



MINUTES

Board of Directors

May 15, 2019

Horizon Health – 55 Dodge Road East Amherst 14068

10AM -12:30PM

Welcome and Introductions: Mark O'Brien welcomed the group at 10:06 am and requested that introductions be completed. He requested that a motion be made to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2019 meeting. Howard Hitzel moved that the minutes be approved as written, seconded by Kirsten Vincent. All in favor, none opposed.

New Board Members: Mark informed the board that Nicole Muccheck from The Resource Center will be the new CBO-Rural representative. He also introduced a new member, Joseph Smith from MVP; reported that Kelly Dryja, DCS of Wyoming County will now be a member of the DCS stakeholder group; and that new members Augusta Welsh, Interim DCS, Genesee County and Steven Harvey, CEO of Integrity Partners were also present. Margaret is looking for another representative for the HHS seat; Pat Brinkman stated that she will reach out to UPMC-Chautauqua to assess their interest in returning to the board.

WNY RPC 2020 Board Election: Margaret explained that the CBO, HHS, and PFY seats are up for reelection. Key partners will need to be re-appointed by the board. Key partner seats are not limited to 6 seats, we can expand it to accommodate SMEs. The by-laws direct the election process and board seats available. Mark has agreed to serve as the DCS co-chair; the community co-chair seat will be up for re-election at the February 2020 board meeting. There will be a stakeholder meeting in late September-October to talk about the RPCs and begin recruiting community members for board seats. Margaret requested that the board amend the by-laws to change the composition of the PFY group to 3 peers and 3 family advocates; she shared that Vicki McCarthy is working with community agencies to develop a youth advisory group for additional input to this group. Anne Constantino made a motion to amend the by-laws as stated; seconded by Chris Syracuse. Approved unanimously. Margaret asked for volunteers to help build agenda for the stakeholder meeting. Chris Syracuse, Mary O'Leary, and Michelle Scheib volunteered to assist. Margaret explained to the group that there is a guide to the election process for coordinators.

Updates from State Partners:

OMH: Chris Marcello gave an update on the children's transition timeframe. State waiver services were consolidated on April 1st. On July 1st there are five (5) milestones: (1) Family/Peer support services will be part of the CFTSS array; (2) behavioral health services for adults will be available for individuals ages 18-21 (ACT, PROS); (3) children who have been designated as SED will be cared into MMC; (4) LOC (level of care) will be phasing in – this will be in addition to existing slots; (5) children covered under SSI will also be integrated into MMC. There is a state designated list of CFTSS & HCBS providers available on the OMH website. October 1st

milestones: FFS services (waiver services) will move to MMC. LOCD is done by the care manager, this is a critical step. C-YES will do the LOCD if the child is not enrolled in a health home.

May 22nd is the children's roundtable, members are encouraged to call in. If you are interested in listening at the WNYFO contact Chris Marcello. He shared that this will be the last call until August unless there is demand for a specialized call. Important to note: there are network gaps within the 3 existing services (CPST, OLP, and PSR). Beth McPartland brought up that agencies are still waiting for budget approval for children's HCBS under FFS. She urged the Field Office and other providers to advocate for the rates to get approved ASAP as providers are beginning to have cash flow concerns – they are providing services and not being reimbursed and are unsure of how long they will be able to continue to do this.

Adult HCBS: WNY has a 15% rate of those enrolled in HCBS services, one of the highest rates in the state (% HCBS Claims/HH Enrollment). An examination of service utilization rates demonstrates an increase in service provision. MV shared that she had sent out a spreadsheet detailing the HARP enrollment, HH enrollment, and HCBS assessment numbers to the board in their packet. In response to a comment regarding residential services and managed care, Chris shared that there is still a carve-out for residential services.

Chris also shared that state rates will continue through 2023. Anne Constantino stated that many behavioral health providers are concerned regarding the continuation of rates that do not reflect the cost of providing services. Current government rates do not take into consideration the ever-increasing costs of benefits, retaining staff, and general costs of doing business. This has been an on-going concern of the WNYRPC and it will continue to be raised at state co-chairs meetings.

A question was raised regarding Tele-mental health. Chris Smith shared that there has been a delay in promulgating the regulations. Organizations and PFY should continue to send any concerns/questions/comments to Chris Smith. MV shared that there are some upcoming webinars and will send links to the board members.

