



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND INTEGRATION STRATEGIES (BHIS)
SUBCOMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING (HCPF)**

Virtual Meeting
Video conference: meet.google.com/npv-fjqb-ymg
Call-in number: (US) +1 657-845-0818
PIN: 389 037 673#

October 6, 2021, 9:00 - 10:30 A.M.

1. Introductions

Daniel Darting called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Voting member attendance and roll call were taken.

Facilitators:

- Daniel Darting Signal Behavioral Health Network (Co-Chair)
- Matt Pfeifer Health Care Policy & Financing (Department Liaison)

Voting Members:

- Imo Succo Southwestern Colorado Area Health Education Center
- Mary Ellen Benson Diversus Health
- Camille Harding Office of Behavioral Health
- Monique McCollum Parent
- Tammy Phillips Larimer County DHS
- Tom Keller CO Program Improvement Advisory Committee

Other Attendees:

- Tina Gonzales Beacon Health Options
- Erin Herman Health Care Policy & Financing
- Megan Comer Health Care Policy & Financing
- Karen Masters West Pines SCL Health
- Vicki Allen-Sanchez Beacon Health Options
- Mattie Brister Mile High Health Alliance
- Alan Girard Front Range Health Partners
- Doug Muir Centura Health
- Susan Goldenstein Children’s Hospital Colorado
- Sandra Grossman Health Care Policy & Financing
- Youngsin Joh Dept. of Human Services
- Kellen Roth Colorado Access

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- Sandra Fritsch
 - Pam Boehm
 - Robyn Tharp
 - Joseph Anderson
 - Cris Matoush
 - Danielle Culp
 - Emilee Kaminski
 - Amanda Jones
 - Jen Hale-Coulson
 - Callie Kerr
 - Natasha Lawless
 - Suzanne Kinney
 - Nina Marinello
 - Tom Keller
 - Bryan Standley
 - Sarah Lambie
- COPCAPP
 - Beacon Health Options
 - Consultants for Children, Inc.
 - Colorado Access
 - Rocky Mountain Health Plans
 - Office of Behavioral Health
 - University of Colorado
 - The Center for Mental Health
 - Northeast Health Partners
 - Health Care Policy & Financing
 - Northeast Health Partners
 - Colorado Community Health Alliance
 - SCL Health
 - CO Program Improvement Advisory Committee
 - Creative Treatment Options
 - Health Services Advisory Group

2. Housekeeping

A. Meeting minutes

The group takes a vote on the September 2021 meeting minutes. Matt Pfeifer reminds the group that all materials have been posted to the [BHIS webpage](#). Marry Ellen Benson motions to approve; Imo Succo seconds. All voting members vote “aye”; there are no opposing votes. The September 2021 meeting minutes are approved.

B. Crisis Service update post-Program Improvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

Matt Pfeifer notifies the group that the BHIS recommendations to PIAC are currently with HCPF (the Department). The Department will review the recommendations and develop a response to the PIAC and BHIS regarding what parts of the recommendations can be incorporated and/or implemented.

C. COVID-19 updates

Matt Pfeifer updates the group on continued work by the Department to support community partners, organizations, and Medicaid Members; there is specific focus on closing the disparities gap between the Medicaid population and the overall statewide population.

[The Department’s plan](#) for allocated American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds has been approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Colorado Joint Budget Committee (JBC).

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The Colorado [Behavioral Health Transformation Task Force](#) is working in the interim between regularly-scheduled legislative sessions. The task force must issue a report with recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor on policies to create transformational change in the area of behavioral health using money the state receives from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund.

Updated COVID-19 data can be found on the [Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment \(CDPHE\) dashboard](#).

Daniel Darting notes the historic amount of resources and funding being allocated related to behavioral health in the wake of the pandemic.

D. Department of Corrections (DOC) metric review

Matt Pfeifer presents the monthly review of the DOC metric data that the BHIS sub-committee helped to create for the Department. The metric illustrates behavioral health (BH) engagement of members who have been released from the DOC in a 14-day time period. The trend continues to be positive.

It is noted that the population with the highest rate of BH engagement are white females, followed by non-white females. White males are the second-least likely to engage and non-white males are the least likely to engage.

3. Continued discussion of [House Bill \(HB\) 21-1258](#): Rapid Mental Health Response For Colorado Youth

BHIS engages in a follow-up discussion about HB21-1258 after the bill was introduced in the September meeting. The group aims to see if there is a path forward for this sub-committee to stay engaged with this bill. The funds for this bill come from the State of Colorado.

HB21-1258 review:

- The bill charged OBH with creating temporary youth services in response to COVID-19, including three free mental health sessions with a licensed provider.
- Intention is for brief intervention and referral to services for children and youth not currently engaged.
- Daniel Darting notes that [Signal Behavioral Health Network](#) (Signal) is the contracted vendor to implement this bill, leveraging their existing community of network providers.



- A sub-set of individuals enrolled in the program may be Medicaid, but the program is open to all Colorado youth.
- Implementation of the bill is occurring as soon as possible as the goal was for the program to be live at the start of the 2021 school year. The workforce challenge is noted.

Mary Ellen Benson asks for clarification on how the actual portal (meant to connect youth with providers) will work. How will providers who are already embedded in the community/school-setting be folded in?

Tammy Phillips notes the short-term nature of the program may be attractive to providers.

Daniel frames the program as an interim approach focused on low-acuity brief intervention. The workforce shortage challenge across the state is reiterated. Daniel notes the possible intersection with [CDPHE and their programs available for loan repayment](#).

Tammy notes the importance of incentivizing providers to participate; in her experience, many providers are not interested in enrolling with Medicaid due to administrative burden and low reimbursement rates. Imo Succo notes the same provider challenges in Southwestern Colorado. Additionally, there is a noticeable amount of BH provider vacancies with Axis Health System, which is the biggest Medicaid-enrolled provider agency in Southwestern Colorado.

Matt clarifies that the bill is not meant to impede services that are already occurring but to engage with individuals who have not yet been engaged. The portal will be designed to keep youth currently working with a provider with that same provider.

Telehealth options are being considered but it is clear that telehealth is not a substitute where there needs to be person-to-person interaction.

Any follow-up questions about this bill can be sent to Matt Pfeifer at matthew.pfeifer@state.co.us.

4. Colorado Pediatric Psychiatry Access & Consultation Program (CoPPCAP) background and intersection with the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC)

Sandy Fritsch with the University of Colorado School of Medicine joins the group to present the [CoPPCAP program](#).

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- CoPPCAP enrolled its first practices in September 2019 after receiving funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
- The core components of the program are peer-to-peer consultation, resource identification, and education. Education must be available to primary care providers if they are being asked to address mental health.
- The program is implemented with pediatric primary care provider through practice transformation. Referrals, enrollments, and trainings are utilized to get practices involved.
- Sandy highlights the cost-effectiveness of the CoPPCAP program. Sandy notes the importance of having limited bureaucratic structures in place in order for the program to be cost-effective.

The group discusses how this might fit into the sub-committee's scope of work, and the ACC program.

Camille Harding from the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) will connect with Sandy to discuss how this program fits into the larger care coordination infrastructure.

The BHIS sub-committee would like to stay engaged with Sandy and the CoPPCAP project, especially as evaluation data becomes available.

5. Wrap-up and next steps

Next meeting November 3, 2021

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities. Please notify the Committee Coordinator at 303-866-3369 or matthew.pfeifer@state.co.us or the 504/ADA Coordinator hcpf504ada@state.co.us at least one week prior to the meeting.

