

BHP Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee Zoom Meeting

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on discussing Connecticut's children's behavioral health system, with participants identifying key challenges including workforce issues, funding constraints, and gaps in care across different levels of service. The group explored solutions such as improving data collection and analysis, examining effective practices, and defining universal standards for program success. They agreed to continue discussions at future meetings, including a session in December to set priorities for the coming year, while also considering examining the interface between different levels of care and improving data collection methods.

Next steps

- [Co-Chairs Hector Glynn and Melissa Green: reach out to DSS, DCF, and Carelon to do table setting next month about the role of the BHPOC and review of the statute and past work](#)
- [Melissa and Hector: go over everything discussed in today's meeting and compile all talking points into an email for committee members to review](#)
- [Committee members: email Melissa, or Hector with any additional questions or suggestions for the next meeting agenda](#)
- [Melissa and Hector: prepare concrete operationalizable ideas for what the committee might start doing in January based on today's discussions](#)
- [Committee: continue this conversation in December's meeting](#)

Summary

Connecticut Children's Behavioral Health Challenges

The meeting focused on discussing Connecticut's children's behavioral health system, with participants identifying key challenges and potential solutions. The group agreed that workforce issues, funding constraints, and gaps in care across different levels of service were significant concerns. They discussed the need for better data collection and analysis, with Lisa Otto highlighting the success of Urgent Crisis Centers (UCCs) in providing real-time, actionable data. The committee also considered examining effective practices and defining universal standards for evaluating program success. Hector and Melissa proposed focusing on key data elements and performance measures for the committee to monitor throughout the year. The group agreed to continue the

discussion at future meetings, potentially including a session in December to set priorities for the coming year.

Healthcare Continuum Care Transitions Focus

The group discussed the need to focus on specific aspects of the healthcare continuum that warrant attention, with Steve suggesting they examine data at the 10,000-foot level to identify critical or least functional areas. Dr. Jennings raised concerns about UCCs competing with hospitals for patients, while Beth Klink and Liz Sitler emphasized that hospitals welcome UCCs as an augmentation to the continuum of care. Beth highlighted gaps in intermediate levels of care, particularly for special populations, and suggested focusing on improving movement across care levels to prevent children from being stuck in inappropriate settings. The group agreed to consider examining the interface between outpatient, intermediate, and acute levels of care, with a potential project to identify supports needed for intermediate organizations and programs to facilitate smoother transitions between care levels.

Data Collection and System Analysis

The Children and Adolescents Committee discussed data collection and analysis, with Lois Berkowitz explaining the need for provider data in addition to Carelon's Medicaid-focused data to better understand system-wide issues across different regions. Tanja highlighted existing data collection through the PI system and emphasized the need to define clear goals for their work, while Dr. Jennings raised concerns about correctly interpreting data to avoid shutting down successful programs. The committee agreed to continue the data discussion in December's meeting, with Melissa and Hector planning to compile talking points and operational ideas for implementation in January. Neva Caldwell and Ellen Mathis provided updates on the iCAN Conference, including information about upcoming CFAC chair elections and available resources.