

New Hampshire Insurance Department

Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health and Addiction Services

October 2, 2017 meeting, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Room 100, Walker Building, Concord, NH

Board Members in Attendance: Marty Boldin, Senator Dan Feltes, Andrea Rancatore, Ken Norton, Dr. Paul Frehner, Abby Shockley, Dr. William Brewster, Courtney Gray, Lucy Hodder, Christopher Kozak, and Michele Merritt.

Board Members Unable to Attend: Representative Ed Butler, Senator Jeb Bradley, Representative John Hunt, Dr. Robert Feder, Amelie Gooding, Dr. Richard LaFleur, Stephen Kozak, Dr. Peter Mason, Joseph Plaia, and Stephanie Savard.

Commissioner Sevigny welcomed the group at 1:35 p.m. Notes from the previous meeting were approved.

NHID Updates:

Jenny Patterson told the group that today's NHID updates would include the federal grant that was tabled by the Fiscal Committee, an outreach update, outreach to CMS and information about the department's annual hearing on rates.

Patterson explained that at the Fiscal hearing last Friday, Senator Daniels had additional questions and the department would continue to follow up with him to answer questions. Commissioner Sevigny explained that the parity market conduct exam is still moving forward, and the question is how it will be funded. Senator Feltes asked if it would be helpful for the BH/SUD Advisory Board to weigh in, and asked for a vote of support from the committee. Not all committee members were in attendance. Dr. William Brewster from Harvard Pilgrim abstained, because his company is one of the carriers that would be part of the exam. Anthem was absent and could not comment. It was decided that the committee would show its support for the funding to the fiscal committee.

Eireann Aspell shared an outreach update which included information about a parity presentation that will be held jointly with an SUD/Narcan administration training for the public, held in Nashua on Oct 4.

Tyler Brannen reminded the committee that the NHID's [Annual Hearing on Premiums and Medical Cost Trends](#) will be at UNH Law on November 3. Past hearings have focused on narrow networks and prescription drug costs. This year the focus will be on our health insurance markets and what is driving premium costs.

Maureen Belanger said that she is hoping to have a representative from CMS attend the next meeting of the committee.

The group was interested in hearing more about Network Adequacy rules. Brannen explained that NHID is moving forward with the rules but there have been some operational glitches relative to the GeoAccess software. GeoAccess software is able to calculate the time and distance values between

providers and residents. The new modeling should be done in the next month, and could be submitted to the Rules Committee in November.

Member Updates:

Marty Boldin commented that for the legislature there are a plethora of issues related to insurance, capacity, and service delivery and they are waiting to see what filings come in from the Senate. Medicaid Expansion is also a huge issue they are looking at.

Senator Feltes requested as a member of the JLCAR committee that once the department does model runs for network adequacy, that if there are any edits to the model rules made that the department explains why they were made so that there can be conversation about the changes. SB 532 was briefly discussed and there is interest in seeing how it plays out.

Lucy Hodder recommended for the next agenda that it might be worth looking at what impact the PAP/APTC population essential health benefits have on access to behavioral health services through private coverage. If Medicaid Expansion goes away, so too does mental health parity? Dr. Brewster commented that the demand on the health care system is much greater now that those populations have access to behavioral health coverage.

Ken Norton updated the committee on the latest ER boarding count: 69 adults and 2 kids, and they expect numbers will go up with cold weather. At the previous meeting it was discussed that many on the waiting list have Medicare coverage. Norton asked if it was possible to track duration of wait by payer. Abby Shockley said that they can track the data by wait time, age, gender, and type of diagnosis. DHHS generates the list.

Michele Merritt shared that Medicaid Expansion would be a top priority for the coming year and that she will do regular updates on this process for the group. They are working on legislation and fixes related to behavioral health workforce development—network adequacy is only part of the equation. They are working on licensing fixes with Senator Feltes. New Futures is partnering with Bi-State Primary Care on increasing funding for student loan reimbursement. She asked the group to notify her if there is anything they would like to add to the workforce development bill; it's meant to be an omnibus.

Dr. Frehner brought up complaints from the members of his association about licensing procedures. The state licensing office is not organized and there is a lot of staff turnover. The boards cannot get a quorum over the summer time, and there are not enough people around the table to approve licenses for the mental health and LADAC boards. Shockley mentioned Joe Shoemaker who oversees the health boards.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14th from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Suggested agenda items for the next meeting included: inviting Joe Shoemaker to participate in a discussion about licensing, an update on SB 532 and how carriers are implementing it, CMS/Medicare, update on grants, and possibly an update from Tyler on network adequacy rules.

Meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.