

Utah Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council

Approved Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 6th, 2020, 12:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

“Our mission is to ensure quality behavioral health care in Utah by promoting collaboration, advocacy, education, and delivery of services.”

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: James Park, Jeanine Park, Peggy Hostetter, Rob Wesemann, Dave Wilde, Sarah Miles, Donald Cleveland, Monica Scott, Cathy Davis, Martha Mendes, Kylee Porter, Dan Braun, Lisa Hancock, MaryJo McMillen, Jason Jacobs, Andrew Riggle, Jennifer Marchant, Karla Arroyo, Teresa Molina, Lori Cerar, Javier Alegre, Sigrid Nolte

DSAMH STAFF PRESENT: Pam Bennett, Robert Snarr, Heather Rydalch, Colin Dively, Shanel Long, Shanin Rapp, Ming Wang, Eric Tadehara

OTHERS PRESENT: Sherri Wittwer, Athena Schwartz, Kyli Rodriguez-Cayro, Susi Feltch-Malohifoou, Denise Flint, Yvonne Ryans, Jeanette Villalta, Rachel Bawden, Nettie Byrne

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ryan Hunsaker, Rafael Montero

Welcome & Introductions; July Meeting Minutes Review; New Member Application: Karla Arroyo

July minutes were voted on and approved. Karla Arroyo’s UBHPAC application was voted on and approved. Welcome to UBHPAC, Karla!

General Announcements

Dave Wilde: Medicaid’s statewide provider training was occurring at the time of the meeting. They still had some openings for training. Dave provided a link to sign up. The link can be found [here](#). As of 8/17/20, there were openings for training on September 1st, 2nd, and 9th, 2020.

Sherri Wittwer: Sherri introduced herself. She is currently working with the Utah Disability Center on mental health issues. She is looking forward to working with UBHPAC. Nettie will be sending her a membership application.

Denise Flint: Denise introduced herself. This was her first meeting, and she is interested in joining UBHPAC.

Telehealth Requests Discussion

There have been discussions in past UBHPAC meetings and UBHPAC executive committee meetings about telehealth and the possibility of extending the use and billing of telehealth beyond the COVID-19 crisis. Pam Bennett learned on a federal call that President Trump has

come out with a proposal to extend telehealth use beyond the crisis as a more permanent solution.

CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) provided the following request for comment:

“CMS seeks comment on whether CMS (Centers for Medicaid & Medicare) should develop coding and payment for a service similar to the virtual check-in but for a longer unit of time and with an accordingly higher value. It is seeking input from the public on the appropriate duration interval for such services and the resources in both work and practice expense associated with furnishing them. It also seeks comment on whether separate payment for telephone-only services should be a provisional policy to remain in effect until a year or some other period after the end of the PHE (Public Health Emergency) or if it should be PFS (Physician Fee Schedule) payment policy permanently.

Public comments on the telehealth changes included in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule regulations are due October 5.

Via E-mail:

<http://www.regulations.gov> and search for CMS-1734-P

Via Phone:

Emily Yoder, (410) 786-1804, Donta Henson, (410) 786-1947, and Patrick Sartini, (410) 786-9252, for issues related to telehealth and other services involving communications technology.

Via Regular Mail:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services,

Attention: CMS-1734-P,

P.O. Box 8016,

Baltimore, MD 21244-8016”

The requests discussed in this meeting for telehealth were as follows:

- The allowance of intake/first assessment visits to be done via telehealth instead of solely in-person, and for these telehealth visits to be paid for in full.
- During the COVID-19 crisis, the requirement for video telehealth has been dropped. It was requested that the requirement for video to remain dropped/allow for audio only.

Racial and Ethnic Integration Subcommittee Updates

The subcommittee is working closely with Ming Wang and Monica Scott on the statewide needs assessment on making sure that the language and wording is accessible to the community at large.

Some of the members of the subcommittee participated in a live chat in July about Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. It was a productive conversation where participants shared their perspectives on what mental health awareness means in their communities.

CARES Act Funds Allocation Comment

Since the July UBHPAC meeting, funds have been allocated to Latino Behavioral Health and Utah Multicultural Counseling Center, among other organizations. It was requested that if anyone has a suggested organization or agency for CARES Act funds to be allocated to, that they contact Pam Bennett. It was requested that some funds be allocated to Pacific Islanders, and Pam will be looking into an organization that can be contracted with to provide funds.

Block Grant Budget, Effectiveness, and Restrictions

Pam Bennett presented on the [Block Grant](#). A new “mini” application is due on September 1st, 2020, and it is currently open for comment at dsamh.utah.gov. If anyone has any suggestions of more areas that funds can be allocated to, they can reach out. (Suggestions need to fit within the Block Grant guidelines and have sustainability.)

Statewide Health Disparity Needs Assessment Update

Over the last month, the committee really focused on the demographics survey. They sent it to all 13 local mental health authorities, DSAMH, and the state hospital. They also worked on policies and protocols surrounding public-facing documents.

Meeting adjourned.

Thank you for your support of the UBHPAC!

Accommodations to the known disabilities of individuals in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For accommodation information or if you need special accommodations during this meeting, please contact the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health at (801) 538-3939 or TTY (801) 538-3696.

The State has adopted a stipend policy that will pay for reasonable travel expenses related to consumers and advocates attendance at UBHPAC meetings. For more information please visit www.dsamh.utah.gov – Initiatives – Behavioral Health and Advisory Council – Information & Forms – UBHPAC Stipend Policy.

All meeting minutes and recordings are posted on the Public Notice website at:
<https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/publicbody/51.html>