



RPC - Tug Hill Region

Jefferson County - Lewis County - St. Lawrence County

REGIONAL PLANNING CONSORTIUM
Tug Hill Region – 2020 3rd Quarter Board Meeting
September 14, 2020 – 10:00am-12:00pm
GoToMeeting
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Tim Ruetten, 10:04 am

2. Introductions (Name, stakeholder group, agency/organization)

See enclosed attendance list; new Board Member introduction: Ryan Beshaw, Dir. of Outpatient Behavioral Health Services, Claxton Hepburn Hospital.

3. Confirmed Quorum by Tug Hill Coordinator, Beth Solar

4. Approve Meeting Minutes from 2020 1st and 2nd quarter meeting

June/2nd quarter minutes were not attached to calendar invite and sent out this morning.

1st quarter minutes approval

1st: Brad Smith

2nd: Ryan Beshaw

Discussion: None

2nd quarter minutes approval

1st: Kathy Connor

2nd: Jim Scordo

Discussion: None



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5. Bylaws Amendment proposal by Beth Solar

See enclosed proposed Tug Hill Bylaws Amendments sheet.

Amendment #1 – Suspension of Voting Quorum in order to approve Board minutes.

Background for this recommended change: The purpose of this amendment is to allow for the approval of Board Meeting minutes should the requirement of the voting quorum, as currently stated in the bylaws, not be met. Tug Hill has challenge of having a voting quorum for minutes. This is an amendment for Board minutes only from previous quarter.

1st: Brad Smith

2nd: Maureen

Discussion: None

Amendment #2 – Authorization of Electronic Voting.

Background for this recommended change: This will allow for electronic voting outside the board meeting. Does not authorize voting for members who did not in attendance at in person meetings. For example, if the minutes had edits and board not comfortable approving the minutes until edits were made, only board members who had attended will vote/are allowed to approve.

1st: Mike Lively

2nd: Angela Vidile

Discussion: None

Amendment #3 – Leadership of C&F Subcommittee and Workgroups.

Background for this recommended change: This amendment will allow for flexibility in leadership. The best example is our C&F Subcommittee. We lost our previous lead who provides C&F services so, we have Lindsey Newvine, St. Lawrence SPOA coordinator. Provides co-lead support to Alicia Ruperd and Beth Solar. We would like this amendment to allow for a non-board member to be a co-lead.

Discussion: Karen Richmond from CCJC, shared a concern not having someone on the frontline of C&F services. Will we lose the expertise with a non-C&F lead? Tim Ruetten – Tug Hill region has difficulty with limited number of C&F providers, and it's tough to meet the greater RPC requirements. This has been a Tug Hill struggle since beginning. Karen Richmond – Should we have a board member with a specific C&F provider? We may miss a voice in the region and state. Jennifer Earl – clarification – it's the co-leads position, not members of the subcommittee. It just allows for a non-RPC board member to serve as a co-lead position. Beth Solar – TH has good C&F representation from board members and non-board. The subcommittee is where the work gets done and presented to the board. It allows for co-lead to be non-board member. Karen Richmond asked if everyone on the board has already been asked?



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Beth Solar - Yes, no one is interested in serving as a co-lead after last resignation. Jennifer Earl – the bylaws require board members of the TH board. No board position is being abolished; this is just allowing for greater pool to serve.

1st: Jayme Smith

2nd: Kathy Connor

Revised Tug Hill By-laws will be distributed to all board members.

6. Tug Hill 2nd quarter report and discussion by Beth Solar

Presentation of quarterly report and why we are producing each quarter. The audience is RPC State partners. See enclosed document of Tug Hill RPC section of Quarter 2 report.

Quarter 2 Tug Hill Issues – Transportation; Adult HCSB to BH ARS; Children and Families.

Lindsey Newvine approached for data on RTF placement requests in tri-county region. The C&F subcommittee established an ad-hoc group addressing possible solutions and will report out to board at future time.

Questions/comments: Jim Scordo – comments on bed finder meeting – wanted to share what great potential this has for region especially as we go to Phase 2 to include other beds outside of addictions will be beneficial. Beth Solar lots of moving parts to get this project moving but there is a lot of behind the scenes happenings. Report on bed finder later on in agenda.

