

**CARBON-MONROE-PIKE MH/DS PROGRAM  
HEALTHCHOICES DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT**

February 2019

I. HealthChoices Department

The HealthChoices Department is making final preparations to participate in a triennial Program Evaluation Process (PEPs) review of our program by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Most of the program staff will be heading to Camp Hill, PA on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March for the initial day of the process. The process continues through the end of that week, with an exit interview with the Counties on Friday, March 8, 2019. We do not anticipate any major issues to arise during the PEPs process.

II. Community Care

CMP HC and Community Care continue to hold regular meetings with Community Care to review the program operations. Monthly network status meetings are proceeding smoothly and we continue to add providers to the CMP network. Monthly administrative meetings are held to review any operational issues and review the program's operations. Monthly claims and finance meetings are also held to monitor the fiscal side of the program.

As our managed care partner, Community Care is also responding to/participating in the PEPs process mentioned above. Their involvement is much more complex as they provide some key services to members. These are contractual requirements and they will be evaluated to insure they meet Medicaid standards. Our role is to insure that our oversight insures that Community Care is doing that on an ongoing basis.

III. Operations Update

Ongoing operations of the HealthChoices program in CMP continue to proceed smoothly. All advisory committee meetings are continuing to proceed on their regular, quarterly schedule. Quality and Care Management Committee meetings continue to be held on schedule.

There is a renewed push to eliminate the Behavioral Health HealthChoices (BHHC) afoot in Pennsylvania. Local county management of the HealthChoices program has been very successful and has managed to keep the costs reasonably contained throughout the years. However, lobbyists from the Physical Health Managed Care Organizations (PH-MCOs) have been working legislators with unsubstantiated claims of cost savings if the PH-MCOs managed the BHHC component.

CCAP and other statewide organizations have been working to provide information to legislators with regard to both the real costs to the Commonwealth and the counties, as well as the hidden costs to local community agencies. Certainly, the biggest losers in such an action would be our members, for whom many of our existing services would no longer be available.

We are awaiting verified figures for the cost to PA to end the current BHHC Program, but do know that local costs for CMP would total \$1.3M in both direct and indirect costs. Of this number, the CMP MHDS Program would need to find an additional \$510,000 to maintain operations. We are working to schedule meetings with local state Representatives/Senators to educate them on the issues at hand and hopefully stave off this latest attack on the BHHC as it exists. We have a meeting scheduled with State Representative Doyle Heffley on February 20<sup>th</sup> and are presently working to schedule a date with State Senator Mario Scavello.

Senator Scavello was instrumental in the securing the final phase of HealthChoices implementation – the phase in which CMP was able to be a part of the program. We are hoping that his investment in the program will be a motivating factor in keeping the program in place with county control.

Respectfully submitted,



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HealthChoices Coordinator