



Meeting Minutes Behavioral Health and Integration Strategies (BHIS) PIAC Subcommittee

Virtual Meeting

March 1, 2023, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

1. Introductions

Facilitators:

- Daniel Darting Signal Behavioral Health
- Matt Pfeifer Health Care Policy & Financing (Dept. Liaison)

Voting Members:

- Tom Keller Statewide PIAC
- Nina Marinello SCL Health
- Deb Hutson Behavioral Health Administration
- Elizabeth Freudenthal Children's Hospital
- Charlie Davis Crossroads Turning Points
- Taylor Miranda Thompson Colorado Community Health Network
- Imo Succo Indigenous Wellbriety Program/CAHEC

Other Attendees:

- Doug Muir Centura Health
- Mona Allen Health Colorado, Inc.
- Suzanne Kinney Colorado Community Health Alliance
- Ryan Larson Colorado Access
- Karen Masters West Pines Behavioral Health
- Jen Hale-Coulson Northeast Health Partners
- Emily DeFrancia Colorado Access
- Ron Mitchell Kempe Center
- Cris Matoush Rocky Mountain Health Plans
- Chris Anderson Health Care Policy & Financing
- Crystal Brown Health Services Advisory Group



- Adrienne Timmons Silver Key Senior Services
- Tina McCrory Health Colorado, Inc.
- Lexis Mitchell Health Care Policy & Financing
- Emily Holcomb Health Care Policy & Financing
- Megan Lee Behavioral Health Administration
- Cecile Martinez Health Solutions
- John Lentz Health Care Policy & Financing
- Rachel Artz-Steinberg Colorado Community Managed Care Network
- Amy Breen Teeva Pharmaceuticals
- Chelsey Sterling Health Colorado, Inc.
- Sherrie Bedonie Colorado Access
- Bridie Johnson Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

2. Housekeeping

Meeting called to order at 9:03 AM.

Daniel calls the group to approve the February 2023 BHIS minutes. Elizabeth Freudenthal motions to approve; Deb Hutson seconds. There are no objections or abstentions. February 2023 meeting minutes are approved by voting members.

Matt Pfeifer provided a COVID-19 update.

- Public Health Emergency (PHE) was extended through April 11, 2023 with a planned end date of May 11, 2023
- The Department is prioritizing the end of continuous coverage introduced during the PHE: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/covid-19-phe-planning>
- COVID data can be found at covid19.colorado.gov
- Keep Colorado Covered campaign materials now available: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/keepcoco>

End of continuous enrollment in Colorado

- Continuous enrollment was the additional financial aid distributed to states by the Federal government during the PHE period. States were not allowed to disenroll folks from Medicaid during this time. That funding is ending in tandem with continuous coverage ending.
- Normal renewal processes will resume with the first notices going out in March 2023 for members with renewals due in May 2023.
- Not all members will be renewed at the same time.



- Colorado will take 12 months (14 months including noticing) to renew all 1.7 million Health First Colorado Members.

More meeting and communication resources can be found at <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/covid-19-phe-planning>. This page will be updated frequently.

The Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) team is working closely with the Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) to identify needs proactively.

Department of Corrections (DOC) Metric update: Behavioral Health Engagement for Members Releasing from State Prisons

- HCPF recently transitioned to a different process for RAEs/Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to submit claims which continues to delay the data, but accuracy is improving.
 - Matt explains the relationship of this data lag to larger behavioral health service evaluation.
- June and July 2022 rates appear likely to be in the 19.00-19.50% range.
- FY21-22 Target Rate: 19.14%
- FY22-23 Target Rate: 22.08%
- There is no update on the data for this month. Updates expected to resume.

3. ARPA Project 2.02 [Expand Mobile Crisis Services](#) - Emily Holcomb

- Colorado is launching a new [Mobile Crisis Response benefit](#) using grant funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) available to all Coloradans regardless of insurance status (including veterans).
- The Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and administrative service organizations (ASOs) will manage the non-Medicaid utilizers.
- Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) Overview
 - Occurs where a client is at, in the community, to offer relief and stabilization
 - Dispatched through 988, 911, and the Colorado statewide crisis line
 - MCR providers required to coordinate follow-up services to ensure continuity of care for the client
- Service activities include
 - Initial face to face response including a risk assessment, brief intervention, and safety planning
 - Immediate follow-up within 24 hours and for up to five days after to ensure continued stabilization, identification of needs
 - Secondary follow up within 7 days for a warm handoff to additional services
- Provider and Team Requirements



- Must have received a BHA endorsement
 - Teams must include a licensed behavioral health clinician, peer support professional, and staff with training in child, youth and family crises
 - Must also have access to community providers who serve people with complex needs
 - Current and upcoming activities
 - Interagency agreement in place with the BHA. BHA is distributing funding to providers through ASOs
 - Technical assistance available to ASOs, RAEs, and providers over the next few months
 - Readiness assessment will be administered to providers
 - Benefit launching July 2023
 - Question for this BHIS group:
 1. How would stakeholders like to be engaged? Is the BHIS meeting a good venue?
 - Group flags Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and firefighters as potential groups to present to.
 - Major differences with this new and improved benefit:
 - Creating a specific code so this service can be billed
 - Key changes around who needs to be on the response team and the response time
 - Emily confirms that HCPF currently has some data on this benefit but hoping the expansion will provide more data and insight as to utilization.
 - BHIS group notes people who don't have a cell phone and to anticipate their needs.
 - Megan Lee from the Department of Human Services (CDHS) confirms that the crisis system will continue to support anyone in crisis regardless of their insurance status. Veterans are a priority population for the BHA. The crisis continuum will bill a person's insurance for the service, but the BHA is the safety net.
- Further questions can be sent to Emily Holcomb at emily.holcomb@state.co.us.

4. Colorado Behavioral Health Uniform Service Coding Standards (USCS) - John Laukkanen

- John Laukkanen describes the [evolution the USCS](#).
- The USCS contains standard national codes for behavioral health billing codes.
- History of Colorado's USCS manual:
 - First manual created in 2009
 - As BHA stands up, their codes will be added too
- Managing the coding manual:
 - HCPF is the final authority
 - The Coding Committee (facilitated by HCPF) convenes and discusses necessary changes
 - New edition published every quarter
 - Log tracking changes available
 - Stakeholders with questions can email hcpf_bhcoding@state.co.us at any time for billing clarification



- Key Facts
 - 152 codes
 - 10 service categories
 - Includes “spans” of covered diagnoses (mental health and substance use disorder)
 - This manual is incorporating federal standards and state standards.
 - More like an encyclopedia than a novel
- What does this mean for Members?
 - This coding manual is a reference for why providers bill the way they do.
 - This coding manual can be leveraged when developing treatment plans, relieving administrative burden for providers/care coordinators which translates to better services for Members.

5. Wrap up and next steps (HCPF)

The next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2023. The meeting was adjourned 10:30 am.

ACC Phase III discussion slated for next meeting.

