

Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2024 (rescheduled from October 15, 2024)

1:30pm

Walker Building Room 100/Remote option

Members in attendance:

Julie Wolter, Stefani Reardon, Kelley Capuchino, Sam Hawkins (for Holly Stevens), Lynn Stanley, Senator Becky Whitley, Chris Kennedy, Kathy Bizarro Thurnburg

NHID: DJ Bettencourt, Michelle Heaton, Maureen Brooks, Alex Feldvebel, Leigh Curtis, Brenda Golden Hallisey, Jennifer Smith, Morgan Harris, Jason Aziz

DHHS: Morissa Henn

Public in attendance: Corey Owens-Batty, Gaia Poslok Gunn, Christine Thompson

Remote:

Lucy Hodder, Ali Huddy, Christopher Kozak, Dave Meichsner, Katja Fox, Heidi Page, Kathy Corey Fox, Laura Duncan, Lisa Weldon, Lindsay Nadeau, Peter Mason, Ryan Aquilina, Kathryn Skouteris, Stacy Esposito

Summary:

Item	Description	Lead	Notes
1	Opening Statement	Commissioner Bettencourt	<p>We were delighted with last week's Annual Hearing, we heard good questions and engagement, and had a great turnout of participants.</p> <p>Open Enrollment is upon us. We have a call with the Navigator program later this week and we will need to be more aggressive in our outreach this year. We are pleased with positive trajectory of health insurance coverage in the individual market.</p> <p>We are working on a written provider survey that will go out yearly soliciting general feedback, provider experience, and where to focus our attention and focus.</p> <p>The commissioner is back on the Emergency Department boarding working group, and thus far he's only had to reach out to one carrier regarding this topic.</p> <p>Legislative update: we are putting together bulletins and updated rules for legislation taking effect on 1/1/25. We have had positive dialogue with the legislature on their study committees. We advocated for changes they have already brought forward, but feel it's worth a pause to get a sense of where we are now and focus on implementation and data gathering. We want to look at what we've passed already and where we can tweak, but do not want to overhaul the system until we know what we have in place right now.</p> <p>MHPAEA strategic planning overhaul is happening internally.</p>

			<p>The Life and Health team secured a Northeast zone grant for a symposium, where we will bring in MHPAEA & BH specialists to Manchester for a 2 or 3 day workshop.</p> <p>Commissioner Bettencourt recently had a meeting with the Hospital Association, where the issue of difficulty getting kids into Hampstead Hospital when they are in ED voluntarily was discussed. This may be an issue stemming from Prior Authorization. Morissa Henn of DHHS will follow up with the Hampstead team at DHHS. Kelley Capuchino also will ask around. They are working to determine the size and scope of the issue.</p> <p>Sabrina Dunlap stated delays may be around bed availability, and she is unaware of the PA piece being a barrier. The Commissioner asks carriers to investigate the dynamic, and do some homework on this.</p> <p>Commissioner Bettencourt remarked on the withdrawal of Medicare Advantage products by entire carriers or specific counties, and this has resulted in increased calls to our department- regardless of what our regulatory authority is. There may be confusion on both the public side as well as the producer side.</p>
2	Mission Zero Program Presentation	Morissa Henn, DHHS	<p>Program launched in Sept 2023. This is a national issue and we have the capability and experience to bring the list of ER boardees down to zero.</p> <p>Morissa reviewed slides on this program.</p>
3	Update on New Rules for Comparative Analysis	Michelle Heaton	<p>MHPAEA is a federal law that requires payors to disallow treatment limits on MH/SUD that are more stringent than on the med/surg side. Federal government started requesting these comparative analyses and found what they expected to see is not being submitted. Thus, they issued proposed rules with more details and clearer terms- this was a substantial change. Happened in Aug 2023, including public comment period. In Sept 2024, the rules were finalized and will be effective in Nov 2024.</p> <p>MHPAEA provides more structure of comparative analysis and strengthens our MEPAEA enforcement. Drafting will happen next year, and then will go through public comment period. This will also include transparency efforts.</p>
4	Update on Eating Disorders Coverage issue	Brenda Golden Hallisey	<p>Eating disorders have a high mortality rate for MH disorders. We want to solicit feedback from stakeholders.</p> <p>Carriers who offer MH benefits must provide coverage for eating disorders including prescriptions.</p> <p>The most current versions of the ICD and DSM must be used for defining MH and SUD disorders.</p>
5	Update on Retroactive Denials/Clawback issue	Brenda Golden Hallisey	<p>A clawback is a claim that was previously paid and later gets 'clawed back' from the provider, or retroactively denied. Under certain circumstances, this is permissible.</p> <p>Julie Wolter: it would be good to understand from the carriers why they need so much time for this.</p>

			<p>We should further this discussion next agenda. The timeline is an issue- specifically #5 on Process for a claw back of Brenda's slide – 12 month limit. It will be helpful to have examples so we can discuss the specifics.</p> <p>Brenda asked for examples and scenarios be emailed to her.</p>
6	Public Comment	All	Time did not allow.