

**QUARTERLY LYCOMING-CLINTON HEALTHCHOICES
REINVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

MAY 28, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Jacque Miller, HealthChoices Director; Jennifer Colon, Recovery Community Connection, Inc.; Ginny Noble, Joinder MH Housing Specialist; Steve Hicks, HealthChoices Member; Margaret Wesneski, Community Care Behavioral Health Clinical Manager; Elena Farr, HealthChoices Fiscal Officer; Deanna Kimble, HealthChoices Quality/Clinical Manager; Katie Hugo, WBDAAC Certified Recovery Specialist Supervisor; Carole Gilberti, Community Care Behavioral Health Regional Director.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 26, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Jennifer asked about the listing of committee members in attendance, as her attendance was noted by her initials rather than her name. Jacque clarified that in the interest of confidentiality, HealthChoices members who participate in committees are typically listed by initials, but a person's full name can be included if this is the person's preference. Jennifer indicated that she would prefer her full name be used.

OVERVIEW OF REINVESTMENT COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

Jacque explained that HealthChoices contractors are required to establish a Reinvestment Committee composed of stakeholders who have an interest in the behavioral services that are available to consumers and families. Stakeholders include HealthChoices, Community Care, Joinder, and SCA staff, as well as representatives from providers of services and system partners. The Committee meets quarterly, and is tasked with identifying consumer needs, gaps in services, and in making decisions regarding how reinvestment funds are spent. Jacque shared that at this time, there are no excess funds identified that can be used for reinvestment, but there may be funds available again at the end of 2019-2020.

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CARE'S WORK PLAN TO SOLICIT MEMBERS FOR COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Jacque shared that in an effort to increase member voices in all aspects of our work, Community Care has been reaching out to members in a variety of forums. Carole explained that Tracy Carney, Senior Recovery Specialist for Community Care and member of the Reinvestment Committee, has had many members indicate their interest in committee participation, and she would like to know the number of members who can join the Reinvestment Committee. Jacque specified that the committee would welcome all those who are interested. Carole also asked on behalf of Tracy, if there is any reimbursement for members for travel and attendance at the meetings. Jacque indicated that the program currently does not have allowances to reimburse members for committee participation however, this will be explored for next year's budget.

INFORMATION UPDATE PROVIDED BY HEALTHCHOICES

- Included in the committee's packet of information was a copy of the OMHSAS Approval Letter for the Respite Continuation Plan. Deanna explained that the plan will be implemented next fiscal year, and that the funding level is slightly less than the current year. Diakon, the respite provider, is aware that the funding level will be reduced, and they will be implementing a service cap in order to maximize the

funds and serve as many families as possible. Katie shared that she has a client who indicated that she was informed by Diakon that her respite hours would be reduced due to a cut in funding; Deanna verified that this is accurate and is due to having fewer reinvestment funds available. Deanna also noted that because OMHSAS has set a 5 year limit on consecutive funding of the same service/program, next year will be the last year that Respite Services can be provided through a reinvestment plan.

- Jacque clarified the current reinvestment contract spending summary report. She noted that WBDAAC and MH/ID are managing Supportive Housing funds which may be used to assist members in securing safe, affordable, and stable housing; these funds also include a Safe and Healthy Homes contingency fund, which helps members resolve conditions in their homes which can impact health such as bed bugs and mold. Ginny asked if the Supportive Housing funds would be subject to the 5 year limit of reinvestment funding, like the Respite Plan. Deanna explained that although Supportive Housing plan will be active for 5 years during 2019-2020, all of the designated funds have not been spent; for this reason, we are able to request an extension for this plan each year, until the funds have been spent.

Jacque also noted that Diakon, as the provider for Respite Services, is managing the respite plan funds and is providing detailed invoices regarding how funds are spent. Jennifer asked if HealthChoices is gathering any data or information regarding foster care placements that occur among families who have utilized respite services. Deanna stated that because foster and adoption services are outside of the scope of the respite plan, this information is not currently being collected, but she will reach out to Diakon and obtain this information.

- Jacque announced that there are currently no excess funds available for reinvestment however, there may be funds identified approximately 6 months into the next fiscal year.
- Jacque solicited feedback from the committee regarding their interest in having the providers with active reinvestment plans, attend a Reinvestment Committee meeting to present information about their programs. Receiving no objections, Jacque will ask Deanna to reach out to the providers to discuss presentations for next year.

INFORMATION UPDATE PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY CARE/HEALTHCHOICES RE: DATA ANALYSIS, UTILIZATION TRENDS, UNMET NEEDS, ETC.

- Deanna reviewed the Reinvestment Update Report. Jennifer and Ginny had questions regarding the accountability of landlords when members request the Safe & Healthy Homes funds to resolve issues in their homes. Deanna explained that the providers are required to ensure that landlords/property owners are approached first to pay the costs. Ginny asked if there are resources in our counties which can assist individuals in preparing their homes for extermination, and the Committee was unaware of any agency that provided this assistance. Jennifer asked if there were funds available that could assist individuals who must move from their homes due to unsafe/unhealthy conditions, and Deanna indicated that the Supportive Housing funds can be used. Ginny added that MH/ID has some funds available to place individuals temporarily in area hotels. Due to the lack of resources and support available in our counties to assist individuals in preparing for extermination and/or moving, as well as to help individuals prevent these issues from occurring again, the Committee may want to direct future reinvestment funds towards these efforts.

- Jacque reviewed the CFST Public Document, which is a summary of the 3rd Quarter CFST Report. The most common concern noted by members who complete the survey is the lack of psychiatry available in our counties.
- Jacque reviewed the Member Advisory Group Feedback report, which is gathered from Adult/Family Member and Parent Advisory Communities. Members who attend these quarterly meetings provide valuable insight about services and unmet needs in our counties. Jacque highlighted that members shared comments about the lack of psychiatry overall and insufficient availability of services in the Renovo area. Carole explained that the meetings are scheduled and facilitated by Valerie Liptak, Community Relations Coordinator; Valerie has scheduled meetings in both counties, and members who attend are provided a stipend and mileage reimbursement.

STAKEHOLDER AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Jennifer drew attention to the inadequate supports provided to incarcerated individuals with behavioral health needs. The committee discussed the current services and supports that are presently available in both Lycoming County Prison and the Clinton County Correctional Facility (MH and SUDs assessments, case management, and peer support) and what forms of additional help might be beneficial to this population. Suggestions included assistance with re-establishing MA eligibility, securing housing, and supports to help facilitate transition back to the community.
- To help adults who are struggling to parent with mental health or substance use issues, parenting education and supports are recommended as a potential future reinvestment plan.
- Carole shared that the new federal Family First Preservation Act will require counties to develop resources and processes that support family preservation, and prevents children from being placed out of the home in residential treatment facilities. Reinvestment funds may want to be directed towards activities and services that provide support to at-risk families.