



**BHA/MA/Beacon Health Options, Inc.
Provider Quality Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Beacon Health Options
1099 Winterson Road, Suite 200
Linthicum, MD 21090
Friday, January 11, 2019
10:00 am to 11:30 am**

In attendance: Steve Reeder, Marian Bland, Jody Grodnitsky, Shannon Hall, Susan Steinberg, Drew Pate, Joana Joasil, Enrique Olivares, Jessica Allen, Andre Pelegrini, Kristen Rose, Stephanie Clark, Karl Steinkraus, Rebecca Frechard, Lisa Kugler, Shanzet Jones, Spencer Gear, Tasha Pope, Bryce Hudak, Craig Lippans, Barry Waters, Kristen Hughes, Stacey Diehl, Jarrell Pipkin, Oleg Tarkovsky, Chandra McNeil-Johnson, Shawn Spurlock, Kathy Judd

Telephonically: Donna Shipp, Heather Duncan, Catherine Hughes, Kwante Carter, Sarah Petr, Mariel Connell, Anna McGee, Jessica Hektoen, Corey Pisula, Chris Luecking, DeAnna Thornburg, Timothy Santoni, Nicole Cooper, Rebecca Maloney, Jessie Costley, Carol Graham, Sally Schramm, Evelyn Maye, Sylvia DeLong, Kaylen Copper, Howard Ashkin, Maureen Carpin, Judith Tucker, Sueqethea Jones, Abby Appelbaum, Nicol Lyon, Jen Cole, Terri DeFelice, Regina Miente, Juliet Al-Hakim, Cathy Murray, Jennifer Howes, Lauren McCarthy, Steven Sahm, Jarold Hendrick, Paula Catlett, Donna Boatman, Shu Zhu, Sheba Jeyachandran, Nerissa Snyder, Cynthia Hurd, Imelda Berry-Candelario, Shereen Cabrera Bentley, Davy Truong, Dominick Lesperance, Tammy Fox, Crystal Lambert Barrington Page, Rashida Winslow, Gina Moon, Andrea Carroll, Marquis Wilson, Kristine Garlitz, Andrew McCauley, Rhonda Moreland, Cristina Henriques, Lavina Thompson Bowling, Dan Hendricks, Dr. Lynn Duffy, Kristen Carrasco, Gayle Parker, Debbie Galloway, Jill Brown, Jonathan Lacewell, Marshall Rock, Kimberly Qualls, Sonja Moore, Anne Schooley, Jennifer Alldredge, Dan Nieberding, Michelle Rivera, Paris Crosby, Virginia Williams, Marte Birnbaum, Amy Park, Gertha Clark, Susan Wilkoff, Leona Bloomfield, Fran Stouffer, Beth Waddell, Crystal Slagle, Lori Doyle, Porshia Everett, Maureen Carpin, Kristi Plummer, Debbie Galloway, Aisha Amenra, Maritrese Nash, Geoff Ott, Darlene Dockins, Veronica Brown, Aisha Amenra, Kathleen Curry, Suk Ching Au Yeung, Linda Kuiper, Paula Bollinger, Augustina Opeewe-Ojo, Jennifer Alldredge, Joan Sperlein, Sydney Baskins, Jennifer Alldredge, Cam Chung, Robyn Bright, Cathy Baker, Magalie Brewer, Karen Sorrentino