7. RPC State co-chairs meeting/ Cohort updates (see enclosed slides)

Cohorts – 4 topic areas spread out across state/RPC coordinators:

- Children and Families

- Behavioral Health Workforce

- Social Determinants of Health (Primary care and co-occurring systems of care)

- Value Based Payment and Managed Care Organizations

Helps streamline and keep up-to-date information as not every coordinator serves on each cohort. By establishing cohort, intent for future is to bridge closer relationships with our State partners in a more fluid fashion. Leadership for the agencies are challenges to attend all RPC meetings. This is an effort not to lose valuable information/feedback on each region to the State agencies. Example, the C&F RPC coordinators – Jaqueline Miller and Alyssa Gleason are the C&F leads and one or both will sit in on each RPC C&F Subcommittee meeting.

State/Cochairs meeting – October 29, 2020 – Tim Ruetten and Jennifer Earl participate on the biweekly RPC Cochairs call. Agenda is currently being built and meeting will be held virtual. New for this year –



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breakout groups tied to the cohort topics. Co-chairs from each region will be divided among the breakout groups. This is a very large meeting – 64-68 attendees in person at 2019 meeting. Utilizing an outside facilitator in order for RPC team and board members to remain focused on the topics. Outcome goal is to have next steps and workgroups post-State/Cochairs meeting.

Questions/comments: Jennifer Earl – information from the State/Cochairs meeting will be disseminated to board members. Lori Kicinski - The full recording will be sent to RPC board members including the breakout groups. This is a collaborative effort with State agencies to allow for presentation of data. If anyone would like previous State/Cochairs meetings, please contact Beth Solar.

8. State Partner Updates:

- **Laura Zocco – OMH**

BH ARS transition - Providers not understanding BH ARS post-transition. Unfortunately, not much information at this time. State leadership approved September 2, 2020 and sent to CMS. Once approved by CMS, there is 90-day transition process. Vocational services that will be under PSR along with other concerns expressed by providers will be shored up during the transition. If you are a current Vocational Services provider, and as it will go under PSR, there is an expectation that you will do both Vocational Services and PSR. Current work being done on manual for clear, detailed information.

Short term/crisis respite – Not transitioning into BH ARS; instead plan is to move to 1115 benefit. 1115 benefit with intent to have claims paid made by end of year with reimbursement that will occur date of licensure. In order to continue billing for services for short-term/crisis respite, providers must transition to the part 589 license program. Notifications sent to providers a few months ago on this requirement. Notifications will be sent this week that they can begin the licensure process. If a provider chooses not to transition, once transition happens, there will no longer be a billing method if they are not 589 license. Please contact OMH with questions/concerns.

Licensed 31 clinics – Billing Guidance Tobacco use made on Sept 11, 2020; effective Aug 1 – Medicaid fee for service clients (effective Nov 1 MMC clients) will expand the tobacco cessation counseling sessions to allow for as many medical services; no longer caps. Previous there were caps.

Link : <https://technicalassistanceatnyumcsilver.cmail20.com/t/i-l-mjuhdd-mtjkrxjr-a/>

Note, the public comments of HCBS to BH ARS on name – due to comments there is consideration to change it to CORE (Community-Oriented Rehabilitation and Empowerment Services) It's under consideration – no final decision.



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- **Allie MacPherson – OASAS**

OASAS PART 822 regulation – Will be coming back out for review. Once link comes out, will be sent by Allie MacPherson.

OASAS Part 816 regulation – OASAS counsel office working on some of the language will be clarified will also be coming out.

Telepractice Designation regulation – Will be updated. Reminder to those agencies that do not have permanent telepractice license need to get application in as soon as possible before the executive order expires Oct 3, 2020.

Joint Review process and PRU recertification - Process has temporarily gone virtual this month. A few reviews so far. Secure mechanism “MYSEND” for information during virtual review.

RFA for the regional approach to prevention/treatment/recovery to address opioid/stimulant use disorder in NYS went out; applications are due Oct 5, 2020. Allie MacPherson can share the link to Bidders’ Conference on application process.

