

**Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 11, 2018**

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee (CYBHS) meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. with Molly Lopez (Co-chair, CYBHS) providing a welcome to the members. Members introduced themselves.

Table 1 shows attendance for the meeting.

Table 1: CYBHS Subcommittee member attendance.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
John Huffine (HHSC - Medicaid)	X		Lori Robinson (TJJD)		X
Lauren Bledsoe (DFPS)	X		Lyndsi Sandoval (TCOOMI)	X	
Sherry Rumsey (Alternate, DFPS)		X	Suzanne Alley (HHSC-Behavioral Health Services)	X	
Marisol Acosta (HHSC-Behavioral Health Services)	X		Molly Lopez (Higher Education-TIEMH-UT Austin)	X	
Julie Wayman (TEA)	X		Monica Rodriguez (Community Representative Tropical Texas)		X
Denise Magallanez (Alternate, TEA)	X		Ron Kimbell (Community Representative Heart of Texas)	X	
Barbara Granger (Family Representative)	X		Telawna Kirbie (alternate; Community Representative Heart of Texas)		X
Valencia Gensollen (Family Representative)	X		Ramah Leith (DSHS)	X	
Verlyn Johnson (Alternate, Family Representative)	X		Vacant (NCTSN)		
Lillian Stengart (HHSC-OMHC)	X		Nigel Cunningham Williams (Youth Representative)		X
Ayo Gathing (BHAC Representative)		X	Mitch Cochran (Youth Representative)	X	
Nakia Scott (BHAC Representative)		X	Merily Hodge-Keller (Community Partner)		X
Kate Peoples (BHAC Representative)		X	Marie Welsh (Alternate; Juvenile Justice)		X

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting

No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

Attended Online: Amanda Britton, Carla Lewis, Deborah Rosales Elkins, Doreen Womack, Ivonne Tapi, John Huffine, Julie Bourne, Kay Barkin, Kay Brotherton, Mary B, Monica Thyssen, Nancy Stanley, Stacey Stevens Manser, Tiffany Williams

Also in attendance:

Anne Bondensen, Jameson Cardenas, Catherine Carlton, Brytani Cavil, Debbie Cohen, Glenn Dembowski, Kaleigh Emerson, Andrés Guariguata, Suling Homsy, Christine Hoppe, Beth Hutton, Cory Jones, Tracy Levins, Monica Lucas, Henny Mbosowo, David McClung, Shannon Moreno, Alexandra Noble, Leela Rice, Jeanne Stamp, Rona Statman

Agenda Item 2: Family/Youth Experience

Catherine Carlton (MHMR of Tarrant County) is a family leader participating in Project LAUNCH, which recently came under the oversight of CYBHS and focuses on the promotion of mental health in early childhood (0-8). Catherine shared her story and experience after her 8-week-old son was diagnosed with a genetic disorder. She received a brochure for Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) and through that program, encountered therapists, nurses, feeding tubes, wheelchair, etc. She now tells her story to highlight the importance of ECI, community-based programs, and Systems of Care (SOCs). She talked about the importance of supporting families through transitions and providing opportunities to connect with other families. She also highlighted an incident with her other child to demonstrate the opportunity for child care settings to support positive coping skills to young children.

Agenda Item 3: Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee (CYBHS) Business

Welcome New Members

Barbara Granger welcomed Lyndsi Sandoval and Kate Peoples. Lyndsi will be the new designated representative for the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI). Kate accepted a youth representative position with the BHAC and will serve as a representative at CYBHS meetings.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the January 10 meeting were presented for review, modifications, and approval. Suzanne Alley made a motion to accept the minutes. Marisol Acosta seconded the motion. Through vote of members, minutes were approved.

New Business: Substance Abuse Prevention Representation on CYBHS

Barbara stated that a recommendation was made for a community or organization representing Substance Abuse Prevention to be added as a member to group. Marisol serves as the manager over the Substance Abuse Prevention programming for the state and provided additional information to the members. Substance abuse prevention programs are in schools, nonprofit organizations, governmental bodies, and Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs). There are more than 75 providers statewide. They run afterschool programs in middle schools, high schools, and a few elementary schools. The programs focus on prevention of alcohol use, marijuana (still a priority for the state), and prescription drugs. They also promote behavioral health and mental health by increasing protective and promotive factors and reducing risk factors. Prevention Resource Centers gather data and conduct evaluations to determine local needs. Marisol stated this is a gap in the CYBHS committee membership, as these programs promote mental and behavioral health within communities. Barbara asked for any discussion. Molly clarified that the vote is on whether to add a membership role for a representative from the prevention community. Barbara took a vote on adding a Substance Abuse Prevention representative to CYBHS. All ayes, no nays, no abstentions.

