

**Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
FINAL DRAFT Meeting #13 Minutes
Friday, October 12, 2018
9:10 a.m.**

**Health and Human Services Commission
Brown-Heatly Building
Public Hearing Room
4900 North Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78751**

Agenda Item 1: Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions

The Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. with Wayne Young presiding as chair. Mr. Young welcomed committee members and members of the public. Mr. Young asked new members to introduce themselves and provide a brief bio of why they chose to serve on the BHAC committee.

Ms. Trina Ita, Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Mental Coordination, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dr. Courtney Harvey as the new Associate Commissioner for the Office of Mental Health Coordination.

Mr. John Chacón, HHSC Stakeholder Relations Office, announced the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and noted that a quorum was not present for the meeting.

Table 1: The Behavioral Health Advisory Committee member attendance at the Friday, October 12, 2018 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Barrientos, Sergio	X		Johnson, Celeste	X	
Beach, Doug		X	Johnson, Windy		X
Carson, Chris, M.D.		X	Jones, Meredith Stacy		X
Castañeda, Elizabeth		X	Osadchey, Lidya		X
Fagan, Donna	X		Peoples, Kate		X
Gilmore, Rev. Robert, PhD	X		Ramirez, Cassandra		X
Hoffman, Shannon	X		Reed, Gabriella M.	P	
Horton, Colleen		X	Richardson, Andrea	X	
Howell, Jason	X		Uga, Aghaegbulam, M.D.		X
Humphrey, Cynthia	X		Young, Wayne	X	

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting

P: Indicated attended the meeting by phone

No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

Agenda Item 2: Approval of minutes for July 27, 2018, meeting

Mr. Wayne Young, Chair noted that a quorum was not present and therefore action could not be taken and that this agenda item would be tabled until the next quarterly meeting scheduled for January 11, 2019.

Agenda Item 3: Intellectual Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health Services Update

Ms. Kisha Ledlow provided an update on System of Care initiatives. Ms. Joy Kearney provided an update on Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council collaborative efforts. Ms. Rebekah Falkner provided an update on peer support specialist rules and

referenced PowerPoint/handout entitled "Peer Support as a Medicaid Benefit-Implementation Update". Ms. Trina Ita, provided a staffing update.

Highlights of the **System of Care Initiatives update** and member discussion included:

- Ms. Kisha Ledlow stated that A system of care is a spectrum of effective community-based services and supports for children, youth and young adults with or at risk for mental health and related challenges and their families that is organized into a coordinated network, builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth, and addresses their cultural and linguistic needs in order to help them function better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life. Fifty percent of the grant dollars must be spent on services.
- Ms. Ledlow described some recent activities. A conference will be held in mid-2019. They are looking to expand to 2 additional communities, to launch September 30, 2019.
- Question was asked by a committee member regarding when the applications would come out for the expansion and Ms. Ledlow responded that is not determined yet but it will be early spring.
- Question was asked by a committee member regarding what is happening with RTCs and transition back to the community and Ms. Ledlow responded that the plans include wraparound services and the gap is closing for many children and that UT Austin is evaluating that process to determine what is working best.

Question was asked by a committee member regarding if there is a plan to use family peer supports for the transition effort and Ms. Ledlow responded that some entities are using family supports from other families.

- **Q:** Question was asked by a committee member regarding if the system of care address co-occurring data and if there was an overlap and Ms. Ledlow responded that data is still being collected on children served in the Texas system of care.

Highlights of the **Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (SBHCC) update** and member discussion included:

Ms. Joy Kearney provided a background of the council. The SBHCC was charged with developing a Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan as well as a coordinated budget.

- Ms. Kearney stated that there will also be a behavioral health services index update developed and published.
- Mr. Jason Howell stated that the committee views housing as critical and there is a need for a comprehensive strategic plan around housing. He asked if the coordinating council would be the place to support this concept. HHSC stated that the coordinating council may not be the place to drive this but it could help in the development of that plan.
- Mr. Wayne Young, Chair stated that the Behavioral Health Strategic Plan was adopted by this advisory council.

