

New Hampshire Insurance Department

Advisory Committee on Mental Health and Addiction Services

January 25, 2019 meeting, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Room 100, Walker Building, Concord, NH

Board Members in Attendance: Senator Jon Morgan, Andrea Rancatore, Ken Norton, Stephanie Savard, Dr. William Brewster, Joseph Plaia, Jake Berry (sat in for Michele Merritt), Courtney Tanner, Kristine Stoddard, and Cheryl Bildner (sat in for Julie Wolter).

Board Members Unable to Attend: Representative Ed Butler, Christopher Kozak, Dr. Robert Feder, Amelie Gooding, Lucy Hodder, Dr. Richard LaFleur, Dr. Peter Mason, Abby Shockley, and Sarah Freeman.

Commissioner John Elias welcomed the group at 2:10 p.m. pointing out that the name of the advisory committee changed from “behavioral health” to “mental health.” He reviewed the mission statement and purpose of committee. He told the committee that the NH Insurance Department (NHID) would share the results of the market conduct parity examination findings when complete. Elias expressed that the NHID is willing to work with other agencies and will facilitate communication amongst stakeholders as needed. Continuing he said he would like to also use the meetings to directly engage consumers and share ideas.

He introduced Jamie Powers, a Clinical and Recovery Services Unit Administrator at DHHS. Powers gave [presentation](#) on the DHHS Hub and Spoke Model, called The Doorway-NH. It is an entry point system of care for substance use disorder prevention and treatment. She explained that for someone at-risk or in a crisis, help is available 24/7, 365 days a year. People can call **2-1-1** for help, and once connected to the portal, callers will be handed off to a hub in their geographic region for access to appropriate care. She explained that there are nine regional doorways throughout the state within an hour driving time for clients. After the presentation, there was a discussion about data collection on types of insurance used by callers.

NHID Updates:

Jenny Patterson briefly talked about the three market conduct parity exams that would be made public sometime this spring.

The group discussed SB 11 which would address the emergency room boarding crisis. Ken Norton commented that the state of Massachusetts has identified a reimbursement rate between insurance companies and hospitals for these services, but currently there is no billing code for this service.

Also following HB 233, which is an Affordable Care Act backstop bill sponsored by Rep. Butler.

Patterson spoke about Associated Health Plans (AHPs). SB 227 is at the request of the NHID and would update NH’s Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement statues. It would mandate AHP health plans to include the 10 essential health benefits covered by the ACA. This includes mental health and substance use disorder services.

Member Updates

Commissioner Elias asked each of the members to give a brief update about themselves and continue with issues their group is following or that they have.

Kristine Stoddard of Bi-State Primary Care discussed SB308, relative to the health care work force. The bill would provide scholarships for people entering college, increase student loan funding, increase the Medicaid provider rates, and expands access to telehealth services. It also requires the Department of Safety to accept and process background applications on line.

Cheryl Binder representing the NH Psychological Association told the group that there is a shortage of practitioners. Psychologists are using telehealth services, but there is still a capacity issue.

Public Comment

Representative Jim MacKay introduced himself to the group and shared that he is part of a substance use disorder caucus in the NH House and that he would be willing to assist the group.

Maureen Kerrigan from CMS introduced herself and discussed a prescription management program. She also addressed the emergency room boarding crisis and shared that network access is a concern. They are not able to assist those with Medicare in an ER boarding situation if there are no beds to move them to.

Heidi Page from Clinicians United spoke about low reimbursement rates for providers that have not increased in 18 years. This discussion was echoed by others in attendance.

Commissioner Elias ended the meeting at 3:45 p.m. and told the group that the next meeting would be sometime in March.