

CARBON-MONROE-PIKE MH & DS**JOINDER BOARD MINUTES - OCTOBER 25, 2021 MEETING**

A meeting of the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services Joinder Board was convened by Commissioner John Moyer, President, on this date at 9:32 a.m. via virtual meeting (GoToMeeting).

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

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

MINUTES. Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Commissioner Nothstein, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Guccini abstained.

Motion by Commissioner Guccini, seconded by Commissioner Nothstein, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the August 30, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Moyer abstained.

Financial Report for MH, DS, and EI. Motion by Commissioner Ahner, seconded by Commissioner Laverdure, and carried unanimously to approve the unaudited financial statements as of September 30, 2021 for MH, DS and EI.

Financial Report for HealthChoices. Motion by Commissioner Osterberg, seconded by Commissioner Nothstein, and carried unanimously to approve the unaudited financial statement as of September 30, 2021 for HealthChoices.

County Match for Mental Health Grants. There is a 10 percent county match in place for two of the Community Mental Health Services grants: Residential and Assisted Outpatient Treatment. The Community Residential Expansion is a \$1M grant; therefore, 10 percent is \$100,000. The Assisted Outpatient Treatment grant is a \$120,000 grant; therefore, 10 percent is \$12,000. In Year One, \$37,000 of County Match is needed. In Year Two, \$75,000 would be needed. In the proposed plan, the current contribution remains the same through calendar year 2022 because the funds in the deferred revenue account can be used to pay for the Year One difference and consider a four percent increase starting calendar year 2023 to support the County Match requirement. Afterwards, the County Match will be reevaluated for 2027. The four percent increase would be as follows: Carbon County would have an annual increase of \$3,000; Monroe County would have an annual increase of \$8,000; and Pike County would have an annual increase of \$2,800. The two year grants are anticipated to roll out through 2024. County Match is based on the census and April's numbers were used for calculation. The 2020 census numbers have not yet been published.

HEALTHCHOICES

General Update. All ambulatory providers received a 12 percent rate increase this year. An additional 10 percent rate increase was given to the substance use disorder providers. HealthChoices is now required to at least match the state's fee-for-service rates for all levels of care provided by substance use providers. This requirement begins January 1, 2022. All of the rate increases are to help stabilize the provider network and meet the needs of the community. In the last fiscal year, HealthChoices spent over \$53M on medical services; over \$25M of that was made through the Alternative Payment Arrangements, which is 47 percent of provider revenues. There are currently over 71K members. Members in the 25-40 age range and children are predominantly driving the medical spend currently. There will be an audit after the end of the Alternative Payment Arrangements to ensure the funds were spent on service delivery.

Representative Rosemary Brown is a co-sponsor on new legislation designed to eliminate the HealthChoices Program as separate from physical health (aka the "Carve Out"). Ms. Clymer and Mr. Hartzell are planning to meet with her to explain the benefits of the HealthChoices Program as it exists and the ramifications of its elimination. They are hopeful that she will remove her sponsorship after the meeting. Under third party insurance, behavioral health care coverage is poor, at best, with very limited availability for providers. Many services covered by HealthChoices are not covered under private insurance, which would have a great impact on the Medicaid population. HealthChoices provides beneficial collaboration with community partners and pays for services that benefit the school districts, Children and Youth, and Juvenile and Adult Probation as examples.

Bank Interest Rates. As requested by the Joinder Board, Ms. Peterson researched interest rates at First Keystone Bank for a better rate than Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT). First Keystone Bank provided a letter of intent offering 0.2 percent, which is negligible compared to 0.04 percent with PLGIT. This is the reserve account that HealthChoices will use to fund the three-month capitation delay every June. During the three months each year when these funds are used, there will not be any interest accrued. Ms. Peterson and the board recommended keeping the funds with PLGIT until the interest increases by approximately \$1,000 or more. Ms. Peterson will continue to research when the market experiences a significant shift.