Highlights of the **Peer support specialist rules update** and member discussion included:

- Ms. Rebekah Falkner stated that HB 1486 mandated that HHSC implement Peer Support Services as a Medicaid Benefit.
- Ms. Falkner stated that on November 2017 the Peer Support Stakeholder Work Group began holding monthly meetings and in May 2018, the Peer Support

Stakeholder work group completed draft of the rules. In June 2018, HHSC hosted public meetings to receive informal comment. In July 2018, HHSC staff began statewide Community Conversations on Peer Support:

- Holding monthly events to promote the Medicaid benefit and implementing peer support
- Providing an overview of rules and implementation
- Holding panel discussions with peers and executive directors
- Holding robust question and answer session
- Mr. Jason Howell stated that he had the following concerns:
 - There are age restrictions that do not make sense. We should be sure to address the first episode psychosis, and this occurs earlier in life than 21 years. This is presented as an adult service.
 - How do we make sure peer support is delivered with fidelity and how we provide peer supports as a continuum of care is critical.
 - The rates that have been published are troubling and too low. There is a service delivered by peers in rehab and those rates are significantly higher. There is disparity when compared to other states as well.
- Ms. Richardson stated that she also would like to change the age restrictions proposed in the rules. There is something lost if the peer support services are merged into rehab services.
- Ms. Hoffman concurred with the previous two comments.
- Ms. Humphrey stated that ASAP is concerned also about the rates. The indigent rates will be responsive to the Medicaid rates. This is not sustainable.
- Ms. Fagen stated she also finds the rates inadequate especially in rural counties. In rural counties, peers are filling the gaps.
- Mr. Jason Howell made a motion to object to the proposed rates and ask for reconsideration and it did not advance because of the lack of a quorum.

Highlights of the **staffing update** and member discussion included:

- Ms. Trina Ita stated that there have been a lot of staffing changes. A peer support director will be hired. Several SUD positions have been posted. Contract services used to be under this division but is now managed by a new Associate Commissioner, Rod Swan.

Agenda Item 4: Behavioral Health Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)

Mr. Ed Sinclair, HHSC and Mr. Mike Maples, Deputy Executive Commissioner provided an update on the Behavioral Health LAR and referenced a handout entitled "Health and Human Services Commission: Behavioral Health Exceptional Items Summary". Highlights of the update and member discussion included:

- Ms. Andrea Richardson commented on residential treatment centers and if the funding is not used, would HHSC consider some community based options in lieu of the centers. Mr. Mike Maples stated that step down options have been in the discussion and there has to be some alternatives. He stated that when residential beds are opened they are filled immediately. We have to make a full continuum of services and create a healthy flow through the system. The state may come to the conclusion that they need a new residential option that is step down-like. Many people in the state hospitals have been there over a year.

- Ms. Richardson commented on telemedicine as an access to care option. This could foster an option under HCBS. Mr. Maples stated that we should skip a pilot and move directly into “doing it.” The technology is being used across the system including conversations with the courts.
- Ms. Richardson commented on the IDD crisis item. She asked if the priorities are in order of priority funding. She stated that training will be an important component. Mr. Ed Sinclair stated that the items are not in priority order. They form the continuum and the entire package is equally important.
- Ms. Richardson inquired about the intent for HB13 and SB292 implementation. She asked if the existing programs would be maintained or would it be a whole new re-application process. Mr. Sinclair stated they are still working out the details on that. He stated that a program may not receive the same level of funding it has been used to getting.
- Ms. Cynthia Humphrey inquired about rates and that they are pleased with the item for rate increases. She asked if the amount for rate increases was calculated under a specific set of assumptions. Mr. Sinclair stated that they de-bundled some rates and worked with rate setting to develop targeted rates. What the legislature appropriates will determine how the rates are implemented.
- Ms. Humphrey stated that in the original LAR document had the average cost of treatment and number served and there was clarification sought on how those numbers were derived. Mr. Sinclair stated they are going through the process of identifying and sharing methodology with people down town.
- Ms. Donna Fagan stated that she appreciates the HB13 funding. She stated that they are assisting families with very high level needs. She supported increased funding for those projects.
- Ms. Humphrey stated that all the items need to be funded.
- Mr. Sergio Barrientos commented on tribal service needs. They have to look at telehealth in three different languages having a large Kickapoo population needing services.
- Ms. Celeste Johnson stated that if the funding is not realized then it will mean bed reductions.
- A question was asked by a committee member about what they as a committee can do to make sure this budget is passed. Mr. Sinclair stated the level of urgency is high and this has to be communicated. Mr. Maples stated that there is a lot of need but every biennium additional mental health dollars are appropriated because of stakeholders and community support.
- Ms. Hoffman asked for explanation of EI 19 expansion of first episode psychosis services. Mr. Sinclair stated that is for expansion to all MHAs. Ms. Hoffman inquired about HB13 and if new grants will be allowed. HHSC stated that they would look at reapplications and evaluate the best approach for allocation of the funding.
- Mr. Wayne Young, Chair stated that the timing did not align well for this committee to weigh in on the budget and he hoped that going forward timing will be better.
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Agenda Item 6: Governor’s School Plan

