

Provider Advisory Council (PAC)
Minutes from 4/22/16 Meeting

Members Present – Green Oaks Hospital, Turtle Creek Recovery Center, Centro De Mi Salud, Lakes Regional MHMR, Pathways, Homeward Bound, IPS, Youth Advocate Programs, Adapt of Texas, Adapt Community Solutions, Southern Area Behavioral Healthcare, Nexus Recovery Center, Prelude Clubhouse, A Better Outlook Counseling

Representatives from VO and DSHS were also in attendance.

NTBHA Staffing Update

- Cheryl Gayles will be taking over the position of NTBHA Clinical Director beginning Monday, April 25. Brittony McNaughton has been serving in the role of Transition Director for NTBHA and will begin serving in that capacity full-time.

Authorizations

- One provider reported frequent denials on detox authorizations for heroin users with VO instead recommending suboxone maintenance. The provider indicated that their doctors are able to prescribe suboxone while clients are in residential treatment but there are not enough providers in the community to prescribe the medication on an outpatient basis, resulting in a barrier to access. Providers stressed the importance of taking psychosocial factors into consideration as some level of support is needed for individuals to be successful.
- VO suggested that the provider submit appeals for these denials. Provider reported difficulty working with a VO doctor in the appeal process. VO recommended pursuing a second appeal that would be done with a different doctor. One provider noted that the appeal process is costly as the time required to pursue an appeal often costs more than the reimbursement that is received. It was also suggested that issues with authorizations be communicated to NTBHA.
- VO indicated that issues related to these detox denials may be related to a new VO opiate initiative looking at best practices such as suboxone. VO will see if there is a policy to clarify and try to provide a response before the May NTBHA Board meeting.

NorthSTAR Transition Planning

- NTBHA provided an update on transition planning.
- The RFA for comprehensive community mental health and community substance use disorder services has been posted to the NTBHA website. Questions related to the RFA should be submitted by email to bmcnaughton@ntbha.org. A FAQ sheet will be posted on Friday of each week to address question submissions.
- NTBHA will procure certain services such as inpatient psychiatric services, crisis residential services, crisis line, and MCOT through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) method of procurement.
- Discussed SUD funding restrictions
 - Due to restrictions on the expenditure of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant funds, all applicants applying to provide Substance Use Disorder services must qualify as a public or nonprofit private entity prior to the execution of provider contract.
 - NTBHA is working with DSHS to explore an option for executing an alternative type of contract with NTBHA that would allow limited contracting with for-

profit providers for specific services, such as opioid treatment services, in the event that NTBHA is not able to identify a sufficient number of contractors who meet the designation of public or non-profit. The details of that contingency have not yet been finalized.

- Some for-profit SUD providers are working to obtain non-profit status.
- NTBHA is working to coordinate a follow-up meeting for providers to meet to discuss issues related to Medicaid MCO contracting. The Meeting will take place after the next NTBHA Board meeting on May 11, 2016 or in lieu of the PAC meeting that will be held on May 20, 2016 instead of the Friday before Memorial Day. NTBHA will send out a meeting notification as soon as a date and time have been finalized.
- The PAC discussed the importance of coordination and communication between NTBHA and LifePath as transition planning continues.

Announcements

- The May PAC meeting has been rescheduled to May 20th at 10am in order to avoid any conflicts with the Memorial Day holiday.
- One provider reported that although the deadline for Medicaid provider re-enrollment has been extended to Sept. 25, 2016, the provider was informed by TMHP that reenrollment submissions must be received by a date in June. The specific date was not reported. Providers who have not yet submitted a re-enrollment application to begin this process are encouraged to do so immediately to avoid potential disruptions.
- Sherry Cusumano reminded the group that the annual NAMIWalks event will take place on Saturday, May 14th. Visit www.namiwalks.org/dallas for more information or to register!