

Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council (BHPOC) Zoom Meeting

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council held its regular meeting to receive agency updates and legislative reports. Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley welcomed attendees and noted that there would be no conflicts with the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee going forward. Agencies provided updates on legislative accomplishments and budget allocations, with key highlights including new Medicaid rate review processes, nursing home bed moratorium exceptions, and a feasibility study for psychiatric residential treatment facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism. Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services reported on budget items including wage increases for community-based waivers, forensic services funding, and the transition of CHES program participants to Medema Supportive Housing. Department of Children and Families shared updates on child welfare legislation, mandatory trainings for staff, and new grant programs for families and after-school services. Other agencies including Department of Developmental Services, Department of Social Services, and the judicial branch provided updates on their respective programs and legislative impacts. Committee chairs reported on recent activities, with the Child Adolescent Quality Access and Policy committee planning a presentation on IICAPS results, the Adult Quality Access and Policy Committee focusing on the Medicaid 1115 Substance Abuse Waiver, and the Consumer Family Advisory Committee preparing for their 11th iCAN anniversary celebration.

Next steps

Brian Delude (CSSD)

- [Facilitate warm handoff/introduction of new CSSD representative to attend future Oversight Council meetings.](#)

Collaboration

- [DSS, DMHAS, DCF, DDS, OPM and relevant agencies: Collaborate on the feasibility study for an inpatient/PRTF facility for children and young adults \(14-21\) with intellectual/developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health needs, and report to legislature by July 1, 2027.](#)
- [DSS: Begin work on the study regarding the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment services to children and young adults 14-21 with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including data analysis, needs assessment, benchmarking, and fiscal viability.](#)
- [DSS, DMHAS, DCF, and other agencies: Participate in the Safety Net Mitigation Working Group to monitor and advise on significant federal changes impacting safety net programs, and report annually to legislature through 2029.](#)

- [DSS: Conduct a public comment period and report on final recommendations regarding Medicaid provider reimbursement rate review process by January 15, 2028.](#)
- [DCF: Establish applications and criteria for new grant programs \(kinship/foster care, after-school/childcare, social worker internships, mentorship\) by January 1, 2027.](#)
- [DCF: Develop and implement mandatory trainings \(perinatal mood/anxiety, updated human trafficking, cultural sensitivity/implicit bias\) for all staff by January 1, 2028, and ensure completion by December 31, 2028.](#)
- [DCF: Work with DSS to determine funding and implementation for the new urgent crisis center in Stamford, including potential RFP and licensing.](#)
- [Insurance Department: Conduct study on the feasibility of establishing a captive insurance plan for liability insurance for private providers, and report findings.](#)
- [DCF, DMHAS, DSS, OPM, and other relevant agencies: Participate in the Nonprofit Provider Advisory Board and the Treatment of Eating Disorders Working Group \(administered by Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity\).](#)
- [DCF, DMHAS, DOC, DSS, OPM: Collaborate on the discharge planning pilot program for correctional institutions, to be implemented by October 1, 2026, with reporting to legislature starting 2028.](#)
- [DCF: Post data and information required by new online data dashboard legislation and collaborate with Committee on Children working group to determine dashboard content.](#)
- [Alice Forrester/Workforce Committee: Continue monitoring and reporting on MSW licensing exam issues and their impact on workforce and seek updated report at next meeting.](#)

Summary

Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

The Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council meeting began with welcoming remarks and an announcement that there would be no conflicts with the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee going forward. The Department of Developmental Services reported no new legislation affecting their operations but mentioned participation in discussions about creating psychiatric residential treatment facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism. The Department of Social Services presented updates on several legislative changes including the creation of Medicaid rate review processes, nursing home bed exceptions, and a study on establishing inpatient facilities for children and young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services discussed their budget, including funding for forensic services, competency restoration, and the transition of CHES program participants to Medema Supportive Housing, while noting new requirements for legislative-directed funds to be more transparent and documented in budget books.

DMHAS Legislative Updates and Initiatives

Chandra Persaud presented an overview of legislative session updates and DMHAS-related bills, highlighting key provisions including naloxone access in schools, emergency opioid treatment programs, and extreme weather protocols. The team discussed several new working groups and studies that DMHAS will participate in, including the Safety Net Mitigation Working Group, Nonprofit Advisory Board, Treatment of Eating Disorders Working Group, and extreme weather protocols study. Kelly Phenix inquired about the Eating Disorders Working Group, which will be administered

by the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWC SEO), and Co-Chair Janine Sullivan-Wiley asked about extreme weather protocols, with Kelly Sinko explaining that the initiative focuses on improving collaboration between agencies during both cold and hot weather events, including homeless outreach and access to warming/cooling centers.

DCF Legislative and Budget Updates

The meeting focused on legislative updates and budget allocations for DCF. Vin Russo presented key changes from Public Act 2626, including new grant programs for families and childcare services, mandatory staff trainings on perinatal mood disorders, human trafficking, and cultural sensitivity, and the establishment of an online data dashboard. The budget included over \$12 million more than expected in the second year of the biennium, with funding for background check staff, foster care maintenance payments, and COLAs for providers. Additional updates covered the Pawcatuck Outpatient Clinic's full funding, the establishment of a human trafficking subcommittee, and a study on captive insurance plans for private providers' liability coverage.

Agency Updates and Committee Reports

The meeting covered updates from various agencies and committees. Vin from DCF presented several topics including workers' compensation changes, mental health treatment policies, and a new captive insurance plan for liability. Brian Delude from CSSD reported on judicial branch activities, including the reappointment of 44 judges, and discussed legislation affecting their ABHS provider network and supervised diversionary programs. Committee reports were provided by Hector Glynn on the Child Adolescent Quality Access and Policy Committee, Sabrina Trocchi on the Adult Quality Access and Policy Committee, and Alice on the Workforce committee, with updates on upcoming meetings and initiatives. The conversation ended with Neva reporting on CFAC's upcoming 11th anniversary iCAN celebration on September 25, 2026. See below.

CFAC

- **The Save the Date** communication has been launched for the 11th Annual iCAN Conference!
 - This year's theme is: "Paving the Way for a Solid Future in Whole Person Health"
 - Why attend?
 - Learn how mental, physical, and daily lifestyle affect your everyday life and energy!
 - Get some practical tools that are simple and actionable to help you manage your health and wellness!
 - Find your network – by connecting with community through local groups, advocates, and wellness teams that are ready to support you and your family!
 - Finally, make your voice heard! Sharing your experiences with motivation to build a stronger and healthier tomorrow!
 - More information with the formal programming including registration will be going out in the coming weeks!

- For more information on the Consumer and Family Advisory Council, please email us at ctbhpcfac@carelon.com or visit the ctbhp website at www.ctbhp.com