Ms. Trina Ita, HHSC Associate Commissioner provided an overview of the Governor’s School Plan. Highlights of the overview and member discussion included:

- Ms. Trina Ita stated that the School Firearm plan was developed pursuant to the shootings in Santa Fe Texas. The plan focusses on prevention and mental health issues. HHSC responded on the things they could immediately do. This involved a focus on mental health first aid training. They have been offering grants to provide that training. Many LMHAs have taken it upon themselves to engage communities

on heightened awareness of mental health. HHSC received a \$1.2 million grant from the Governor's Office to address first responders' needs after an incident occurs. There are calls being made about developing infrastructure to support the effort. Some of the exceptional items will also address the plan, especially around early intervention. This funding addresses gaps in the response system.

- Ms. Celeste Johnson asked if there was an emphasis on mental health screening in schools. HHSC stated that TEA's exceptional item does look at assessment as a component. I-Watch Texas is another effort to address the Governor's Plan. Ms. Johnson stated that the suicide rates are going up and that screening is critical for children in different settings including school settings. HHSC stated that they will talk with TEA about operationalizing screening for local ISDs. Mr. Wayne Young, Chair stated that there is a need for some standardized response that addresses the help that is needed. Once youth are identified through a screening then the approach to the children should be standardized. Ms. Johnson stated that they can build algorithms that identify risks. HHSC stated that this is all new to TEA. Their scope is to educate children and behavioral health is demanding a new focus from schools.
- Ms. Shannon Hoffman stated that she understood there was legislative interest in building a threat assessment process and connection to services.
- Ms. Andrea Richardson stated that behavioral health issues and substance use are inseparable. She stated that there is emotional learning that has to occur in the schools. Schools are beginning to talk about behavioral health at the elementary school level through a mini first aid for mental health.
- A comment was made by a committee member regarding the need to train because of the normalcy of storm related trauma that is occurring.
- Ms. Donna Fagan stated that there is a need also for mental health education for parents of children in schools. We could use certified family partners in schools to help accomplish this.

Agenda Item 5: Public Comment:

No public comment was offered during this time.

Agenda Item 7: Mental Health Condition and Substance Use Disorder (MHCSUD) Parity Workgroup Progress Report

Dr. Diane Felder, M.D., MHCSUD Parity Workgroup Vice Chair provided an update on the MHCSUD Parity Workgroup Progress Report and referenced a PowerPoint entitled "Texas Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Workgroup: Report to Behavioral Health Advisory Committee". Highlights of the update and member discussion included:

- Dr. Diane Felder stated that in accordance with H.B. 10 (85R), the Workgroup was established to study and make recommendations to increase understanding of and compliance with state and federal rules, regulations, and statutes concerning the availability and terms and conditions of benefits for mental health conditions and substance use disorders (MHCSUDs).
- Dr. Felder stated that the workgroup was required to develop a Strategic Plan with metrics to serve as a roadmap to increase compliance with MHCSUD parity rules regulations, and statutes. The Workgroup members agreed on a self-imposed deadline for development of the strategic plan which will be finalized September 1, 2019. They will build upon goals, objectives, and strategies to address the five key legislative charges.

- Ms. Andrea Richardson asked how this plan will interact with other strategic plans and Dr. Felder responded that there is coordination between this plan and that of the behavioral health strategic plan.

Agenda Item 9: Subcommittee/Committee Reports - Part I

a. Children and Youth Behavioral Subcommittee Update

Ms. Kisha Ledlow, HHSC provided the update. Highlights of the update and member discussion included:

- Ms. Ledlow stated that the subcommittee chose Ms. Laurie Robinson as the new co-chair. There was an update on adolescent recovery initiative which is wrapping up its first year and the subcommittee brought together the providers into a collaborative. She stated that the subcommittee participated in a 7 Challenges training as well as in the Global Appraisal of Individual Need (GAIN) Assessment training.
- Ms. Ledlow stated that there was a collaborative project across many partners. The subcommittee brought a policy to this body to address youth peer supports. They brought together a round table to develop next steps to provide direction for youth peer support.
- Ms. Andrea Richardson inquired about suggestions about youth peers and recruitment. Ms. Ledlow stated they did not go in depth into recruitment but there are things that can be done to grow peer supports within different programs.

b. Data Subcommittee Update

Ms. Andrea Richardson provided the update and highlights of the update and member discussion included:

- Ms. Richardson stated that the subcommittee met October 3rd and looked at the data needs of other subcommittees. They discussed data elements to be addressed for the legislative session. They looked at what other states are doing related to data across the spectrum of a child's life. Integration of data bases was discussed, looking at all the data bases at HHSC is critical to the success of refining the data availability.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) were discussed and how we often overlook asking these questions of children. It is not enough to ask the questions but it is important to use them to make a difference in the lives of people.
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c. Rules Subcommittee Update

No update was provided.

d. Policy Subcommittee Update

No update was provided.

