

Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services Advisory Board

MINUTES	MARCH 22, 2021	7:00 P.M.	724 PHILLIPS STREET STROUDSBURG, PA 18360
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A meeting of the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services Advisory Board was convened on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the MH & DS Administrative Conference Room at 724 Phillips Street, Suite 202, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania and via GoToMeeting/conference call.

MEETING CALLED BY	Dr. Samuel Dolgopol, Chair & Tina L. Clymer, Administrator
CHAIR	Dr. Samuel Dolgopol
RECORDING SECRETARY	Beth Bingaman-Lutz
PRESENTERS	Jeffrey A. Hartzell, MA, RN HealthChoices Coordinator Carbon-Monroe-Pike HealthChoices Program
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Ms. Susan Barradale, Dr. Laurene Clossey, Dr. Samuel Dolgopol, Ms. Nellie Gordon, Ms. Amy Kirkwood Albert, Commissioner Lukasevich, Commissioner Moyer, Mr. Eugene Pelletreau, and Ms. Elizabeth Torkildsen
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Commissioner Guccini, Ms. Suzanne McCool, and Ms. Dorothy Eberts
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kathleen Peterson, Jeffrey Hartzell, and Beth Bingaman-Lutz

AGENDA TOPICS

PRESENTATION	HealthChoices (HC) Update	Jeffrey A. Hartzell, MA, RN HealthChoices Coordinator Carbon-Monroe-Pike HealthChoices Program
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Mr. Hartzell outlined the following key initiatives happening in the HealthChoices Department.

The state has been working very closely with Managed Care programs for Medicaid; taking a deeper look at ways they can impact behavioral and physical health, improve involvement in the community, and how Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) needs are being met. CMP HC in collaboration with Community Care are implementing Community Based Care Management (CBCM) and Value-Based Contracting (VBC) to engage with Community-based organizations (CBO). The goal of the requirement by the state is to find new ways to energize non-profit organizations in the community to better meet the needs of members. Launching these initiatives are designed at improving outcomes for individuals – primarily reducing barriers to engaging in treatment after inpatient psychiatric hospitalization and preventing readmissions where possible. The primary SDoH targeted is housing, but we are also incorporating transportation. CMP HC and Community Care has incorporated these into the VBC with the local hospitals and ambulatory providers in the network.

In order to meet with requirements of the CBCM and VBC initiatives, Community Care has established a contract with the Pocono Mountains United Way to act as our primary CBO partner to coordinate the housing and transportation needs outlined above. The Pocono Mountain United Way will work closely with the various components of the CBCM project to achieve the goals above. CBCM includes a variety of providers to facilitate resources to members. They will work closely with our providers of Targeted Case Management (TCM) in the three counties to link individuals to these supports. The CBCM project also includes a Community Health Workers and Maternal Care Managers who will be shared across Community Care contracts to meet the special needs of their subpopulations.

The state has launched a statewide initiative, the Regional Accountable Health Care Council for the Northeast area. This was designed to oversee managed care plans, county oversight, managed care companies, hospitals, providers, consumers, and to find ways to eliminate health disparities in our counties.

Before closing, Mr. Hartzell noted the ongoing efforts being made to maintain the provider network in the course of the pandemic. CMP HC is continually working closely with providers to ensure they stay afloat, remain solvent, and are addressing ways to improve their workforce development.

ACTION ITEMS	
Minutes	Motion by Eugene Pelletreau, seconded by Elizabeth Torkildsen, and carried unanimously to accept the amended minutes of February 22, 2021 by adding: "Ms. Suzanne McCool attempted to join the virtual meeting several times but was unsuccessful".
Agency Reports	Ms. Clymer highlighted the status reports from Mental Health and Developmental Services Departments. In addition, she commented, office based staff are being asked to increase their time to at least one full day per week starting April 1 st and staff who have already been coming in are being asked to increase their time as well. We are encouraging staff to increase time in the office in preparation for people to start going into the community and working with consumers. No motion required.
Financial Report for HealthChoices	Motion by Eugene Pelletreau, seconded by Dr. Laurene Clossey, and carried unanimously to accept the unaudited financial statement as of February 28, 2021.
Financial Report for MH, DS, and EI	Motion by Elizabeth Torkildsen, seconded by Eugene Pelletreau, and carried unanimously to accept the unaudited financial statement as of February 28, 2021.
OLD BUSINESS	
County Human Service Plan	<p>Ms. Clymer reported that the planning team met on March 4, 2021 and the goals were reviewed. The Community Based Organizations projects relating to transportation and housing will probably have an impact on the planning team's goals. In addition, the planning team is looking at disparities related to health.</p> <p>Ms. Clymer reminded everyone that the agency is leading efforts to address disparities as well. All CMP staff have already taken the Urgency of Awareness training basic level and, currently, about 50 staff are taking the Deeper Dive training, a higher level. Through this training we are examining ourselves first, and taking a look at how our agency's policies and procedures can make a difference on how we approach things in the future. Ms. Clymer is looking forward to sharing more on the progress being made and the priorities of the agency.</p> <p>Everyone was invited to attend the next County Human Service Plan meeting on May 6, 2021 at 2:00 PM. All were reminded that the schedule for 2021, the link, and instructions for joining the meeting was provided previously.</p>
State Budget Status	<p>Ms. Clymer reported being involved with state level activities, which included the goal to preserve HealthChoices behavioral health "carve-out" program in Pennsylvania. This year there are no co-sponsors in support of the bill. She participated in the work group and was a presenter for a round table that was held with new legislators and interested parties.</p> <p>A presentation meeting, similar to a hearing, about the Mental Health and Developmental Services budget was held for freshman members of the House and Senate. Information was presented about the difference between HealthChoices, Medicaid, and base dollars, and how the budget is utilized. Although the projected funding for this year will remain level, Ms. Clymer was pleased with the efforts to educate people about programs and provide information about the importance of increasing funding to those budgets.</p>

NEW BUSINESS	
Board Member Resignation	The resignation letter from Mr. Tom Carasiti was reviewed. Dr. Dolgopol requested a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Carasiti from Administration with him signing off. Board members were in agreement. Positive comments were said about Mr. Carasiti's many contributions and service to the board. He will be missed.
Next Meeting	Monday, April 26, 2021
VISITORS	Shirley Meryweather
ADJOURNMENT	Motion by Eugene Pelletreau, seconded by Elizabeth Torkildsen, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.
APPROVED BY	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <i>Tina L. Clymer, MS, LPC</i> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: right;"> <small>Digitally signed by Tina L. Clymer, MS, LPC DN: cn=Tina L. Clymer, MS, LPC, o=CMPMHHS, ou, email=tclymer@cmpmhhs.org, c=US Date=2021.04.20 12:35:19 -0400</small> </div> </div>