

**Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Workgroup  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 9, 2018  
10:00 a.m.**

**Brown Heatly Building - Public Hearing Room  
4900 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751**

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The **Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Workgroup (MHCSUD)** meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. with Greg Hansch presiding as chair. Mr. Hansch welcomed committee members and members of the public. Parity Workgroup members introduced themselves and provided a summary of their experiences. John Chacon, HHSC Advisory Committee Coordination Office Facilitator, announced the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and noted that a quorum was present for the meeting.

Table 1: The Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Workgroup member attendance at the Tuesday, October 9, 2018 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Alvarez, Naomi	X		Hansch, Greg	X	
Bailey, Bill	X		Jones, Meredith (1:16 pm)	X	
Bedford, Joe (10:29 am)	X		Layton, Sherri	P	
Bryan, Christine	X		Mitchell, Debbie (12:05am)	P	
Calo, Luis		X	Ramirez, Andrea	X	
Felder, Diane	P		Rosales-Elkins, Deborah		X
Gartenmann, Tracy		X	Villegas, Alba	X	

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting  
P: Indicates phone conference call

No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

**Agenda Item 2: Review and approve July 31, 2018, meeting minutes**

Mr. Hansch called for a motion to review and approve the minutes of the July 31, 2018 meeting.

**Motion:**

Bill Bailey moved to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2018 meeting as presented. Naomi Alvarez seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously approved the minutes by voice vote, with eight yea's, no nays and no abstentions.

**Agenda Item 3: Individual and advocate testimony related to MHCSUD benefits**

Ms. Laura Lucinda, Strategic Engagement Specialist with the Office of Transformation and Innovation, and Ms. Stacey Pogue, Senior Policy Analyst with the Center for Public Policy Priorities provided testimony related to MHCSUD benefits. Ms. Lucinda referenced handouts entitled "Strategic Planning Questions", "SWOT Analysis: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats", "Strategic Planning Resources-Free, Online", and "Health and Human Services System Strategic Planning Elements, 2019-2023: Strategic Priorities, Goals, and Objectives". Written testimony was provided from the Center for Public Policy Priorities regarding comments on progress report and the work ahead. A copy of the

written testimony was distributed to members. Highlights of the testimonies and committee member discussion included:

- Agreeing on a plan to plan
- Workgroup decides who gets to be at the table and how
- Step 2 – some type of scan, environmental scan, needs assessment
- Vision – three to five words, paints a picture
- Mission – general path describing how to get from here to the vision
- Goals – more specific but still broad and not measurable
- Objectives – more specific
- Strategies – the most specific outline , measurable
- Bottom up – a lot of input from stakeholders, risks disappointment
- Metrics – set ambitious goals

#### **Agenda Item 4: Subcommittee reports**

- a. Subcommittee 1: compliance, enforcement, and oversight**
- b. Subcommittee 2: complaints, concerns, and investigations**
- c. Subcommittee 3: education and awareness**

Mr. Diane Felder provided an update on Subcommittee 1 and referenced handout entitled "Regarding DOL compliance tools ". Ms. Andrea Ramirez provided an update on Subcommittee 2 and referenced a link (<https://parityat10.org/>) entitled "Parity at 10". Ms. Naomi Alvarez provided an update on Subcommittee 3. Highlights of the updates and committee member discussion included:

- Look first best practices across states
- Ongoing work to enforce NQTLs
- Lessons learned – putting burden on issuers, not on the state
- Completed for the most part strategy 1 – will distribute analysis to the work group
- Review of parity landscape
- Historical context and parity Implementation Coalition
- History of the Ombudsman program – Joel Schwartz
- Parity landscape
- Compiled resource guide
- Implementation of strategies at this point

#### **Agenda Item 5: Health and Human services Commission efforts toward implementation of H.B. 10**

##### **b. Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program**

Ms. Sarah Melecki provided an update on the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance program.

- Majority of claims are M/S
- MH/SUD are more likely to be denied in Medicaid not CHIP

##### **a. Office of the Ombudsman**

Ms. Avril Hunter provided an update on the Office of the Ombudsman.

- Re-posted position for parity Ombudsman – 44 application
- New person to be introduced in the next meeting
- Posting information as much as possible online

#### **Agenda Item 6: Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) efforts toward implementation of H.B. 10**

Ms. Rachel Bowden and Mr. Raja Malkani provided an update on the Texas Department of Insurance efforts toward implementation of H.B. 10 and referenced report on TDI website.

- 13 insurance carriers responded to data request
- Very hard to conclude whether parity exists in comparison between MH and M/S
- Denied rates overall are similar across benefits
- Details highlight areas that may merit further attention
- No consistent pattern of parity violations across benefits

### **Agenda Item 7: Mental Health Condition and Substance Use Parity Statewide Strategic Plan**

Mr. Greg Hansch reviewed statutory requirements related to strategic plan. He provided comment on next steps for Strategic Plan development, including recommended structure of strategic plan and timeline for development. He asked members for their insights on strategic plan development. The immediate, intermediate, and long-term action steps will be considered, including the possibility of Workgroup structural alterations or additions (such as new subcommittees) to be addressed. Referenced handout entitled "Parity Workgroup Draft Strategic Plan Outline and Timeline" and the <https://goo.gl/forms/6XdNXCFvHnnrPwDs2> link to the Texas Mental Health and substance Use Disorder Parity Workgroup Survey. Highlights of the review and committee member discussion included:

- Review of draft outline from last meeting
- Partial draft strategic plan will be presented at next meeting

Mr. Hansch called for a motion to approve the Texas Mental Health and substance Use Disorder Parity Workgroup Survey.

#### **Motion:**

Mr. Joe Bedford moved to approve the Texas Mental Health and substance Use Disorder Parity Workgroup Survey with edits from members. Mr. Bill Bailey seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously approved the survey by voice vote, with ten yeas, no nays and no abstentions.

### **Agenda Item 8: Subcommittee work sessions**

Mr. Greg Hansch directed members to breakout into the three subcommittees to work on their respective recommendations.

- d. Subcommittee 1: compliance, enforcement, and oversight**
- e. Subcommittee 2: complaints, concerns, and investigations**
- f. Subcommittee 3: education and awareness**

### **Agenda Item 9: Public comment**

No public comment was offered during this time.

### **Agenda Item 10: Planning for next meeting**

Mr. Greg Hansch discussed items where follow-up or clarification is needed on specific member questions and identified agenda items for future meetings. Notified members that the next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2018 and site is to be determined.

Agenda Topics for December 11, 2018 meeting

- Overview of the compliant process for the Office of Ombudsman
- Review of the strategic plan
- Updates from HHSC regarding implementation of HB 10

### **Agenda Item 11: Action items**

Action items included:

- Data do complaints process
- Review the progress of the development of the strategic plan and survey results
- Action items
  - Refine and expedite the survey
  - Begin to develop the strategic plan master document informed by what the committees share
  - Continue to refine goals, objectives and strategies
  - Landscape work
  - Implementation of strategies
  - Identifying stories to include in the strategic plan
  - Helping to figure out what the metrics are
  - Review suggested metrics
  - Recruit new members to the workgroup
  - Share ideas to TDI regarding rulemaking
  - Progress report updated on HHSC website

### **Agenda Item 12: Closing remarks**

Mr. Greg Hansch provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Below is the link to the archived video of the October 9, 2018 Mental Health Condition and Substance Use Disorder Parity Workgroup

<https://texashhsc.swagit.com/play/10092018-1781>