Reinvestment Contract and Addendum for HealthChoices. Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Commissioner Nothstein, and carried unanimously to approve the HealthChoices reinvestment contract and addendum listed on Attachment 1.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator's Report. The agency will soon be contacting the partners in the Justice System regarding the Assisted Outpatient Treatment grant implementation to explain what Assisted Outpatient Treatment is; how it will impact the system; and assess the readiness and willingness of the partners to be involved. Mobile Crisis teams are starting up in Carbon and Pike Counties.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of FY 2020-21 Addenda. Motion by Commissioner Nothstein, seconded by Commissioner Laverdure, and carried unanimously to approve the FY 2020-21 addenda for MH, DS, and EI listed on Attachment 2.

Approval of FY 2021-22 Contract and Addenda. Motion by Commissioner Christy, seconded by Commissioner Ahner, and carried unanimously to approve the FY 2021-22 contract and addenda for MH, DS, and EI listed on Attachment 3.

Ratification of Personnel Actions. Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Commissioner Nothstein, and carried unanimously to ratify the personnel actions listed on Attachment 4.

Ratification of MH, DS, EI Paid Bills. Motion by Commissioner Ahner, seconded by Commissioner Guccini, and carried unanimously to ratify payment of bills from August 23, 2021 to October 12, 2021 (Check Nos. 075886 to 075916 and ACH Nos. E01850 to E02093) amounting to \$2,196,191.83.

Ratification of HealthChoices Paid Bills. Motion by Commissioner Ahner, seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, and carried unanimously to ratify payment of bills from August 23, 2021 to October 18, 2021, (ACH Nos. E00906-E00924. Reinvestment Check Nos. 3116 to 3118.) amounting to \$19,530,024.66.

Ratification of Payroll. Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Commissioner Christy, and carried unanimously to ratify payroll checks from August 20, 2021 to October 15, 2021, amounting to \$1,040,673.36.

Bureau of Financial Operations Audit. The Bureau of Financial Operations (BFO) audited Salisbury Behavioral Health (SBH) for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. The BFO provided official correspondence that SBH owes \$4M back to seven counties and recommended that the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) collect that money from the counties, and that the counties recover their funds from SBH. CMP owes \$366,000 to the state of mostly administrative costs. It appears that CMP can recover the funds from the provider. However, last year SBH was sold to RHA Health Services.

Attorney Geiger is communicating with the seven other counties involved in the audit, which are in agreement and have shared appeal documentation. He filed an appeal to the audit before the deadline. SBH/RHA's attorney has verbally acknowledged that SBH owes the funds and feels there is a basis for challenging some of the audit results, which prompted the appeal. SBH/RHA is expected to cover our expense.

Bargaining Unit Grievance Closed. In July, an employee filed a grievance that the agency did not provide Juneteenth as a holiday after the Governor declared it a holiday. The Bargaining Unit provided written notification that they have dropped the grievance. Ms. Clymer anticipates this will be part of the Bargaining Agreement that is due for renewal next year.

Return to Working in the Office. Prior to the pandemic, approximately 30 percent of staff were remote workers and some management staff were working remotely part-time. Clerical, Administrative Assistants, Human Resources, and Information Technology staff have been back

in the office working full time with remaining staff working a hybrid model of working in the office some days and from home on the remaining days. Approximately 60 percent of staff are working from home. The commissioners requested that the agency begin to return to the pre-pandemic work schedule of only 30 percent staff working remotely.

Discussion of Administrator's Performance Review. Ms. Clymer's annual performance review will be conducted during Executive Session at the December 13, 2021, Joinder Board Meeting. Commissioners will receive the performance review documents in advance to discuss within their respective counties prior to the meeting and send their performance review sheets to Commission Moyer prior to the meeting.

Other. Joinder Board Meetings to return to in-person in 2022.

Adjournment. Motion by Commissioner Osterberg, seconded by Commissioner Guccini, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina L. Clymer, MS, LPC
Administrator