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

Virtual Meeting

October 5, 2022, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

1. Introductions

Facilitators:

- Sue Williamson   Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program

- Daniel Darting   Signal Behavioral Health

- Matt Pfeifer   Health Care Policy & Financing (Dept. Liaison)

Voting Members:

- Amanda Jones   Community Reach Center

- Tom Keller   Statewide PIAC

- Monique McCollum   Parent of special needs children on Medicaid

- Nina Marinello   Intermountain Health

- Deb Hutson   Behavioral Health Administration

- Kevin JD Wilson, representing Elizabeth Freudenthal   Children's Hospital

- Charlie Davis   Crossroads Turning Points

- Taylor Miranda Thompson   Colorado Community Health Network

- Imo Succo   Indigenous Wellbriety Program

Other Attendees:

- Kori Walsh   Centennial Area Health Education Center
- Karen Masters   West Pines
- Ashleigh Phillips   Centura
- Chelsey Sterling   Health Colorado, Inc.
- Kara Gehring   Health Care Policy & Financing
- Jen Hale-Coulson   Northeast Health Partners

- Arianea Williams   Denver Health
- Maureen Carney   Rocky Mountain Health Plans
- Edie Sonn   Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
- Audrey Reich Loy   San Luis Valley Health
- Milena Castaneda   Colorado Center on Law and Policy
- Natasha Lawless   Northeast Health Partners
- Meredith Davis   Health Care Policy & Financing
- Doug Muir   Centura Health
- Mona Allen   Health Colorado, Inc.
- Suzanne Kinney   Colorado Community Health Alliance
- Tina McCrory   Health Colorado, Inc.

2. Housekeeping

Daniel Darting called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Daniel calls the group to approve the September 2022 BHIS minutes. Sue Williamson motions to approve; Nina Marinello seconds. There are no objections or abstentions. September meeting minutes are approved by voting members.

Matt Pfeifer provided a re-fresher and update on the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) benefit

- SBIRT is a covered Medicaid benefit

    o https://hcpf.colorado.gov/sbirt-benefit

- The benefit is covered outside of the behavioral health capitated benefit; it is fee for service (FFS)

- Funding has been continued and expanded

- Peer Assistance Services provides free training

    o Contact sbirtinfo@peerassistanceservices.org to schedule a SBIRT training for your practice

Matt Pfeifer provided a COVID-19 update. The Public Health Emergency (PHE) has been extended to October 13, 2022. It is likely to be extended to January 2023.

- The Department continues to focus on vaccine outreach and work to address disparities. More information can be found at covid19.colorado.gov.

Improving health care equity, access and outcomes for the people we serve while
saving Coloradans money on health care and driving value for Colorado.
www.colorado.gov/hcpf

- Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) is also focused on planning for the end of the Public Health Emergency: https://hcpf.colorado.gov/phe-planning.

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

- There continue to be challenges in the data. HCPF recently transitioned to a new process for Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs)/Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to submit claims which has delayed the metric calculations. Looking to have accurate data within the next month.

- April 2022 rate appears likely to be in the 18.75-19.25% range.

- Monthly updates will continue. The target rate is 19.14%.

3. High intensity outpatient services overview (Meredith Davis, HCPF)

Overview of integrated care project funding and opportunities within the Population Health Division at HCPF. Most projects are funded under the American Rescue Plan Act: https://Hcpf.colorado.gov/arpa

- The State of Colorado was awarded approximately $530,000,000 in ARPA funds for 65 initiatives to transform home and community-based services (HCBS).

  o In rural and frontier areas there are greatest challenges; not all states have frontier areas. A big part of the ARPA funding has been around increasing access to services. HCPF has started to do stakeholder engagement visits.

  o Focus areas:

    ▪ Strengthen the workforce & enhance rural sustainability

    ▪ Improve crisis & acute services

    ▪ Improve access to HCBS for underserved population

    ▪ Support post-COVID recovery & HCBS innovation

    ▪ Strengthen case management redesign

    ▪ Invest in tools & technology

    ▪ Expand emergency preparedness

- Enhance quality outcomes

- Highlighted areas of focus:

  o Expand the behavioral health safety net as outlined in SB19-222 ($30M).

    - $24M in RAE incentives to expand availability high intensity outpatient services in the RAE networks for those with acute and/or chronic BH needs.

    - $6M for Technical Assistance and Strategic Planning

  o Behavioral health transition support ($14M).

    - In alignment with SB19-222.

    - Short-term grant funding for behavioral health crisis and transition services between residential/inpatient and outpatient care

  o Health Care practice transformation ($31.75M)

    - Health-care practice transformation to support whole-person health through integrated care models

    - Request for applications (RFA) to be published January 2023.

- Across initiatives there is an emphasis on frontier, rural, and tribal communities and underfunded urban areas.

- These programs run through FY25-26.

HCPF has been engaging in extensive stakeholder engagement for these programs.

- Priority to invest in provider stability and accountability, innovation, benefit expansion, improvements in member access, and build the infrastructure to move these forward.

- Focusing on sustainable and long-term models that don't have a funding cliff.

  o Doug Muir from Centura highlights the importance of billing/revenue specialists to help practices implement. Upfront costs are large.

- ARPA grant opportunities

- A BHIS voting member shares their lived experience and how step-down options are needed and the system is difficult to navigate. There are way too many that suffer in silence.

4. Value-based payments in behavioral healthcare (Melissa Eddleman, HCPF)

Melissa Eddleman joins to discuss behavioral health (BH) alternative payment models and value-based payment (VBP) updates.

- The goal for this work is to create an alternative payment model for comprehensive safety net providers that is transparent and sustainable that also focuses on value-based propositions consistent with the state's behavioral health strategy and Medicaid core measures.

    - BH strategy for the state comes in collaboration with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), HCPF, and interested stakeholders.

    - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires Medicaid to report out on specific core measures related to VBP.

- Implementation to ramp up to the VBP requirements in contracts by July 2023.

- HCPF will require that managed care plans pay a value-based payment arrangement or a specific minimum alternative payment model (APM) to fund our safety net providers.

The next steps for this work are to engage in a learning period.

- There are three versions of the encounter-based model being evaluated – all with provider specific rates.

- Learning period measures will be stratified by sub-populations including but not limited to (full list on slide 6 of [the presentation](#)) race and or ethnicity, intellectual and developmental disability, serious mental illness, and Medicaid enrollment categories.

Expectations for each behavioral health provider type (Medicaid Providers, Essential Providers, Comprehensive Providers) are displayed.

- Daniel and Melissa clarify that regarding the provider types, rule creation is still forthcoming. Comprehensive providers are pretty well established in

statute, but there is additional work needed around the definition of essential safety net providers.

- BHA is in the rule-making process.

- Daniel requests that the BHA present to BHIS on these program components.

- More information can be found on the HCPF behavioral health reform page: https://hcpf.colorado.gov/bhreform.

Voting member Imo Succo highlights her program, the Indigenous Wellbriety Program.

The next BHIS meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2022. The meeting was adjourned.