



# RPC – WESTERN REGION

Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming

## Minutes

July 13, 2017

### RPC Board Meeting

Mark O'Brien called the meeting to order at 10:10AM. He thanked members for making the trip to Jamestown and expressed the Board's thanks to Jennifer Gesing and The Resource Center for hosting the meeting. New members of the board were introduced – Kristin Kight from Beacon Health Options, Anni Thomas, youth representative from Restoration Society, and Julie Vincent, youth representative from Housing Options.

Bruce Nisbet made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2017 minutes. Chris Syracuse seconded. With no changes made, the minutes were approved.

Margaret Varga, WNY Coordinator, explained to the Board that the State RPC has requested modifications to the board meeting schedule. It has been requested that all regions hold their board meetings in a two-week time period in order to facilitate discussion of issues and concerns with state partners. This will result in a change in scheduling for the Western region as follows: a meeting is scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss issues and concerns for the next state co-chairs meeting to be held October 30<sup>th</sup>. The October WNY RPC Board Meeting is cancelled. A meeting will be scheduled for early December. Meetings in 2018 will take place during the following time periods: Feb 5-16; April 30-May 11; Aug 27-14; Dec 3-14. Board members agreed to this change in schedule.

Mark O'Brien shared with the group the need to have by-laws to guide the work of the WNY RPC. He shared that some of the RPC's have developed by-laws while others have looser guidelines or statements of cooperation. The Board reviewed the guidelines sent to the members with the most recent corrections either highlighted (additions) or struck through (deletions). A question was raised if anything in the by-laws conflicted with the MOA being negotiated between MCO's and the state RPC; Cathy Hoehn, Acting Project Director, indicated that there were no conflicts but that she would investigate further. With no other questions or comments, Howard Hitzel moved that the by-laws be accepted. Vicki McCarthy seconded the motion. The by-laws were accepted and approved.

Mark O'Brien introduced the idea of establishing a "kitchen cabinet" for review of regional topics/concerns. The purpose of this group would be additional "eyes and ears" for the WNY RPC – pass along information to the

Coordinator (Margaret Varga); the group would also be available to Coordinator to bounce ideas off for upcoming meetings (agenda items, etc.). This group would not vote on any items or have any decision-making authority. This group could meet in person or participate through GoToMeeting. The group would be composed of one member from each stakeholder group including co-chairs Mark O'Brien (DCS), and Andy O'Brien (HHS). Members of other stakeholder groups (MCO, CBO, PFY) were asked to volunteer to participate. If more than one member volunteered, there will be a vote through Survey Monkey.

Group leads presented Work Group Report Summaries:

A. Bruce Nisbet reported that the Health Homes/HARP/HCBS work group has participated in two conference calls. He reported that the group identified three (3) issues needing to be addressed: (1) major changes are proposed regarding how outreach/engagement services are funded; it is proposed that these services be limited to 60 days which could result in a 40% reduction in payments for care management agencies (CMAs). Bruce shared that he and other members of the work group are part of the statewide Health Homes Coalition that is being utilized as a vehicle to discuss this concern with state DOH. (2) the 2019 VBP Roadmap raises the concern that Health Homes have to negotiate rates with the state. Bruce shared that the 35 Health Homes across NYS are considering forming some type of IPA (similar to the BH VBP program) – there is a possible recommendation that a readiness program similar to the BH VBP program be developed for Health Homes. (3) work group members continue to work on a tip sheet for CMAs.

A Board member questioned if NYS DOH is going to raise rates for Health Homes based on client acuity. It was shared that information would be forthcoming the week of July 17<sup>th</sup>.

