



Minutes

December 14, 2017

9:30AM to Noon

Quality Inn Batavia, NY

- I. Call to Order: Mark O'Brien called the meeting to order at 9:42AM.
- II. Introductions: Members of the Board and ex-officio members introduced themselves. Melanie Washington and Denise Kennedy were welcomed as new representatives from HealthNow and Wellcare, respectively. Guests from OMH and the Capital RPC as well as Cathy Hoehn, Acting RPC Director were also introduced.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Mark asked the board to review the minutes from the September 9th meeting. With no changes, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Vicki McCarthy, seconded by Sharon Bauer. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting minutes are posted on the RPC website.
- IV. Syracuse University Survey: Margaret read the recruitment script for the RPC survey being conducted by Syracuse University and SUNY Albany. Members were asked to complete the survey, place them in a sealed envelope, and leave for Margaret to submit to the researchers. Board members not present will be sent the survey to complete and submit to the researchers.
- V. Updates from Field Offices
 - A. OCFS – Dana Brown indicated that draft regulations and a draft of the 291 licensing guidelines have been published. She indicated that she will be taking on new responsibilities during the children's roll-out.
 - B. OASAS – Jerry Puma was unable to attend the meeting as he is training new staff. He had no new information to share with Margaret prior to this meeting.
 - C. OMH – Chris Doherty-Smith shared that a number of applications were received for BHCC funding. It is anticipated that recipients will be announced soon; four applications were received covering all or part of the WNY RPC Region. She reviewed the purpose of the BHCCs and indicated that money will be allocated based upon market share. An MCO will contract with the lead of the BHCC to pass through money. MCTAC will be

offering a training on the work plan component. Chris also answered questions re who can be involved as a partner – she indicated that an agency could be a partner in two regions but not in the same county.

Chris also discussed the crisis intervention benefit available under the 1115 waiver. She indicated that this benefit has been available since the waiver went into effect but that there has not been much guidance; OMH and OASAS will be providing additional guidance. Crisis intervention is available with both mobile and crisis residential benefits with mobile interventions being integrated first within the behavioral health system. Benefits, staffing, regulations, etc. are being defined. There is not a timeline on when the crisis residential benefits will be integrated. She added that counties are requested to develop a crisis services plan. Andrea Wanat from Millennium PPS indicated that they have conducted a gap and benefit analysis for this region; Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties are working with FLPPS to develop a plan. OMH will review with each PPS.

- VI. Data presentation from OMH Field Office: Chris Marcello from the WNY OMH Field Office provided an overview of HARP/HCBS data (see power point presentation from 12.14.17 meeting). Chris indicated that this data does not include those that are dually enrolled (Medicaid and Medicare), but represents those individuals who are in a HARP or a mainstream plan. He acknowledged that there is a drop-off in numbers between those that are HARP eligible are HARP enrolled. He shared that if an individual applies for Medicaid through the exchange that they will need to contact Medicaid Choice to re-enroll to be eligible for HARP services. He also shared that a person may be HARP eligible but may be in a plan that does not offer HARP services (HealthNow and Wellcare in this region).

Chris shared that about half of individuals are enrolled in HARP – this number is consistent across New York State. If a person is not in a plan offering HARP they are informed of this in their original confirmation letter – HHUNY indicated that they are working with their CMAs to inform clients that they can switch plans to be able to receive HARP services. Chris also shared that an H9 code lets providers know that a person is HARP eligible.

The information used to develop this data is from the Medicaid data warehouse. He shared that 95% of those assessed for HCBS are eligible for services. CMS requires that an assessment be done; state partners are working to see how to streamline the workflow. It is of interest to see what the variables are that contribute to clients not following through – our RPC HCBS workgroup will be examining these variables.

Barriers discussed at this board meeting include: not having HARP on the exchange (this is being worked on), peer education (having someone explain what these services are in simpler language), lack of coordination with health homes, HARP services not being a priority for some, too many steps in the process – do they add value or just add time?, too

many hand-offs between agencies, documentation requirements too high, data drops off before sending in authorization for renewal of services.

