

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT Consumer Advisory Board

## Meeting Summary Tuesday, August 19, 2014

**Members Present:** Patricia Checko (Co-Chair); Arlene Murphy (Co-Chair); Alice Ferguson; Michaela I. Fissel; Kevin Galvin; Bryte Johnson; Robert Krzys; Theanvy Kuoch

**Members Absent:** Jeffrey G. Beadle; Cheryl Harris Forbes; Stephen Karp; Sharon D. Langer; Nanfi Lubogo; Fernando Morales; Richard J. Porth

**Other Participants:** Olivia Puckett; Mark Schaefer

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

### **1. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **2. Acceptance of minutes of May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting**

***Motion to accept the minutes of the May 15<sup>th</sup> Consumer Advisory Board Meeting – Kevin Galvin; seconded by Bryte Johnson.***

There was no discussion.

***Vote: all in favor.***

### **3. Resignation of CAB member, Cece Peppers-Johnson**

Cece Peppers-Johnson resigned from her the Consumer Advisory Board. An employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, she has been transferred to Fort Worth, Texas. The board discussed who might replace her. Patricia Checko suggested finding someone with housing expertise. She suggested approaching two individuals with backgrounds in housing issues and asked other CAB members for their suggestions. Alice Ferguson recommended either John Merz of Shawn Lang of AIDS CT.

There was discussion about candidates with expertise in Medicaid. The Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council has their Care Management Committee to advise on SIM and will be appointing representatives to each of the SIM work groups. Kevin Galvin said the new member should not be a government employee and that it would be good to have as many Medicaid representatives as possible.

### **4. Update on SIM grant and increased Medicaid representation in SIM process**

Mark Schaefer, of the program management office (PMO) presented on the grant application process ([see pages 3 through 12 of the presentation found here](#)). It is anticipated that in September a delegation will need to travel to Washington, DC to present on the grant application. The members of the delegation have not yet been determined. Dr. Schaefer said he would like to include a consumer and an employer representative. In the meantime, the PMO is actively beginning the work that is supported through the insurance assessment.

There was some discussion on the Medicaid proposal in the grant application. Olivia Puckett, who serves as the clerk for the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight (MAPOC), said that the council is in the process of determining representatives for each of the work groups. The council's Care Management Committee has a meeting scheduled for the next day. The committee meets at the Legislative Office Building, typically on the second Wednesday of each month. Board members, as well as any member of the public, may request to be added to the MAPOC email distribution list. The Care Management Committee does not have a set membership list. The board could decide to rotate representation or decide to appoint one or two members as liaisons. Arlene Murphy said the offer to participate should be made to members of the board not present. Dr. Schaefer said he would attend the meeting and report back.

### **5. Update on SIM work groups**

Dr. Checko asked about the status of the Workforce Council and if it would be stood up in the same way as the other work groups. Dr. Schaefer said the council is one of two that have not yet launched (the other being the Health Information Technology Council). The existing expectation is that both councils will maintain balanced and significant representation from the four categories. However, those facilitating the formation of the groups may suggest a different balance. The Workforce Council may have less representation from payers and greater representation from the state's teaching institutions. Dr. Schaefer said he was not sure what the expectation is for consumer advocate representation. Ron Preston is expected to have a draft composition and charter for the council available in mid-September. Robert Krzys expressed strong interest in participating in the group. Dr. Checko said from what she has seen, the proposed composition is too heavily populated with academics and does not have enough representation from employers and other groups. She also expressed concern that the training and use of community health workers would be short-changed. Dr. Schaefer suggested that members of the board meet with Ron Preston to provide context for their recommendation.

### ***Motion to recommend consumer input on the Workforce Council and address the needed connection with consumers and the community – Kevin Galvin; seconded by Alice Ferguson.***

Michaela Fissel asked if the council would be looking at reimbursement. Dr. Schaefer said that finance falls under the Practice Transformation Taskforce. Dr. Checko, Mr. Krzys and Mr. Galvin volunteered to meet with Ron Preston.

