

Minutes

Behavioral Health Council

Date April 16, 2024

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Time 1:00 PM – 2:45 PM

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Meeting called to order by Dr. Christina Finello, Esq., Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council

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IN ATTENDANCE

Commonwealth Representatives:

1. Secretary of Policy and Planning, Akbar Hossain
2. Secretary of the Department of Human Services, Dr. Valerie Arkoosh
3. Acting Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr. Debra Bogen
4. Deputy Insurance Commissioner of Product Regulation, Pennsylvania Department of Insurance, Shannen Logue on behalf of Commissioner of Pennsylvania Insurance Department, Michael Humphreys
5. Secretary of the Department of Aging, Jason Kavulich
6. Deputy Secretary, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs Kelly Primus on behalf of Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Dr. Latika Davis-Jones
7. Secretary of the Department of Education, Dr. Khalid Mumin
8. Spec. Asst. to Adj. Gen. Richard Hamp on behalf of Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Maj. Gen. Mark J. Schindler
9. Captain Leslie Barr on behalf of Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police, Colonel Christopher Paris
10. Deputy Secretary for Reentry, Dr. Lucas Malischak on behalf of Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Dr. Laurel Harry
11. Secretary of the Department of State, Al Schmidt
12. Exec. Dir. Rural Dev. Council, Western Reg. Dir. PA Dept. of Agriculture, Mr. Mark Critz, on behalf of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Russell Redding
13. Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Jordan Lewis on behalf of Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Michael Pennington
14. Bureau Director, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, PA Dept. of Labor and Industry, Denise Verchimak, on behalf of Secretary of Department of Labor and Industry, Nancy Walker
15. Digital Services Director at the Governor's Office, Toni McIntyre, on behalf of Director of Digital Strategy at the Governor's Office, Annie Newman
16. Supervising Analyst, Safe2Say Something Program Christian Belker on behalf of Pennsylvania Attorney General's Safe2Say Program Director, Brittney Kline
17. Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Jennifer Smith

Representatives with lived or living experiences and family members:

18. Robert Hamilton, MPPM - Westmoreland DHS Dir.; Formerly homeless veteran & person in long-term recovery
19. Kate Favata - Community Engagement Manager, Crossroads, Treatment Advocate
20. Jennifer Wilt - Parent of a loved one with mental illness, President NAMI of Cumberland, and Perry Counties

County Representatives:

21. Tina Clymer, County Mental Health Office representing Carbon, Monroe, and Pike counties
22. Dr. Tamra Williams, County Mental Health Office from Montgomery County
23. Ryan Hogan, Single County Authority from Luzerne County
24. Kristin Varner, Single County Authority from Dauphin County

25. Lynn Deardorff, Area Agency on Aging from Adams County
26. Dr. Shannah Gillam, Area Agency on Aging from Allegheny County

Clinical Representatives:

27. Dr. Amy Kim, an expert in child and family behavioral healthcare
28. Dr. Margaret Jarvis, an expert in addiction medicine and substance use disorder treatments
29. Dr. Jack Todd Wahrenberger, an expert in primary healthcare
30. Dr. Wendy Ross, an expert in treating individuals with co-occurring intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism with mental illness

Legislative Representatives from the General Assembly:

31. Representative Mike Schlossberg (D) (Rachel Maurer)
32. Representative Jim Struzzi (R) (Emily Lewis)
33. Senator Maria Collett (D)
34. Senator Michele Brooks (R) (Fallon Binner)

Additional Speakers:

35. Dr. Alin Severance, Medical Director of Behavioral Health Services, UPMC Health Plan
36. Dr. Shari Ling, CMS Deputy Chief Medical Officer
37. Dr. Barry Marx, Director, CMS Office of Clinician Engagement
38. Jessica Cleveland, CMS Fellow, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality
39. Ellen Blackwell, Technical Advisor, CMS Office of Clinician Engagement
40. Sharon Graham, CMS Region III Regional Administrator
41. Patrick Hamilton, CMS Region III Special Assistant
42. Lindsey Baldwin, CMS Acting Deputy Director, Division of Practitioner Services

## REPORTS

Dr. Finello took roll call. Dr. Finello gave some opening remarks and introduced the topic for the meeting, which was a continuation of the discussion about funding streams for behavioral health, specifically Medicare. She mentioned that there will first be some presentations to help our understanding of the topic, then a discussion with Council members led by her.

The speakers were first from one of the commercial providers Dr. Alin Severance, who is the Medical Director of Behavioral Health Services from UPMC Health plan. Dr. Severance was followed by speakers from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. They were as follows: Dr. Shari Ling, CMS Deputy Chief Medical Officer; Dr. Barry Marx, Director, CMS Office of Clinician Engagement; Jessica Cleveland, CMS Fellow, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality; Ellen Blackwell, Technical Advisor, CMS Office of Clinician Engagement; Sharon Graham, CMS Region III Regional Administrator; Patrick Hamilton, CMS Region III Special Assistant; and Lindsey Baldwin, CMS Acting Deputy Director, Division of Practitioner Services.

After the presentations, Dr. Finello led a facilitated discussion with questions that were given to Council members prior to the meeting. The results of the discussion will be used as part of the Statewide Action Plan.

Dr. Finello ended the meeting with some closing remarks and thanked the Council members for their time.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Behavioral Health Council Meetings will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM. Quarterly meetings will be in person. The next in-person meeting is in June. The next meeting of the Council is May 21, 2024, and it will be virtual.

## NEXT MEETING

May 21, 2024, 1 PM, Virtual via Microsoft Teams.