

LHIC Behavioral Health Work Group Meeting
4.13.15 - 2:00 p.m.
Minutes

Members present:

Beverley Francis-Gibson, NAMI HC	Stu Kohn, HC Citizens Association
Ronna Gotthainer, HC Health Dept.	Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, HC Health Dept.
Donna Wells, HC Mental Health Authority	Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree
Maura Rossman, HC Health Dept.	Jackie Pettis, On Our Own, Howard County
Elena Acs, Grassroots	Danielle Herrmann, Evergreen Health Care

Also present:

Jeananne Sciabarra, LHIC Program Director	Alvaro Ortiz, LHIC Program Manager
Adrienne Ellis, Director of the MD Parity Project	

Welcome and Introductions:

- Roe, work group co-chair, welcomed members and opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Members introduced themselves and welcomed Adrienne Ellis, guest speaker and Director of the Maryland Parity Project.

Approval of minutes from previous meeting:

- Minutes from the 3.26.15 meeting were approved.

Presentation by Adrienne Ellis

- Adrienne Ellis, Director of the Maryland Parity Project, presented a report from the Mental Health Association of Maryland about the accuracy and adequacy of the psychiatric networks under the 2014 Qualified Health Plans in Maryland.
- The key findings include:
 - Only 43% of psychiatrists could be reached
 - Almost 20% reached were NOT psychiatrists
 - Less than 40% were psychiatrists who were accepting the insurance
 - Only 18% were accepting insurance AND accepting new outpatients
 - Less than 14% were accepting insurance and available for appointment in less than 45 days
- The report's recommendations are:
 - Insurance carriers make public a self-audit of the QHPs yearly
 - Insurance carriers make available their out of network exemption process
 - The Maryland Insurance Administration publish the out of network exemption information, including on their complaint form

Note: The complete report and Adrienne's presentation have been emailed to the work group.

General Updates/Group Discussion:

- Donna shared with the group a summary of the Behavioral Task Force Final Report and directed the group to the last recommendations made in the report about the LHIC. She

mentioned that there was a lot of discussion about the different committees and the recommendations made about the LHIC.

- Maura informed the group that the first three points under the first recommendation are currently being discussed for possible funding.
- The group discussed ways to promote the information shared by Adrienne and how to educate the public about the possibility of using out-of-network services and still be covered by the insurance companies.
- Beverley suggested a joint education forum and using the newsletters from the different organizations.
- Joan said that it was important to obtain an official message to disseminate for consistency and so consumers are not confused by different information. She also said that it was important to know where to refer people who have questions about this topic.
- Stu suggested a public forum where the County Executive or other community stakeholders could help distribute the information. He asked the group if a specific date could be chosen. However, the group decided to wait for the County budget to be released before selecting a date.
- Donna said that based on the upcoming County budget release, she believed that a public forum is already being scheduled.
- Danielle said that it was important to also educate providers especially primary care doctors to share the out-of-network benefits information with their patients.

Break Into Action Group:

- The group was unable to break into the different Action Groups due to time. Members will discuss a more efficient way to meet within the Action Groups at the next meeting.

Announcements/Information Sharing:

- Donna talked about the upcoming Healthy Transitions Program kick-off event. The event will take place May 5 and will be a joint effort of the Mental Health Authority and Humanim. She will send the event flyer to the LHIC staff so they can forward it to the entire group.

Action Items

- Donna will follow up with Adrienne to obtain appropriate language and information on out-of-network services and eligibility requirements so the group can start sharing the information.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be Thursday, May 28, following the full LHIC meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alvaro Ortiz
LHIC Program Manager