

CARBON-MONROE-PIKE MH & DS

JOINDER BOARD MINUTES - FEBRUARY 22, 2021 MEETING

A meeting of the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services Joinder Board was convened by Commissioner Wayne Nothstein, President, on this date at 9:41 a.m. via virtual meeting (GoToMeeting).

Present were Commissioner John Moyer, President; Commissioner Steven Guccini, Vice President; Commissioner Chris Lukasevich, Financial Officer; Commissioners Wayne Nothstein, Rocky Ahner, Sharon Laverdure, John Christy, Matthew Osterberg, and Ronald Schmalzle; Attorney Gerard Geiger; Tina Clymer, Administrator; Kathleen Peterson, Fiscal Officer; Jeff Hartzell, HealthChoices Administrator; and Mary Fisher O'Brien, Secretary.

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE CARBON-MONROE-PIKE MH & DS JOINDER BOARD

MINUTES. Motion by Commissioner Christy, seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting. Commissioners Ahner and Guccini abstained.

FY 2020-21 Rebudget for MH, DS, and EI. Motion by Commissioner Osterberg, seconded by Commissioner Laverdure, and carried unanimously to approve the FY 2020-21 rebudget for MH, DS and EI.

Financial Report for MH, DS, and EI. Motion by Commissioner Ahner, seconded by Commissioner Guccini, and carried unanimously to approve the unaudited financial statements as of January 31, 2021.

Financial Report for HealthChoices. Motion by Commissioner Guccini, seconded by Commissioner Laverdure, and carried unanimously to approve the unaudited financial statement as of January 31, 2021.

Vacation Time Buyback. Ms. Clymer proposed a one-time offer for staff to sell back excess vacation time, within set parameters, due to a surplus of funds and unused vacation time caused by the pandemic. Commissioners discussed that staff should use their earned vacation time and not reward staff who do not. Due to funds made available by the pandemic, Commissioners reported that some county employees who worked throughout the pandemic received hazard pay.

Motion by Commissioner Schmalzle, seconded by Commissioner Ahner, and carried unanimously to reject the vacation time buyback plan and continue following the existing vacation time policy.

HEALTHCHOICES

General Update. Mr. Hartzell updated the commissioners on the work with the Department of Human Services regarding Community Based Care Management, Value Based Contracting, and the Regional Accountable Health Care Councils. These programs are addressing behavioral and

physical health care disparities, in addition to socioeconomic and social determinants of health disparities such as food insecurity, employment, and housing. A Community Based Care Management Plan was submitted to the state who recently provided positive feedback. This plan interfaces with our fourth year Value Based Contracting proposal that includes incorporating community-based organizations (CBOs) to help meet the social determinants of health. Housing and transportation have been identified as the biggest determinants of need for our Members that interfere with successful discharge from inpatient psychiatric hospitals and result in readmissions. Although these funds cannot be spent on commodities such as rent, cab fare, security deposit, or furniture, they can be spent on staff that can assist them in getting their needs met. HealthChoices has partnered with The United Way of the Poconos as the CBO to provide data collection and referrals, as well as directing funds to their staff and provider staff who are assisting Members having their needs met. The United Way has close relationships with the nonprofits and community partners who address these social determinants. The program is anticipated to begin in April.

Mr. Hartzell has been informed of the newest Performance Evaluation Process (PEP) for this year. Every year there is a desk review with a triennial face-to-face review. The purpose is to ensure that the program standards are being followed. This year's desk-review cycle is mostly focused on Community Care. We are working with them to get the data to the state as required for this year's desk review.

The Alternative Payment Arrangements (APA) for providers were extended through the end of June 2021 because providers' services are not back to full operation. HealthChoices is prepared to continue providing the APAs every three months and anticipate possibly continuing them through the end of 2021 before services fully resume. APAs are adjusted according to provider billing, which has been gradually increasing. The weekly check runs are near the same level as last year since they are delivering more services to the members, many of which are delivered as telemedicine/telehealth visits.

All of our providers successfully converted their wrap-around services to Intensive Behavioral Health Services as required by DHS. Payment is just beginning for those services and they are going well. Many providers are stepping forward to deliver ABA services for children who are on the autism spectrum.

ESSA Line of Credit. Ms. Peterson reported that there has been no activity since last June on the line of credit. An increase from \$6,000,000 to \$10,000,000 was requested and the paperwork is in the process of being prepared. We are anticipating drawing on the line of credit again in June 2021 for approximately 40 days based on cash flow and how DHS delays their cash payments.

Ratification of Contract between the Joinder Board and Community Care. This contract mirrors the same contract with DHS for the next five/eight years.

Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Commissioner Lukasevich, and carried unanimously to ratify the contract between the Joinder Board and Community Care.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator's Report. Ms. Clymer reported that there has been a slight increase of intakes in Mental Health, Developmental Services, and Early Intervention. In the DS Department, the

increase is in seeking out-of-home placements for older individuals with intellectual disabilities. Many are families who are new to the system. Typically, new families request supports and services first and may request placements later. This may be a resulting effect of the pandemic where individuals have not been able to go out in the community like they typically would to live their daily lives. With families staying home together, they are reaching their tipping point more quickly. We have been able to acquire some emergency waivers, and are pursuing other requests for state funding to support these individuals.

The state has been working with residential providers on access to the COVID vaccine for staff and individuals. There was a push for the federal pharmacy program to provide them. However, the state's communication was not clear which led to many providers believing they did not qualify. That has since been clarified and assistance for both MH and DS residential providers to receive the vaccine is in motion.

Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Commissioner Christy, and carried unanimously to accept the Administrator's Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of FY 2020-21 Contracts and Addenda for MH, DS EI. Motion by Commissioner Ahner, seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, and carried unanimously to approve the FY 2020-21 contracts and addenda for MH, DS, and EI listed on Attachment 1.

Ratification of Personnel Actions. Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Commissioner Guccini, and carried unanimously to ratify the personnel actions listed on Attachment 2.

Ratification of MH, DS, EI Paid Bills. Motion by Commissioner Ahner, seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, and carried unanimously to ratify payment of bills from December 17, 2020 to January 25, 2021, (Check Nos. 075680 to 075723 and ACH Nos. E00823 to E01031) amounting to \$2,321,557.64.

Ratification of HealthChoices Paid Bills. Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Commissioner Ahner, and carried unanimously to ratify payment of bills from December 14, 2020 to February 16, 2021, (ACH Nos. E00840 to E00860. Reinvestment Check Nos. 3107-3108) amounting to \$15,679,918.86.

Ratification of Payroll. Motion by Commissioner Christy, seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, and carried unanimously to ratify payroll checks from December 11, 2020 to February 5, 2021, amounting to \$1,123,246.55.

Lease for 10 Buist Road, Suite 404, Milford. Attorney Geiger reviewed the new lease for 10 Buist Road, Suite 404, Milford and requested two changes. Otherwise, the lease is the same as the previous lease and extensions.

Motion by Commissioner Ahner, seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, and carried unanimously to approve the lease for 10 Buist Road, Suite 404, Milford, subject to Milford Professional Park, LLC accepting Attorney Geiger's stated changes to the terms of the lease.

Annual Newsletter. A copy of the annual newsletter was given to each commissioner.

Adjournment. Motion by Commissioner Guccini, seconded by Commissioner Christy, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina L. Clymer".

Tina L. Clymer, MS, LPC
Administrator