9. **Tug Hill Workgroup Reports**

HHH Workgroup - September 2, 2020 – new co-leads – Dana VanHoesen and Angel Durham. Discussion was on transition to BH ARS and next steps. As we don’t have specifics yet, wanted to maintain focus on current services until the transition specifics are released. Group wanted a focus on the “Eyes of the Provider” – challenges to how providers view the services/interpretation. However, due to the challenges of a virtual discussion, decided event should be more informational “coffee hour” with a specific topic and/or a specific agency/highlighted services.

C&F Subcommittee - August 19, 2020 – co-leads Alicia Ruperd and Lindsay Newvine. Sending out survey quarterly to maintain current information. Challenge that only 3 responses to survey. Used the designation contact list. New survey allows for multiple county selections. Included some NC agencies as they cross-over into TH territory. Increase in residential referrals and working with local hospitals for discharge planning and children not being connected to community-based support.



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10. SUD Bed Finder pilot program update by Beth Solar

Real-time internet-based project. Have identified with TH and NC providers who provide inpatient detox services. Presentation given to participants and currently collecting participant contact information as well as type of beds/identified group served/bed inventory.

NC BHN have met with the FL pilot lead for the webpage development. The NC BHN web designer is working on the open source information to set up the TH/NC webpage. Beth Solar shared a brief overview of how users can access and use bed finder information. It's real time and can be used 24/7. This is voluntary. User launch will happen after test of webpage with participant information. Question about outside region – current set up will be Tug Hill and North Country providers. Hope is to allow access to Finger Lakes link in future for those closer to Finger Lake providers.

ADDITIONAL ITEM:

Transportation Update by Beth Solar

While the pandemic has lifted some of the transportation issues, TH and Southern Tier RPC coordinators had a call with Joe LaCopolla and Ellen Freidman from MAS (MM transportation broker).

In June 2020, a new department was formed in MAS to specifically focus on OTP services. This includes, OTP, inpatient and RAPID access facilities. This process helps those seeking the services from an OTP provider, they do not have to have the 72 hour notice. The medical reason used when calling to schedule the transportation is called "intake" and this allows the provider setting up the transportation immediate access to an MAS representative that can get the transportation set up immediately. There is no requirement for any forms at that time but the provider is required to submit any of the necessary forms (2020 or 2015) within 3 days. They are working very closely with the OTP providers to identify preferred taxi services, they are working with rosters and comparing them with the OTP providers. They are able to use these rosters to establish and maintain reoccurring transportation trips. The possibility of replicating this process for other types of service providers was discussed but due they were not able to speak about this due to them being new to MAS but were very willing to discuss this further with the rest of the team at MAS.

Southern Tier RPC lead commented that this is very important step by MAS and the RPC did a wonderful job advocating for the regions and the needs of the clients. Joe and Ellen would be able to forward any workflow info as soon as it is released and would be willing to speak to the other RPC regions to make sure all are aware of this new program.

Both department leads are CASAC and have clinical knowledge to work with OTP providers on how to work through transportation challenges. Willing to provide training webinar to TH region. Question to board – has anyone worked with Joe or Ellen? Tim Ruetten spoke highly of working with Joe LaCopolla. Recommended that this information needs to be shared with OTP staff.



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11. SAVE THE DATES!

- Tug Hill 2020 BOD Meeting - 4th qtr: December 2020 10am-12noon (location of meetings will be subject to current social distancing guidance at that time.)
- HHH Workgroup – December 9, 2020, 10a-12noon, virtual
- Children and Families – November 4, 2020, 10a-12noon, virtual

12. Open Floor

- Please visit www.clmhd.org/rpc for more information on the other RPC regions and upcoming events.
- NOTE – North Country Family Health Center is a community COVID-19 testing site; you do not need to be a NCFHC patient to be tested. Community members can call 315-775-7777 to set up an appointment.
- Jim Scordo – 20% reduction proposal – information has been distributed to agencies on outreach to NYS representatives.

13. Meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am

1st: Jim Scordo

2nd: Brad Smith

****Above minutes approved at 4th quarter BOD meeting on 12/10/2020****