



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Behavioral Health and Integration Strategies (BHIS) Program**  
**Improvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Subcommittee**

Virtual Meeting

June 7, 2023, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

**1. Introductions**

**Facilitators:**

- Sue Williamson Children’s community advocate
- Daniel Darting Signal Behavioral Health
- Matt Pfeifer Health Care Policy & Financing (Dept. Liaison)

**Voting Members:**

- Tom Keller Statewide PIAC
- Elizabeth Freudenthal Children’s Hospital
- Monique McCollum Parent of special needs children on Medicaid
- Nina Marinello Intermountain Health
- Amanda Jones Community Reach Center

**Other Attendees:**

- Andrea Alvarez Health Solutions
- Lexis Mitchell Health Care Policy & Financing
- Amy Ferris Pediatric Care Network
- Lili Carillo Colorado Health Network
- Mona Allen Health Colorado, Inc.
- Elise Neyerlin Colorado Access
- Kara Gehring Health Care Policy & Financing
- Ashleigh Phillips Centura Health
- Suzanne Kinney Colorado Community Health Alliance
- Andrea Loasby University of Colorado School of Medicine
- Sara Gallo Clinical Insights Consulting
- Mary Shorter-King Provider
- Sherrie Bedonie Colorado Access



- Tina Gonzales Health Colorado, Inc.
- Jordan Larson Health Care Policy & Financing
- Kristen Palumbo Innovive Health
- Nathan Cline Kemberton Healthcare LLC

Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM.

## 2. Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) Phase III: Maintaining Local Coordination within Larger Region Accountable Entity (RAE) Regions - Colorado Health Institute (CHI) Kendra Neumann and Allie Morgan

- The group to discuss the RAE requirements for local focus as ACC Phase III is being designed.
- So far, the RAE regions have been aligned with the Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations (BHASOs) operating under the [Behavioral Health Administration \(BHA\)](#).
- Stakeholder feedback so far:
  - Timeline concerns
  - More than three regions might be needed
  - Individual county conversations (facilitated by CHI) yielded strong local preferences
- Timeline for Phase III
  - Spring/Summer 2023 - concept papers
  - November 2023 - draft RAE request for proposal (RFP)
  - April 2024 - RAE RFP released
  - September 2024 - contracts awarded
  - July 1, 2025 - GO LIVE
- Reminder that while the ACC is working to align with BHASO regions at this time, the BHASOs will serve all Coloradoans, not just those on Medicaid.
- The BHIS voting members provide written feedback in an online platform
  - What are RAEs currently doing well to be responsive to communities?
    - Creative funding solutions
    - Prior authorizations
    - Care coordination and peer support
    - Regional PIAC meetings
    - Empowering Providers to act locally
    - Growth of independent provider network (IPN)
    - RAEs as conveners in the community (but are limited by system incentives and some regulations)
  - What can be improves with how RAEs respond to communities within their region?
    - Protect providers from burdensome reporting requirements



- Remove barriers to care in times of crisis (prior authorizations)
- Rate methodologies to better support providers
- More community engagement
- Standardization of administrative services/requirements across RAEs
- Awareness of cultural needs
- Observations around change in narrative about the RAEs. Noticeable positive feedback has emerged in recent months.
- John Laukkanen from HCPF poses the question: which is more valuable, the community responsiveness or the standardization across the state?
  - High utilizer perspective, some RAEs are more willing than others to work with the community and the family. Monique - high utilizer perspective. Some RAEs have high reputation of constantly denying. There are key pieces that don't match across the system.
  - Observation/hypothesis that empowering/paying providers more would balance the regional and standardized components. This might look like consistent regional requirements with providers supported to be the local presence.
- What are the unique needs in rural communities?
  - Need for more in-person behavioral health professionals, more access to preventative services needed.
  - Denver-based mandates must consider that rural communities have limited resources and are often geographically isolated.
  - Pay providers in rural areas more; incentivize providers to take Medicaid in these areas by increasing rates.
- Further feedback can be sent via the [feedback form](#).

### 3. Housekeeping

Daniel calls the group to approve the May 2023 BHIS minutes. Sue Williamson motions to approve; Elizabeth Freudenthal seconds with the one requested edit. There are no objections or abstentions. May 2023 meeting minutes are approved by voting members (following edit).

The July 5 meeting is cancelled.

Covid-19 updates:

- The Public Health Emergency (PHE) ended May 11, 2023
- <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/phe-end>



Brief overview of [Member renewal process](#).

#### 4. Legislative updates with HCPF - Iris Hentze

- Senior Legislative Analyst, Iris Hentze, on the HCPF team joins to provide an overview on the latest legislative session, the HCPF budget, and actionable bills.
  - 683 bills total were introduced
    - HCPF tracked 79
  - More than 20 HCPF staff testified or provided technical assistance on bills
- <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/legislator-resource-center>
- HCPF budget agenda highlights
  - All HCPF budget request were approved with only a few small changes by the Joint Budget Committee (JBC)
  - Highlights included rate increases for providers, expansions of services, and administrative resources to support many priority initiatives.
- Behavioral bill highlights:
  - [HB23-1236](#): Implementation updates to the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)
  - [SB23-002](#): Medicaid reimbursement for community health services
  - [SB23-174](#): Access to certain behavioral health services
  - [HB23-1003](#): School mental health assessment
  - [HB23-1130](#): drug coverage for serious mental illness
  - [HB23-1200](#): improved outcomes persons behavioral health
  - [HB23-1269](#): extended stay and boarding for patients
- Wrap up
  - From the HCPF perspective, this was a less intense BH session compared to 2022
  - Many bills were focused on smaller chunks of the system
  - There were a lot of new legislative members this session

#### 5. Changes to Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Bill - Andrea Jones

- BHA echoes the experience of doing a lot of foundational educational work during the legislative session.
- Continued discussions with the BHA team will happen in this meeting.

#### 6. Wrap up and next steps (HCPF)

July meeting cancelled. The meeting was adjourned 10:30 am.

Lexis Mitchell from HCPF will start leading more BHIS meetings.