Babajide Saba, Joe Pannozzo, Dr. Frank Chika, Gayle Parker, Diane Phillips LaGuerre, Benjamin Toney, Paula Nash, Carol Blazer, Connie Dausch, Mary Blackwell, Becki Clark, Kathy Judd, Yasmeen Mabry, Christine Branch, Mandy Trivits, Russell Berger, Linda McIntyre, Torri Mills, Jessica Chausky, Ann Ebhojiaye, Ashley Woozley, Kimberly Chase, Mark McSally, Rasheda McGuire, Belinda Strayhorn, Najla Wortham, Vonda Kendle, Michelle McCool, Michelle Dickens, Sheryl Neverson, Latoya Mayne-Rodgers, Jen Hodge, Heather McGrath, Samantha Sailsman, Christina Trenton, Sharon Sorrell Vanessa Lyle, Rob Carter, Mary Beth DeMartino, Kim Motosicky, Crystal Lambert Marcia Williamson, Abiba Wynn, Karen Byrd, Jennifer Watson, LaKisha Addison, Nefertiti Amenra, Sharon Schmitt, Sheryl Stephens Trask, Kimberly Lednum, Emily Suminski, Cathy Jones, Kathy Miller

Topics & Discussion

Minutes

BHA Update

- BHA announced a press release issued from the Opioid Command Center in which the Lieutenant Governor announced that there will be additional funding to support the education, support and treatment of the opioid epidemic. See for more information: <https://governor.maryland.gov/ltgovernor/2019/01/10/lt-governor-boyd-k-rutherford-announces-funding-for-opioid-crisis-and-substance-use-disorder-services-new-commission-studying-mental-and-behavioral-health/>.
- The SOAR grant has been approved for \$33M per year. An RFP was released on December 21, 2018 for those vendors who are interested in expanding or developing recovery homes. This information is available on BHA's website at [https://bha.health.maryland.gov/Documents/State%20Opioid%20Response%20\(SOR\)%20Request%20for%20Proposals%20for%20Recovery%20Housing.pdf](https://bha.health.maryland.gov/Documents/State%20Opioid%20Response%20(SOR)%20Request%20for%20Proposals%20for%20Recovery%20Housing.pdf) Proposals were due to the LBHA's by January 15, 2019. The LBHAs will send their recommendations to BHA by January 30, 2019 then BHA will issue final decisions on awards.
- Another pending solicitation will be posted to BHA's website the end of January 2019 for walk in crisis services or crisis stabilization centers. <https://bha.health.maryland.gov/pages/index.aspx>
- Residential Joint Operating Team (RJOT) calls for residential 3.1 services began on January 10, 2019. Weekly meetings will be held on Fridays at 9:30 AM. 3.1 programs are welcome to join the RJOT calls and you may also send questions for the calls on 3.1 services please email marylandproviderrelations@beaconhealthoptions.com. Questions need to come in by the Tuesday prior to each weekly meeting to allow Beacon and the Department enough time to review.
- The Community Bond interest meeting will be conducted on January 30, 2019 at the Maryland Department of Transportation in Hanover, MD from 1:00 PM to 3:00



PM. This meeting is for providers to expand permanent housing services. This will be an opportunity to develop permanent housing after an individual leaves recovery housing. There is potential to develop the next steps needed to lead to permanent housing. BHA encourages substance use providers to attend this meeting.

Medicaid Update

- COMAR 10.09.59 (Medicaid Mental Health regulations) were updated and posted on 12/31/2018. Changes go into effect 10 days after that posting and include: coverage for LC-PATs (art therapists) and updating ACT language. Remember that COMAR 10.09. chapters are Medicaid regulations, and BHA regulations include 10.21, 10.47, and 10.63. You can google: COMAR and find the Division of State Documents online. All providers billing the Public BH system are required to be in compliance with all applicable regulations.
- ePrep: Medicaid continues to hear challenges that providers are experiencing with the enrollment process. Please remember to go through the ePrep channels to resolve any issues that may arise. If your issues are not resolved after speaking with ePrep personnel. If you continue to have difficulty, you can elevate your concern to the Department's provider enrollment unit. . The Behavioral Health Unit at Medicaid no longer has the ability to make changes to provider files but will continue to assist providers in getting connected to ePrep. Providers have the responsibility of proactively updating their license IN ADVANCE of license expiration dates, and updating your address, and all contact information. Programs that have licenses tied to their location cannot pick up and move without ensuring they have followed all appropriate location requirements including obtaining appropriate license at the new location or obtaining a variance from the BHA. Please visit the ePrep portal for contact information at https://eprep.health.maryland.gov/prizmccplusjsp/full-viewer-sample/index.jsp?document=Frequent_Requested_Numbers_Contact_Us_061615.pdf.
- For inquiries regarding the changes regarding the May 1, 2019 rendering requirements to send questions to MDH.BHEnrollment@maryland.gov for review and response. t.

