

New Hampshire Insurance Department

Advisory Committee on Mental Health and Addiction Services

March 25, 2019 meeting, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Room 100, Walker Building, Concord, NH

Board Members in Attendance: Senator Jon Morgan, Dr. William Brewster, Lucy Hodder, Christopher Kozak, Dr. Peter Mason, Michele Merritt, Jaime Powers, Andrea Rancatore, Dr. Elizabeth Ross, Stephanie Savard, Kristine Stoddard, Courtney Tanner, and Julie Wolter.

Board Members Unable to Attend: Representative Ed Butler, Dr. Robert Feder, Amelie Gooding, Dr. Richard LaFleur, Ken Norton, Joseph Plaia, and Sarah Freeman.

Commissioner John Elias kicked off the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and introduced two new members of the Board, Dr. Elizabeth Ross representing Tufts Health Plan and Dr. Julie Wolter, who represents the NH Psychological Association. He also introduced Dr. Peter Mason, a family physician who represents the NH Medical Society, and was the first presenter on the agenda.

Dr. Mason presented on the progress of the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP) in New Hampshire. Dr. Mason is the medical director for the Integrated Delivery Network (IDN) Region 1. The DSRIP program is funded by a 5 year federal grant through a 1115 waiver for the Medicaid population. The goal for the model is to integrate behavioral health care services into the primary care setting and reduce gaps in care transition. Dr. Mason's presentation can be found here [link to slides].

Dr. Brewster added that Harvard Pilgrim has care management services, but cost and how to pay for those services is a concern since care management is outside the traditional scope of covered benefits for private health insurance. Other carriers also discussed their work in this area. There was a discussion about complex care coordination and not duplicating services that already exist in the community and using a common language in care coordination. Committee members discussed having a smaller subcommittee meeting to discuss private insurance reimbursement for care management services and putting together a case study presentation to the committee.

Jaime Powers provided an update from DHHS on The Doorway Program. The program is still developing processes, identifying challenges and training opportunities. The hubs are reaching out to community providers and establishing relationships. Three months into the program, the program has served 960 clients on the phone or in person. Of those, 369 were evaluated and 452 have been referred.

The meeting then focused on legislative updates. Representative Jim McKay is on a mental health working group in the legislature and let the committee know that the Speaker's first priority is mental health and suicide prevention. Rep. McKay and Senator Jon Morgan discussed SB 5, relative to Medicaid provider reimbursement rates and expanding the health care workforce, and SB 11, relative to the emergency room boarding issue and increasing inpatient bed capacity.

Michele Merritt spoke for NAMI on their legislative priorities, including SB 4, which is a backstop to the ACA's ten essential health benefits and SB 224, relative to insurance coverage for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders.

Merritt then addressed New Futures legislative priorities, including workforce development and licensure reciprocity. There are number of bills on provider reimbursement rates that they are monitoring. There was legislation brought forward this year on syringe service programs. Previously federal grant money was not accepted for these programs. Merritt also handed out an updated one-pager on the Resource Guide prepared by Lucy Hodder and the UNH Institute for Health Policy & Practice and New Futures. They will continue updating the Resource Guide to reflect the changes in the Medicaid Expansion program and asked for assistance from the NH Insurance Department in completing that project.

Jenny Patterson provided an update from the NHID. Patterson explained that the market conduct parity exam was in progress and the group will be updated when the exam is complete. She also addressed the issue of Narcan and life insurance, explaining that there was legislation that would clarify that obtaining Narcan for another person could not be used as a basis for underwriting a life insurance policy.

After hearing no more comment from the Committee, the meeting was opened up to public comment. Heidi Page addressed the group and expressed concerns that insurance carriers are no longer paying for 60 minute sessions and only for 45 minute appointments.

At this point, Patterson and the Commissioner thanked everyone and the meeting concluded at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting will be scheduled for the end of May.