- B. Tina Lamont reported that there has been a change in focus for the Value Based Payment/Managed Care workgroup. She shared that the state will be holding bi-monthly education conference calls to provide additional information regarding VBP – these will take place during “odd” number months. Tina shared that calls on even months would be to collect questions from WNY regional providers and to share information re progress being made in preparation for changes in service provision. She shared that members have been discussing concerns re data sharing and accessing data collected by MCTAC.
- C. Anne Constantino was unable to be present as she was testifying at the State Senate Opiate Task Force hearing. Margaret shared that the Systems Work Group had participated in two conference calls to discuss concerns working with DSS regarding potential clients presenting for detox services. Contact information for all relevant DSS staff was shared among group members. Erie County DSS is working on a pilot project with Horizon to conduct Skype interviews with clients located at detox centers. Northpointe Council had reported that they have a rep from Fidelis at their site at least 3 days per week. Questions re PNA and shelter payments will back date payments if the application is submitted the same month as the admission. Erie County DSS also reports that they will be retraining staff on the DFR process. At this time, there will be no technological changes (per state) for communication between providers and DSS. Marie Cannon (Erie County DSS) stated that she would start a workgroup with other LDSS to examine having a CASAC independent assessment/second opinion on level of care determination. The work group decided to move

forward on changes proposed re provider/DSS working relationships. The group will reconvene in early 2018 to assess changes.

Andrea Wanat from the Millennium PPS shared that they have navigators who can assist with enrolling individuals in Medicaid programs.

Mark reported on the State Co-Chairs Meeting held June 8, 2017. He shared that there were representatives present from OMH, OASAS, DOH, and OCFS as well as Field Office Staff from OMH. Mark shared that there was a good rapport between all participants and that state representatives were well prepared to answer the issues forwarded by the state RPC staff. He also shared that all stakeholder groups were represented as co-chairs. Mark and Margaret apologized for the late release of the meeting minutes and shared that by the new schedule for board meetings members would have more time to review the co-chair minutes in the future.

Mark reviewed issues discussed at the co-chairs meeting that either had been submitted by the WNY RPC or discussed at prior meetings by the WNY RPC. Referring to the Meeting Minutes, these issues were: HCBS/HARP – issues 1, 2, and 7; Telemedicine – issue 11; VBP – issues 13 and 14. Mark requested that board members review this document and send any questions regarding answers given or other issues raised to Margaret who will forward these concerns to either the local Field Office or the state RPC for clarification. There will also be time to raise questions at the September 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

WNY Issues not addressed at the state meeting can be re-submitted for the October 30<sup>th</sup> co-chairs meeting. A list of these will be sent to board members prior to the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting for discussion and development of recommendations. Each RPC region will be limited to the submission of three (3) issues for the October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting was opened to questions and/or discussion of current issues and concerns:

- (1) There was a question regarding the possibility of an MCO sending the new HARP brochure to clients. It was shared that MCOs cannot market themselves and therefore there are some restrictions re sending brochures or other promotional materials.
- (2) It was reported that CMAs are still required to do training on the full assessment even though it is no longer being used. Caitlyn Huntington from OMH stated that this is being looking into.
- (3) A discussion took place regarding notification of MCOs by ERs that a client is engaged in emergency services. It was reported that MCOs cannot require in their contract that an ER notify them that a client is in the ER. MCOs report that they often get late information It was suggested that the best way to get this information is through RHIOS or ADT alerts. CBOs report that there have some issues with Cerner uploading to RHIOS.
- (4) The children's agenda was brought up as an important concern that cannot be forgotten. Vicki Landes suggested that a report on children being enrolled in Health Homes be developed including the success rate of the program being marketed to families. Members also brought up additional children's' issues including lack of providers for MH services for children, lack of children's psychiatrists, access to

appointments for children new to the BH system. It was suggested that DOH examine the enrollment process for children and that children may need a longer enrollment period than currently proposed. It was also mentioned that children enrolling in Health Homes need to submit a copy of their physical and that these can be difficult to obtain.

It was proposed that the WNY RPC move forward with the development of the Children and Families Subcommittee. Board members were requested to think about chairing the committee – the individual chairing does need to be a provider of children’s services or a member of the PFY group. It was also noted that a representative of one of the counties will serve as a co-chair. Margaret will outreach to board members re chairing the committee.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20PM. The next Board meeting will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup> at Horizon Health Training Center 60 East Amherst Street.