Agenda Item 8: Telehealth services for mental health services

Ms. Erin McManus, Policy Advisor provided an update on Telehealth services for mental health services and referenced PowerPoint entitled "Medicaid Telehealth Services".

Highlights of the update and member discussion included:

- Ms. Erin McManus stated that Medicaid covers both telemedicine and telehealth services.

- Ms. Shannon Hoffman asked about a topic nomination they submitted related to targeted case management. Ms. McManus stated that they are about to publish the nomination to the website. They also have an ECI related nomination they are working on.
- Ms. Andrea Richardson asked for the information on the webinars be sent to the Texas Council.
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Agenda Item 9: Subcommittee/Committee Reports - Part II

e. Self-Directed Care Ad Hoc Subcommittee Update

Ms. Jessie Aric provided an update and highlights of the update and member discussion included:

- Ms. Aric stated that HHSC is testing self-direction in the Travis SDA. Project evaluation is occurring through the UT School of Social Work and UT San Antonio is being consulted for guidance. At this point 61 percent of participants have implemented a self-directed care plan and 80 percent have made a purchase with their flexible funds. They are participating in a multistate collaborative to inform future direction for self-direction nationwide.

f. Housing Subcommittee Update

Mr. Jason Howell provided an update and highlights of the update and member discussion included:

- Mr. Howell stated that the subcommittee is meeting monthly and they are looking to formalize the committee. There are new members being recruited for the subcommittee. TDHCA came and reported on their housing report and they recommend a need for a comprehensive housing strategic plan. There are the same barriers encountered across all housing types. There are opportunities with the USDA and rural recovery housing. There is money also allocated for transportation dollars in the Department of Transportation. The USDA has published three resources that contain a matrix of funding opportunities.

Agenda Item 10: Public Comment:

No public comment was offered during this time.

Agenda Item 11 and 12: Planning for Next Meeting and Action Items/Committee Recommendations

Mr. Wayne Young, Chair noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 11, 2019 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. The following are the action items and committee recommendations that were noted during the meeting:

Action Items

- Orientation for new members
 - Teleconference call with chair and co-chair with new members to discuss BHAC, purpose, process, and bylaws.
 - Provide an overview of HHSC systems and programs
- Distribute strategic plan to members

- IWatch app information for members- Joy will contact DPS
- Distribute Organization charts for IDD-BHS and programs and contact information
- Methodology for treatment rate with LAR, specific to the decrease from one previous session to next.
 - Overview of the process and how calculations are made
- Testimony Public hearing regarding governor's plan send link (TEA)
- Topic nomination form via HHSC Medicaid Medical and Dental Policies webpage and distribute link
- Distribute out the HB 10 report Parity Workgroup.
- Distribute Parity Survey to workgroup
- Parity members for subcommittee
- Email new roster with updates
- Housing subcommittee report
 - Funding opportunities
- Acronym lists
- Send members statement for signature.

Recommendations

- Workgroup to provide recommendations regarding the rates for peer support services and the addition of youth and support services.
- Provide input for LAR next session. Workgroup will need time to review LARs, ask questions, and make comments.

Topics

- Ethics training
- OMA/PIA training
- Suicide Prevention
- Trauma-informed care and initiative
- Discussion of subcommittees and election of members to subcommittees
- Committee to support and provide information for rate increase for SUD treatment
- Open Meetings Act Orientation for new members
- Subcommittee Housing Funding and grant opportunities
- Contracting and funding process at BH-IDD
- Soar
- Block Grant
- Bed-day allocation, funding, evaluation.
- JCAFS data element, beds, and waitlists.
- Budget Cycle
- Overview of system- IDD/SUD/BH
 - Delivery of services

Agenda Item 13: Closing Remarks

Mr. Wayne Young, Chair adjourned the BHAC meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Below is the link to the archived video of the October 12, 2018 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meeting.

(To view and listen to the entirety of the meeting click on the link below)

<https://texashsc.swagit.com/play/10122018-681>