Howard Hitzel, BestSelf, shared his concerns regarding the upcoming sunset of the CCBHC pilot June 30, 2019. Chris Smith shared that the state is advocating for the extension of CCBHC.

OASAS: Carol Cornacchio gave an update. She shared that she has heard a similar re workforce and financial struggles as noted during the OMH update. Carol shared that OASAS is examining concerns related to QHPs in their licensed programs. This was regarding the 3/1/19 revision of LSB 2012-04 Medication Adm Policies: *Appropriately trained program staff are staff trained by a Registered Nurse who has documented Train the Trainer Training for the Oversight of Patient Self Administration of Medication. For purposes of this LSB, appropriately trained program staff may only include CASAC, CASAC-T and individuals licensed by the NYS Education Department.*

She reminded outpatient services utilizing peer services to be sure that they are following guidelines re reimbursement rates. She also shared that OASAS is looking at the supervisory requirements for peer services and will update the RPCs as more information becomes available.

Questions were asked regarding Open Access Centers; Anne Constantino reported that \$450,000 was available for one-time funding; locally a workgroup came together to develop a model based on a hub & spoke plan. This was a five county plan [Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara counties] who would work together to

market and expedite referrals to the appropriate level of care. The plan was not approved by OASAS and the money was returned. Some members of the plan shared that it is difficult to operate this type of grant across a large multi-county region.

Mark O'Brien raised a question regarding COTI's [Centers of Treatment Innovations]; these were developed out of a one-time funding opportunity. Carol stated that she will get more information about these programs and will share at the next board meeting. Lastly, she reminded SUD providers of the on-going secret shopper program - providers should be asking if the client is at risk of losing their child during the time a client is calling to request services. OASAS may fine those who are not asking that question during intake.

Pat Brinkman shared her concerns re how money is being allocated. She shared that while there are large service needs and identified gaps, often dollars are being allocated on a very specific program basis while not taking local needs into consideration. Pat shared that she, along with many other LGUs, have developed a wide range of partnerships along with a local service plan identifying community needs. These needs often vary county by county. She shared her thoughts that there needs to be a closer working relationship between OASAS and the counties (and their associated community organizations) to determine how funding should be allocated across the state.

Mark shared that OCFS is not able to participate in RPC board meetings at this time but will continue to participate in any children's subcommittee meetings.

Update: Results from board survey on prioritizing issues/actions for 2019: Margaret reviewed the results of the survey. The results were utilized in the development of a workplan [2019 workplan – sent as part of the board packet]. Each item was ranked by priority as voted upon by the board. She noted that many of the items have already been assigned to workgroups and therefore were not listed in the board survey. Items highly prioritized were listed on the PPT with their current status. A discussion took place around the issue of having CBOs meet with inpatient BH providers. It was thought that individual meetings with hospitals might be the most productive; it was shared that Millennium PPS has several committees in place working with hospitals and that the WNYRPC might link with those committees to have our concerns addressed. Margaret will work with Andrea Wanat, LaTonya Diggs, and PPS representatives to share RPC concerns and see if these can be addressed through existing meeting structures.

A discussion was held regarding the use of psychiatric time to conduct assessments of clients being referred to licensed OMH housing. For all licensed group homes and treatment apartment programs a prescription (physician's authorization) is required for anyone as a contingency to enter the program. Without this form, residential agencies cannot bill Medicaid for services. Regulations state that a physician must be complete the initial authorization; subsequent authorizations can be completed by a PA or NPP. With the shortage of psychiatrists and the high demand for their time in clinic it is difficult to justify utilizing psychiatric time for this purpose. This statement was reinforced by several CBOs in attendance. The board agreed that MV will continue to research this concern and will develop a statement advocating for the change in regulations. The board will vote their approval of the advocacy statement.

MV noted that this issue came to her attention through an email from Anne Constantino. MV shared that board members do not need to wait for a meeting to bring forward issues/concerns – members can email MV directly and she will consult with the co-chairs to determine if the issue is one that can be addressed under the scope of the RPC mission.

Workgroup Updates: Updates were provided on PPTs and on a summary sent to the board [workgroup summaries 5.15.2019].