Beacon Health Options Update: (for questions regarding below information please email: marylandproviderrelations@beaconhealthoptions.com)

- announced the following staff changes:
 - Dr. Lynn Taylor will be returning to her role as the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in March of 2019.
 - Dr. Drew Pate will be moving on to a new role within Beacon Health Options and
 - Dr. Enrique Olivares will be moving into the Medical Director position.
- Beacon will be recruiting for a new Addictions Psychiatrist
- Beacon is in the process of rolling out a new program that will be looking at pharmacy data. Beacon Health Options will begin notifying providers of their



consumers who did not retrieve their prescription refills or have dangerous prescription practices. Beacon Health Options will be providing updates as the program progresses. I

- Beacon Health Options would like to remind providers that the RJOT calls have begun for level 3.1 Residential services. If you would like to be included on these calls, please send your name and contact information and questions to the email address listed above. The calls are scheduled for Fridays 9:30am but may vary.

Provider Questions

- 1. The reauthorization process for respite has become more time consuming now that we have to put in a different authorization for in home and out of home respite and the fact that each consumer's demographic/therapeutic info does not re populate with each reauthorization. Are these things being looked at to fix?**

Yes, Beacon is looking into addressing the pre-population piece of this question. We are aware of the administrative burden and are reviewing with the Department. In regards to the respite authorization process, the respite providers requested to align their authorization spans to mirror the 1915(i). Beacon has been able address this request and has extended the authorization parameters from 3 months to 6 months for all respite authorizations. A provider alert will be issued soon to clarify.

- 2. Can we add the Beacon ROI for substance abuse to the agencies general ROI?**

No. Programs cannot make any changes or modifications to The Release of Information ("AUTHORIZATION TO DISCLOSE SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT INFORMATION FOR COORDINATION OF CARE") document. The Assistant Attorney General's office was involved in developing this form and it has been vetted and approved as is. You may add additional forms that are program specific, but there can be no modification of the ROI.

- 3. At intake can a client give consent to all services that an agency provides? (example: clinic, PRP and Substance)**

Consent may be given to be assessed for all services that a facility provides, however each service has its own admission criteria and process. Providers do need to ensure they are completing the appropriate assessment of need and eligibility and that the appropriate authorizations for each distinctly requested service are submitted to Beacon.



4. Is there a launch date for peer specialist services to be billed through Medicaid?

There is a report on peer support that was sent from the peer support workgroup that was managed under the BHA to the legislature on December 1, 2018. Additional steps would be determined after the Legislative review.

5. Many clients that need PRP services have Medicare and Medicaid. What is the process for review and approval?

Per information noted under Participant Eligibility chapter 6.12 (http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/provider/manual/CH06_12-MH-PRP.pdf) of the Provider Manual:

Those who are eligible for PRP services are participants with federally-funded Medicaid (FMCD) and Dual Eligible Medicare and Medicaid (FDUL), or those who were receiving PRP services when they lost their Medicaid. Upon pre-authorization, State funded Medicaid and the uninsured eligible participants are eligible for PRP services only when they meet the medical necessity criteria and have been discharged from:

- A state hospital and are on conditional release
- An acute care hospital or institution for mental disease within the last six months
- A RRP bed within the last six months
- Jail or incarceration within the last six months

For details, please see Beacon's Maryland service class grid at: http://maryland.valueoptions.com/provider/clin_ut/ValueOptions-Maryland-Service-Grid.pdf.

