist

Guests: Sgt. Holly Greener, Sally Reid, Laura Vences

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Program Updates:

CMHP (Community Mental Health Program)

- Certificate of Approval (COA) State Audit
 - Was completed in September
 - Result: Passed with no findings- which is very rare
 - Though there were no findings- we will still be asking the state for feedback to further improve our processes.
- Aid and Assist
 - 2 new positions have been added:
 - Community Restoration Navigator
 - Court Case Manager
 - Also working on hiring a Jail Case Manager
 - A presentation was done to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) about Aid & Assist (in partnership with Sheriff and DA's office) which was well received.

CCO (Coordinated Care Organizations)

1115 Waiver was approved. Here is some information on what it does and does not include:

What's included:

- Continuous enrollment for children through age 6 and two years of continuous enrollment for people over age 6
- Health-related social needs (HRSN) benefits for people experiencing transitions (homelessness, youth with special health care needs up to age 26, youth in child welfare, older adults with dual Medicaid/Medicare coverage, Adults/youth leaving justice system, and adults leaving OSH)

- Health-related social needs (HRSN) benefits related to extreme weather events (yes, finally air conditioners will be covered)
- OHP to cover all Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) required services up to age 21

What is *not for now* (in continued negotiations with CMS):

- Community investment collaboratives
- Tribal related request
- Pre-release coverage for justice-involved populations
- Pre-release coverage for OSH patients

What is not included:

- Rate-setting flexibilities for CCOs
- Pharmacy flexibilities
- Expedited Medicaid enrollment through SNAP
- Employment and transportation HRSN benefits
- Covering peer-delivered behavioral health services outside a care plan

Addictions

- Center for Addictions Triage and Treatment (CATT) Update
 - The Elam Young Parkway Building has been purchased (also known as Community Services Building) to serve as the outpatient and hub for the community services part of CATT's model
 - We have also published a Letter of Intent (LOI) for outpatient SUD providers for the Community Services Building
- With a grant from Trillium Community Health, we were able to create a destigmatization campaign- videos were shared with the group.
 - Videos can also be viewed [here](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKDIy7dI3dlHcqagYjXG7wPI6kNW_609z):
(https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKDIy7dI3dlHcqagYjXG7wPI6kNW_609z)

Member Updates

- Carol
 - Thrives is doing a BH recruitment through Vision Action Network (VAN) and is doing an expanded job fair on 1/21/2023.

Bylaws Subcommittee Update/Report Out

- A summary of changes since our last update in April was given.
- Proposals include:
 - Addition of a "Purpose" section
 - Elaborating and clarifying Article II (Duties and Responsibilities)

- Changing the membership size from 19 members to 15 members with 4 alternates (this will be further discussed with larger BHC group)
- Possible addition of secretary as an officer (this will require further discussion with larger BHC group)
- If there is any feedback, please contact Aika Fallstrom

2023 Legislative Update and Priorities

- Government Relations Manager, Zakir Khan, came and spoke to the group about various legislative concepts already in the works. In addition, he spoke further about HB 2949.
- In creating HB 2949, the lessons and feedback heard was:
 - There is high debt and long supervision requirements for Qualified Mental Health Professionals and Licensed Clinicians
 - As a result, there was \$60 million in funding added for traditional barriers. At this time, OHA has only pushed out about \$10 million.
- In this upcoming legislative session, there is a proposal of a new bill (which is a slight revision of HB 2949)- this new bill would be similar, but with the addition of a county-specific earmark.
- There will also be a new bill proposed for addressing the workforce issue within the Health & Human Services Realm
 - Representative Tawna Sanchez will be making recommendations
- The Washington County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) also sent a letter to congress regarding recruitment and retention.

Provider Rate Increases and Impact

Future: HB 5202 included a special appropriation to allocate an increase to BH provider rates by an average of 30%

- This investment in state general funds is anticipated to result in approximately \$154.5 million total funds for Oregon's Medicaid system.
- Broad increases to the Oregon Health Plan fee-for-service fee schedule will be effective July 1, 2022.
- The 2023 coordinated care organization (CCO) contract will include agreements to support CCO rate increases for their behavioral health provider networks, effective January 1, 2023.

Currently, our providers voiced that the funding from the last cycle just went into effect, but it is still very difficult to get and retain the more qualified staff (QMHPs).

2023 Chair Elect Nominations and Elections

- Eric Schmidt has volunteered to be the Chair Elect for 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting minutes for June or September have not been approved as there was no quorum.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Aika Fallstrom, Program Specialist