Formation of the Bylaws and Nominations Committee

The CYBHS bylaws will need to be amended to add a process for selecting a Substance Abuse Prevention representative. In addition, bylaws may need to be updated to clarify the terms of Co-Chairs. Molly asked for volunteers to serve on an Ad Hoc Workgroup to review any recommendations for revisions to the by-laws and make nominations for one or both Co-Chairs. Volunteers for the workgroup include: Marisol Acosta, Ramah Leith, Lillian Nguyen, Ron Kimbell, Julie Bourne

Agenda Item 4: CYBHS Policy Recommendations and Next Steps

Tracy Levins facilitated a conversation about CYBHS policy recommendations to the BHAC. She reminded CYBHS members that their previous work resulted in three solid policy recommendations that were submitted to the BHAC, approved and forwarded to the HHSC leadership.

Tracy summarized the 9 or 10 priorities that were voted next highest from the previous meeting (written in order of votes):

- Youth Detox
- Offer treatment instead of punishment in schools
- Partner with community colleges for youth peer support training and certification
- Require LMHAs and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)
- Make youth peer support Medicaid-billable
- Create a youth advisory council to advise HHS on policies, procedures, and programs related to substance use
- Require all schools to have onsite mental health provider
- Provide schools with funding, training, and technical assistance so they can offer students a multi-tiered continuum of mental health services and supports
- Revise the SOC statute to include financial contributions by partnering agencies (follow the Maryland model).

CYBHS members and stakeholders broke into small groups to discuss potential policy ideas. Small group ideas were reported out:

- All schools should have community resource referral lists
- School nurses should have mental health training
- Peer supports should be Medicaid-billable
- Funding needs to be increased
- Promote treatment instead of punishment within schools for substance use
- Create a school and statewide youth advisory councils or enhance the youth engagement efforts already in place to advise HHSC and affiliates
 - Lillian suggested adding mental health onto the youth advisory council, in addition to substance use.
 - Mitch supports adding behavioral health and indicated that a lot of these recommendations could be rolled into an omnibus recommendation for school mental health reform.
 - Julie Bourne highlighted the importance of having an MOU for the youth advisory council.
 - Brytani noted that it might be more beneficial for the youth advisory council to be regional instead of statewide to allow for regional adaptations
 - Lauren suggested having a regional advisory council feed into the state level advisory council

- Ramah added that there is a SAMHSA funding announcement that would match nicely with these recommendations and encouraged the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the HHSC to work with the school districts.
- One member requested that children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) be included in this because coordination between IDD and mental health can be improved

A workgroup was developed to further refine the school behavioral health policy recommendation. Volunteers include David McClung, Mitch Cochran, Valencia Gensollen, Suzanne Alley, Julie Wayman (consultant), Denise Magallanez (consultant), Marisol Acosta, Cory Jones, Tracy Levins, and Ramah Leith. The workgroup will meet to discuss the recommendations and draft a document for review at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5: East Texas System of Care Implementation

Anne Bondesen presented on Burke’s activities. She highlighted the service area, the way they are utilizing the System of Care grant, services, beginning steps to form regional governance boards, and provided a status update and initial lessons learned.

Marisol suggested that Burke facilitate conversations with the Alabama Coushatta tribe and add “Native American” and “tribe” to the race section on the consent form.

Agenda Item 6: Substance Use Disorder Benefits for Youth and Peer Support

Suling Homsy (Senior Executive Policy Advisor, HHSC) presented on mental health parity. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provided additional guidance on how the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) applies to Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollees. It does not apply to Medicaid Fee for Service or Medicare. MHPAEA prohibits the application of more restrictive limits and requirements to mental health and substance use disorder benefits than generally apply to medical and surgical benefits.

