

## **New Hampshire Insurance Department**

### Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health and Addiction Services

September 8, 2017 meeting, 9:30-11:15 a.m.

Room 100, Walker Building, Concord, NH

**Board Members in Attendance:** Representative Ed Butler, Andrea Rancatore, Dr. Richard LaFleur, Ken Norton, Dr. Paul Frehner, Abby Shockley, Dr. Peter Mason, Dr. William Brewster, Courtney Gray, and Christina sitting in for Lucy Hodder.

**Board Members Unable to Attend:** Marty Boldin, Senator Jeb Bradley, Senator Dan Feltes, Representative John Hunt, Dr. Robert Feder, Amelie Gooding, Christopher Kozak, Stephen Kozak, Michele Merritt, Joseph Plaia, and Stephanie Savard.

Deputy Commissioner Alex Feldvebel welcomed the group at 9:40 a.m. and kicked off the meeting recognizing that there have been development changes in the membership. We all rejoiced in Abby Shockley's new baby boy and welcomed her return. Courtney Gray Tanner is now executive director at Hope on Haven Hill. The group accepted the minutes of the June meeting.

### **NHID Updates –**

Jenny Patterson explained that some of the Consumer Protection and Enforcement Grant funds have been tabled by Fiscal Committee. The NHID is providing further information to the committee and legislators which includes a deeper explanation about the use of the grant funds, which focus on consumer protections related to behavioral health and substance use disorder services. Feldvebel added that \$1.1 million in federal funds would be to pay for phase 2 of the market conduct examinations so that the NHID wouldn't have to charge carriers.

Patterson explained that the Parity Academy was a six month effort with meetings and discussions about mental health parity requirements and that they learned a lot about the great things that NH is doing. The Parity Academy has now ended but she has a lot of good contacts. Jenny discussed the 1332 waiver the NHID applied for and that for now it is tabled.

Eireann Aspell followed with updates on parity outreach presentations. The [slide deck](#) is posted on NHID website.

### **DHHS Parity Update:**

Lorene Reagan passed out PowerPoint slide deck of the [Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act NH DHHS Compliance Plan](#). She also included the [NH DHHS Proposed Compliance Monitoring Plan—Final Draft for Review](#), dated August 23, 2017, which she reviewed for the group. Reagan explained that NH DHHS is looking for input by September 14, and that they are on track for an October 2, 2017 submission to CMS outlining the Medicaid Program's compliance with the CMS's Final Rule of March 2016. CHIP program was deemed compliant and the alternative benefit plan was deemed compliant by CMS. The resource slide was also discussed and Abby Shockley from DHHS said she would spread the word about the Consumer Guide to get members more engaged.

### **DHHS 1115 Transformation Waiver Update:**

Abby Shockley distributed a [high-level overview](#) and explained that the waiver is for \$150 million over 5 years. There are 7 Integrated Delivery Networks (IDN) of providers that are working toward integrated care, which include mental health centers, SUD providers, and Federally Qualified Health Centers. These IDNs are working to identify projects to meet the goals of the waiver over the next 5 years. They have submitted implementation plans that explain how they are going to achieve these goals. There is a workforce development task force and a Health Information Technology task force. Feldvebel asked about the implications of this project for commercial insurers. Shockley responded that there is no mandatory participation for commercial insurers, but that it may be helpful for carriers to visit the [IDN page](#) of the DHHS website to see how the plans are going to accomplish the IDN goals.

Peter Mason is the director for the Region 1 IDN. Their plans are not only include delivery system reform incentive but also include infrastructure changes. They are focused on level 5 integration, which means that behavioral health will be fully integrated into primary care practices.

### **ER Boarding Issue Update:**

Ken Norton shared that the ER boarding issue continues to persist. There are some legislative efforts to address it during the last session. NH DHHS did a phenomenal job in getting the Requests for Applications (RFAs) out on June 30<sup>th</sup> for proposals relative to some of the services that were increased or provided for in the budget or HB 400. The good news is that a couple of those RFAs came back with multiple bids and are being reviewed. However there were no proposals for designated receiving facilities or mobile crisis units. The reasons cited for not submitting applications were work force capacity issues, uncertainty in Washington, D.C., and whether Essential Health Benefits that include behavioral health and substance use disorder services would continue as compulsory parts of health insurance.

The crisis hit a new high on August 21<sup>st</sup>, when there were 71 adults and 1 child in ER waiting. This is not just a NH issue or a capacity issue for NH Hospital. NAMI continues to think that there are underlying issues with parity and network adequacy that are driving this. Not all individuals on the list are physically in the ERs, some are in jails. Dr. Brewster talked about how the majority of patients on the ER boarding list are Medicare patients.

Representative Butler commented that the House filing deadline is soon.

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

The next meeting is October 2nd in Room 100 at 1:30 p.m.