***Vote: all in favor.***

Dr. Schaefer gave an update on the work groups ([see pages 14 through 18 of the presentation found here](#)). The PMO has released a request for proposals seeking consultative support for the work groups. Applications are due on September 4. The PMO is organizing an evaluation team and would like a representative from the Consumer Advisory Board. The process for evaluation and selection is a closed process and will require a fair amount of time to review and to score applications during the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Theanvy Kuoch said she was concerned about the level of diversity in population health studies. Dr. Schaefer said that with the plan to reconstitute the DPH Population Health Council from their State Health Improvement Plan, there is intent to revisit the membership to ensure it has the right composition and that there is a diversity of input. Dr. Checko said she was interested in getting involved in the group and that the state should and must compile statistics that reflect the growing population. She said that local public health has also been absent from the process. Ms. Fissel said she would like to see expanded representation from various mental health and substance abuse organizations.

Ms. Murphy asked for the clarification of the scope of the Equity and Access Council's activities. Dr. Schaefer said the original intent of the council is to create a place to examine and mitigate potential downside effects of the new payment arrangements. The Quality Council will develop measures to examine areas such as timely access to specialty services; health equity, and asthma emergency department visits. Ms. Murphy said that in order to be successful and move forward, the groups are going to need to address specific consumer questions. Each council will have the opportunity to impact equity and access issues. She added that the consumer advocate representatives will need to work together to identify challenges in the community and bring them forward.

Ms. Fissel agreed. She cited the rising overdose death rate and the lack of treatment centers tailored to youth and young adults. Dr. Schaefer said that if there are ways for primary care providers to mitigate that risk, they should be brought to the Practice Transformation Taskforce. Anyone with concerns or suggestions can make use of the public comment period at any of the work group meetings. Alternatively, people can reach out to the PMO with concerns and the PMO can connect them to work group leadership. Dr. Schaefer said the SIM may not be the most expedient means to address the issue raised by Ms. Fissel. He suggested bringing it to the Behavioral Health Oversight Council which has representatives from the departments of Social Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services. Ms. Murphy said there is an idea of organizing subcommittees around topics like behavioral health. Dr. Checko said they had identified behavioral health, chronic disease and health equity as areas to focus on. Additionally, there will be funds available to conduct listening sessions and to bring in experts.

#### **6. Role and activities of CAB moving forward**

The board spoke in more detail about the idea to form subcommittees to focus on behavioral health, chronic disease and health equity. Members were asked which areas they were interested in and how they thought the groups could organize effectively. Dr. Checko said the idea was to reach out to experts, community activists, and facilitators to help advance work in these areas. As the formation of the groups is preliminary, the method used to conduct meetings is currently open-ended. Ms. Fissel said she would like to be involved in identifying behavioral leaders and consumer representatives whose voices may have been left out. Ms. Kuoch said that it was important to reach out to experts and bring information back to everyone. The board leadership will reach out to members not present to gauge their interest.

Board members present expressed interest in participating as follows:

*Behavioral Health:* Michaela Fissel; Theanvy Kuoch

*Chronic Disease:* Patricia Checko; Alice Ferguson; Bryte Johnson

*Health Equity:* Patricia Checko; Bryte Johnson; Theanvy Kuoch

#### **7. Other business**

Dr. Checko suggested the board consider how to handle cases where someone has agreed to serve on a board but does not attend meetings. Dr. Checko and Ms. Murphy will look at who has attended the various work group meetings so far. It is important that consumer voices are appropriately represented at these meetings. Ms. Murphy said they will need to look at whether there are barriers to participation.

## **8. Next Steps**

Dr. Checko asked board members whether they should consider having their next meeting in the evening and outside of Hartford. Ms. Murphy said that the board had previously discussed organizing around Healthcare Innovation Steering Committee meetings. Dr. Schaefer said that if the board held meetings on the Tuesday before the steering committee meetings, they would have the steering committee materials available for review. That would put the next meeting at Tuesday, September 16. A follow up email will be sent to CAB members to check their availability on this date.

It was suggested that closing meetings with public comment might allow more members of the public to participate. It was also suggested that meetings could be combined with listening forums. Board leadership could talk with other groups about locations that had proven successful for other forums. There may also be the ability to hold electronic town meetings. The PMO will issue a poll to the board leadership to see what might work for the entire group through the end of the year.

### ***Motion to adjourn – Robert Krzys; seconded by Michaela Fissel***

There was no discussion.

***Vote: all in favor.***

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.