The areas requiring parity include:

1. Financial limitations

- a. Aggregate dollar limitations (annual and lifetime)
- b. Copays, deductibles, coinsurance
- 2. Treatment limitations - quantitative
 - a. Written in policy
 - b. There are no limits for Children's Medicaid
 - c. CHIP removed all limits in 2010
- 3. Treatment limitations - non-quantitative
 - a. Fail first, physician review – these happen internally and are not necessarily written in policy
 - b. How one evaluates non-quantitative treatment limitations (NQTLs) is based on the process and strategy the MCO uses to allow you the client to access the benefit. Is it applied comparably to medical and surgical services?
 - c. The results of applying an NQTL to mental health/substance use disorders and medical/surgical benefits does not need to be exactly the same for NQTL to be permissible.
 - d. HHSC developed an NQTL tool

Parity analysis is not a 1:1 benefit comparison; it is collection of benefits compared to collection of benefits.

House Bill 10 should help to identify when things are continuously denied.

Agenda Item 7: Texas System of Care Updates

Texas Building Bridges Initiative

Lillian Nguyen reported on the Texas Building Bridges Initiative (TxBBI). This initiative focuses on providing training and technical assistance to enable residential treatment providers in Texas to implement best practices for children in residential programs. Those best practices include eliminating seclusion and restraint, eliminating level systems, increasing community collaborations, and increasing youth and family voice in program design and implementation. TxSOC and DFPS have partnered with the national Building Bridges Initiative to host a free training conference in Houston in May 2018 for interested residential providers.

Alliance for Adolescent Recovery and Treatment in Texas (AART-TX)

Beth Hutton provided a brief update about AART-TX. They are in the planning phase of a substance use disorder certification within the UT School of Social Work. This will address the workforce's need for more knowledge and skills working with adolescents and transition age youth with substance

use disorders. Additionally, AART-TX is partnering with the Youth Recovery Network to offer presentations during the month of May, with the SAMHSA Town Hall meeting scheduled from 6-8pm on May 14.

Agenda Item 8: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services – TxSOC Collaboration

Lauren Bledsoe, a Program Specialist for Trauma Informed Care at the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and the agency's designated representative on CYBHS, provided a presentation on activities to support System of Care. DFPS is working closely with TxSOC in the implementation in East Texas (Burke) and Collin County. Lauren provided an overview of the CPS-DFPS referral process for youth in the 13 counties participating in the SOC expansion work. DFPS is working to ensure appropriate children are referred into the available services and supports.

Agenda Item 9: Youth Voice Small Groups

David McClung initiated a discussion about what youth voice looks like in our state agencies. Mitch spoke about apprenticeships and guilds and how important it is for youth to learn about the daily tasks in a variety of jobs. With a goal of enhancing youth voice in state agencies, he charged each agency representative to explore ways to develop an apprenticeship program that would identify interested youth and offer them an opportunity to shadow staff and learn about the work that they do within the agency.

The group then broke into small groups to discuss opportunities for youth voice in state agencies. Recommendations included:

- Internships
- Youth advisory councils
- Involvement in Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs)
- Sponsor youth to attend conferences

Participants also indicated the need to consider ways to make these recommendations happen, challenges, and ways to determine whether authentic youth voice is occurring.

Agenda Item 10: Texas Education Agency Update on Special Education

Denise Magallanez presented on TEA's efforts to address concerns that were raised with the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in Texas. This focus on special education was highlighted in a *Houston Chronicle* article entitled "Denied." TEA has responded by offering listening sessions and surveys to gather information and developed a corrective action plan. The corrective action plan is available on the TEA website.

Agenda Item 11: Project Updates

Marisol reported on the Trauma Informed Care initiative. There have been an increase in mass violence events in Texas. She would like to form a "think tank" to bring in local and national experts, persons with lived experience, stakeholders, and communities that have been impacted. She would like the group to focus on ways to prevent such events and provide early intervention support. She will send out a survey asking members what topics they would like to see the group address.

Agenda Item 12: Public Comments

There were no requests for public comment received.

Agenda Item 13: Next Steps

Next Meeting- July 11, 2018 10:00 am

Agenda items will include:

- Mitch would like everybody to report back on progress toward getting an apprentice.
- Paving the Way would like to present a 10 minute wrap-up at next meeting.
- Report from the subcommittee tasked with adding a new prevention community member.
- Report from the subcommittee tasked with developing a school-based behavioral health policy recommendation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30.