- a. **Children’s Subcommittee:** This subcommittee has repurposed the group numerous times. Margaret and Vicki M are working to outreach parent groups to hear feedback on concerns. MV is also developing a survey to go designated CFTSS providers asking for feedback on the transition to the new services. Beth McPartland and Kelly Dryja are assisting with the development of the survey.
- b. **HHH:** This workgroup met on 5/14/19. There was a panel discussion on the current status of HCBS and progress made by this workgroup since its initial meeting. Transportation issues are being forwarded for inclusion at the next state co-chairs meeting. The next meeting will focus on addressing issues on the 2019 workplan. The group has also decided to hold a CMA networking event during the summer.
- c. **OASAS 820:** This workgroup developed a paper on issues related to conflicts in OASAS and OTDA regulations and distributed this to OASAS, OTDA, and Erie County DSS staff at the April OTDA conference in Buffalo. The group has developed an agenda for the next meeting and has invited DSS Commissioners and DCS’s to attend. MV requested that DCS’s outreach their counterparts at DSS and ask them to attend.
- d. **Workforce:** This workgroup is looking to recruit new members who work within a training department or HR department at a CBO and from local schools/universities who have human service/counseling/ social work programs.

Update: Presentation on Results from Workforce Survey: The focus of this survey was to find out what entry level counselor who recently graduated from Master’s level programs think about their educational readiness for work. Five colleges/universities participated in the survey and sent the information to recent alumni. A separate PPT was sent to board members after the meeting which delineated the results of the survey. Board discussion was around areas where CBOs can make changes within their organizations [items around culture of agencies] and areas where students did not feel prepared to address likely work scenarios [emergency situations, knowledge of local resources]. MV shared that the information will be shared with all participating school programs. She also shared that 18 respondents agreed that they would like to be part of a focus group and asked for input re questions the board would like answered. Board members shared that information regarding the use of best practices, what has helped the recent graduates succeed in their positions, feedback on field placements and what can be done to improve these, and asking respondents what their long term goals re counseling and human services might be. MV shared that she is also collecting input from the schools regarding questions and plans to hold the initial focus group sometime in June. She stated that she will discuss the idea of developing a speaker’s bureau to include speakers from every level of service to be open to use by colleges if they express interest in utilizing this service.

Group Break-out Discussion:

What changes, if any, would you like to see in the WNYRPC? Al Hammonds asked how the RPC measures its goals from year to year. Mark shared that the goals are very broad and are not quantifiable. MV shared that the workplan lists goals that the region strives to meet in 2019. Another member suggested representatives from some of the specialty courts be invited to attend. Another asked about OPWDD representation – Mark shared that at this time OPWDD continues to not be part of the MMC transition as set forth by OMH, OASAS, and DOH but stated that the new commissioner appears to want to develop broader communication between the “O” agencies.

What are the most important BH issues in WNY today? Members shared their opinion that the WNYRPC appears to be on track examining and discussing current issues. A recent publication [Your Path to Hope: Mental Health Awareness Guide] quoted several members of the WNYRPC Board and other leaders in the BH field; several of the quotes dealt with workforce shortages, SUD concerns, housing, and collaborative efforts – all concerns we are addressing in the WNYRPC.

Updates from Key Partners:

- 1. Millennium PPS:** Al Hammonds reported that DSRIP is in Year 5 and that they are in their last 6 weeks of the measurement year. He shared that the 1115 waiver will be renewed. He also reported that several PPS's are working on a white paper detailing their accomplishments and plans for the future. He reports that it is likely that a proposal will be submitted in November 2019 to extend DSRIP.
- 2. FLPPS:** Nathan Franus shared that they are reviewing their system transformation analytics. He reports that one of the NOCN [naturally occurring care networks] comprised of Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties received one of 7 grants given out by FPPS.
- 3. Community Partners of WNY:** Bruce Nisbet shared that they are distributing innovation grants.
- 4. Value Network:** Howard Hitzel reported that they are working with MCOs and are further developing their network along with various data measures. He shared that FQHCs are excluded from being part of up/down contracts; this is due to their funding mechanisms whereby they cannot be involved in any downside risk programs.
- 5. Integrity Partners:** Mark O'Brien shared that he is the new President of Integrity Partners; Genesee County will continue to be the lead financial partner. Mark had introduced Steven Harvey as the new CEO earlier in the meeting. Integrity is in the process of hiring additional staff.

New Business: No new business was discussed

Upcoming Meetings: Dates in PPT

Adjourn: Mark called for a motion to adjourn, Anne Constantino moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kirsten Vincent. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm

Next Board Meeting: August 21, 2019 Location to be announced.