If a member has SMCD, SDUL, or UNIS funding streams and does not meet one of the four forced admission criteria noted above but meets MNC, the case is typically placed in a courtesy pending status (P06) until the member either obtains the appropriate funding span or meets the abovementioned forced admission criteria. If MNC and forced admission criteria is not met, a denial is issued by a Beacon Peer Advisor. If an authorization is denied, it is denied by one of the physicians and each denial has an appeal process that providers should be following.

6. A Provider submitted information into the E-portal. E-Portal needed additional information/correction of information and never sent a



request back to the provider. How will a provider know it needs to correct information in the E-Portal?

When an application is returned to a provider, the will receive a deficiency notice in the message center of the ePrep portal. The message would list the items that must be corrected before resubmitting the application. Providers should check the ePrep portal regularly after submitting an application to verify the status of the application and receive important notifications. The email address for ePrep is: mdproviderrelations@automated-health.com

- 7. The November 8, 2018 FAQ #1 Question 2 states Medicaid will cover up to two non-consecutive 30-day stays (except for 8507). Although individualized, per ASAM, length of stay in a 3.1 is longer than other residential treatment. Question 10, states initial authorization span will be up to 90 days. Is it 30 or 90?**

Medicaid coverage is available to consumers needing ASAM level 3.1 residential services for up to two non-consecutive 30-day stays per rolling year. If the consumer continues to meet MNC beyond the 30 days, the services are covered by funding from the State of Maryland. The authorizations spans for 3.1 services are a 90-day initial authorization; 60 days are for the first concurrent and then 30 days for each concurrent authorization after that. All authorizations must meet MNC. Beacon Health Options administers the funding internally for the Department.

- 8. While in 3.1, can consumer still access separate outpatient SUD and MH services if clinically indicated?**

As long as the level 1 medical necessity criteria is met, an individual may receive level 1 individual and group counseling services from a SUD program. For those individuals receiving services from an OTP, the OTP will be paid for both their administrative bundle as well as level 1 counseling services performed by the OTP while the individual is in care of the residential treatment program. Services received outside of the program may supplement the therapeutic and supportive services provided in the residential care, but may not substitute for the required staffing or performance of those services.

Additional Provider Questions

- 1. I have noticed there is no longer a box to document any follow ups on the Beacon Health website. Can this be reinstated or can you create a**



place to document the follow up instructions on your website that are provided to the patient?

Please send your question and/or sample document to:
Marylandproviderrelations@beaconhealthoptions.com

2. How can we receive a copy of the minutes?

The meeting minutes as well as the agenda for the upcoming meeting are sent out to Providers in a Provider Alert and are posted on the Beacon Health Options Website at <http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/provider/prv-council.html>. Providers may sign up to receive Provider Alerts by emailing their contact information to:
marylandproviderrelations@beaconhealthoptions.com.

3. We have heard that the MCOs have made a move to carve back in Behavioral Health. Can Medicaid share details on what the next steps would be?

Questions regarding legislative initiatives could be directed toward your legislators. MDH has not shared an opinion on this issue.

4. A Medicaid physician has asked if a patient goes to him for Buprenorphine services would he be able to register the uninsured consumer and bill through Beacon Health Options.

If the primary diagnosis for the consumer is substance use and the physician is not the patient's PCP, then yes the physician would be able to register as a Data 2000 waiver provider and submit claims to Beacon Health Options. COMAR 10.09.70 K: An MCO is not responsible for reimbursing for services billed by a physician related to prescribing buprenorphine or Vivitrol when the following conditions are met:

- 1) The physician delivering buprenorphine has a Data 2000 waiver;
- 2) The physician is NOT the participant's primary care provider;

If the physician is the patient's PCP then the service is reimbursed by the patient's MCO. If there are issues with obtaining payment for a service of this nature, please contact:



Additional Items Discussed

There was a presentation by Beacon Health Options on Outcome Based Services. There will be copies of the slides that were presented sent out with the meeting minutes and they will also be posted to the Beacon Health Options Website. <http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/index.html>