- VII. Report from Key Partners: Andrea Wanat from Millennium PPS shared that they are working with ECMC, NFMCC, and Olean General on developing an improved process for warm hand-offs for discharge and linkage to community services. She also asked about having three (3) CCBHCs in Erie County – it was confirmed that this is a unique situation. Doug Hurlbut from FLPPS discussed their innovation funds – they are asking providers to think of innovative health home pilot projects and submit proposals for funding. These pilots need to be connected to the outcome metrics and each proposal should address how their project would impact these metrics. Providers will be notified quickly for a short turn around in implementing these pilots. He shared that as FLPPS is moving into year 4 and 5 that they have been doing a lot of work around the crisis project and identifying gaps in the system. Doug also explained their use of the acronym NOCN – naturally occurring care network: look to see where care is delivered and where/how these mini networks should develop.
- VIII. Report from October State Co-Chairs Meeting: Andy O’Brien shared that many regions have been working on identifying barriers to accessing health home and HCBS services. Board members were sent a copy of the state responses to the eleven (11) issues that were discussed at the meeting. He shared that an issue raised by the WNY region (#4) regarding SUD clients acquiring MMC coverage and Temporary Assistance was addressed at length during the meeting. The state response urged the region to meet with LDSS to discuss how this issue could be addressed regionally. A second issue (#11) raised by the WNY region regarding APG rates was not addressed during the meeting but a written response was included; the state asked if a work group would gather information to collect, organize, and produce a report that will demonstrate the need for proposed rate changes. At this time, the RPC coordinators are working on developing a template that can be used for all regions.

Members asked about access to the PSYCKES database. Providers who utilize the database state that it is useful while others state they do not have the time to utilize, as it is a rather complex database. Mark O’Brien shared that any OMH funded organization can have dashboards set up for use. OMH WNY Field Office stated that they encourage front line staff to have access to this database – it is up to individual agencies to determine who has access. Kirsten Vincent shared that they have not been able to access to date but reported that they have been told that they will be able to utilize in 2018. Kylee Criscione (OMH WNYFO) shared that there will be training from MCTAC on utilizing PSYCKES and that adult HCBS providers will be getting limited access in 2018. PPS’s shared that they are working with PSYCKES to develop programs to facilitate usage.

- IX. Report from ad hoc work groups
 - A. Health Homes – Margaret shared that this group is considering collaborating with the Millennium PPS. She will be attending the next Millennium meeting to see how this partnership might develop.
 - B. HCBS – Margaret reported that 94 individuals attended the networking event on 11.29.17. Over 25 individuals signed up to participate with the new work group – the first meeting for that group will be scheduled for later in January.
 - C. VBP – the board voted to put this workgroup on hold.
 - D. Systems – the workgroup has accomplished its task. It will be disbanded and at the next board meeting it will be determined if a new focus/new workgroup will be developed.

- X. Review of accomplishments of 2017
 - A. Accomplishments – Mark praised the board for their hard work and accomplishments. Accomplishments of the board are listed on the power point presentation.
 - B. Review WNY RPC Board Survey – Mark reviewed the results of the board member feedback surveys. Vicki McCarthy suggested that a “parking lot” feature be added to board meetings to allow for bringing up new business and to remind of issues that have discussed but not decided upon by the board. Ken Sass suggested that someone from the criminal justice be added as a key partner. Board members are asked to think of a recommendation for this potential slot.
 - C. Attendance Policy – Mark reviewed the attendance policy. He shared that he has been in contact with members who have missed two or more meetings.
 - D. RPC Logic Model – Margaret briefly reviewed the logic model with the board.

- XI. Review of Regional Framework
 - A. Which areas of concern do we want to address in 2018 – an electronic survey will be sent to board members to request that they prioritize the issues identified at the February 2017 meeting and categorized in the Regional Framework.

- XII. Children & Families Subcommittee – the kick-off event for the subcommittee will be held later today, December 14th. Town Hall meetings will be scheduled for January 2018.

- XIII. Adjournment – With no further business, Ken Sass made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy O’Brien.

The next meeting of the WNY RPC Board is February 15, 2018.