

Meeting Agenda
Public Act 099-0480
**Working Group Regarding Treatment and Coverage of Substance Abuse Disorders and
Mental Illness**

Date

Wednesday, May 19, 2021
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Locations

CALL-IN ONLY

Call-in Information

312-535-8110
Code: 133 377 4401

- I. Welcome.
- II. Introductions-
- III. Minutes
- IV. Agency Reports
- V. HFS
- VI. DHS
- VII. DOI
 - a. Market Conduct Exam Process
 - b. Opioid Benchmark Project Update
 - c. Parity Advancement Fund & Education/Outreach
- VIII. Adjourn

Minutes
Meeting Agenda
[Public Act 099-0480](#)
Working Group Regarding Treatment and Coverage of Substance Use Disorders and
Mental Illness

Date
Wednesday, July 15, 2020
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CST

Locations
CALL-IN ONLY

Call-in Information
312-535-8110
Code: 133 075 4464

I. Welcome

Kate Morthland welcomed staff, members, and guests to the virtual Working Group Regarding Treatment and Coverage of Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health Working Group. Morthland thanked all parties for making themselves available and providing critical expertise regarding substance use and mental health parity.

Morthland covered some guidelines as the Working Group moves forward on a technological platform.

II. Introductions

HFS Staff Present:
Christine Herman

DHS Staff Present:
Jayne Antananoci
Kathleen Moahan

DOI Staff Present:
Ryan Gillespie
Director Robert Muriel
Sara Stanberry
Brian Gorman
Laura Pellikan
Robert Planthold
Litza Marothalasis
Erica Weyhenmeyer
Patrice Dziire
Shannon Whalen

Kate Morthland

Members Present:

Meryl Sosa/ Illinois Psychiatric Society
Jud Deloss/ Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
David Applegate/ The Kennedy Forum
Renee Popovits/ Popovits Law Group, P.C.
Community Behavioral Association
Kelly Epperson/ Rosecrance Health Network
Kevin Smith/ Health Alliance

Guests Present:

Gateway Foundation
Health Alliance
Laura Minzer/ Illinois Life and Health
Nami: National Alliance on Mental Illness

Minutes

- Morthland asked members to review the minutes from the past meeting in attached to the agenda for any edits or revisions.
- David Applegate motioned to accept the minutes.
- Renee Popovits seconded the motion.
- No edits or revisions were suggested.
- The minutes were accepted.

III. Agency Reports

- Morthland expressed that DOI is thankful to have DHS and HFS on the phone. Morthland thanked David Applegate for providing the agencies with requests/suggestions for the agencies to report out. Morthland suggested that to ensure timely delivery of all topics, each agency report out on suggestions and at the end of each agency report, the agencies will have a short question and answer period.
- There were no objections.
 - a. **HFS**
 - HFS was not prepared to report on the specific requests provided by the advocates. HFS will consider the questions received and provide advocates the responses at the next meeting.
 - b. **DHS**
 - DHS provided the group with a SUPR Program overview. DHS explained that there is a large ad campaign for opioid prevention. There are some counties in IL that still do not have a provider that can prescribe Buprenorphine. There is also increased use in opioids due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. For the drug naloxone, DHS funds programs that trains first responders to distribute Naloxone.

- Popovits posed a question regarding inventory. COVID-19 has taught us a lot of things, IDPH must gather ventilators available, it occurs to me that we do not know what resources we have for our substance use disorder systems. I think SUPR is doing a good job at understanding our care deserts, but we must go further. If we don't understand where our substance use services are being rendered, how do we understand the parity comparison? We need more interagency work. DHS agreed. DHS explained that lot of resources have been shuttered in the past administration. DHS does not have access of all providers who we do not license. The State's 2021 Opioid Action Plan has a plan to develop a statewide website for opioids which is under development. There are certain providers that don't have to have our licenses, so there is a bit of disconnect. DHS agrees with the need a central place for all implementation.
- Kelly Epperson asked DHS if there are any calls for those that don't have coverage for treatment and asked what data is being collected via the help line. DHS staff explained that the helpline would usually cover them and get them to a provider. There is a monthly report on the DHS website that exports thus data for the helpline. DHS explained that many calls to the help line are regarding alcohol.
- Gateway mentioned that the State received money to do assistance work, but there is a lot of issues regarding alcohol use. The grant must cover alcohol has well. The new funding, which will come September 1, will allow individuals to be treated for stimulants, but not alcohol. DHS mentioned that the grant allows distribution of naltrexone for overdose purposes. However, alcohol is not included in any of these grants.
- DHS explained that individuals calling the helpline who have lost their insurance would get care if they established need. In the past, it was SUPR who identified the income guidelines. DHS's goal is to connect people to care they need.
- Popovits asked if there is a service not covered by Medicaid, will the funding cover this? DHS answered yes, the providers know that they can bill the find for these services in SUPR.

c. DOI

- DOI reported that the Department provided testimony to the Senate Opioid Abatement Committee regarding our work around Benchmark Plan Changes. In 2018, the Department obtained approval from CMS for 5 critical changes to the Illinois Essential Health Benefit (EHB) Benchmark Plan to address opioid use disorder treatment. Beginning in 2020, private health insurance companies offering plans on the individual (health insurance offered to individuals) and small group markets (group health plans maintained by a small employer) will be required to limit opioid prescriptions for acute pain and cover alternative therapies for pain. Illinois is the only state to change the EHB Benchmark Plan. Utilizing funding to track 2020 Benchmark plan changes would provide critical metrics and information that may be used to measure both success and future opportunities. DOI received a grant extension from the federal government. This means that our team is in the process of coming up with

modeling to track these changes and we will be on track to get some feedback on 2020 plan changes in 2021. We are working closely with State Health and Value Strategies, a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation housed at Princeton University to assist us in the RFP process and writing out plans. DOI is incredibly grateful to have their assistance.

- DOI reported that the 2020 Mental Health Parity Working Group first convened on February 28, 2020. Since this time, there has been cancelled meetings due to the global pandemic COVID-19. On June 9, 2020 The Department released supplemental meeting dates. The first supplemental meeting was held on June 26. The Group decided that all members are to give their comments on the NY and PA reporting formats no later than July 10th or on week before our next meeting on July 17. The next meeting is going to be held this Friday 17, 2020 from 11:00-12:00.
- DOI reported that the deadlines mentioned in 215 ILCS 5/370 c.1 are statutory. DOI is not providing guidance regarding these deadlines. There was conversation in the recent Mental Health Parity Meeting discussing timelines. At the last meeting the Working Group acknowledged that 7/1/20 was aggressive and that 1/1/21 was more realistic. The reality today is that obviously 7/1 is not doable but we should push ahead for 1/1/21 keeping in mind that we can deliver a report to the General Assembly by 1/1/21 but not have plan reports until 7/1/21.
- DOI reported that the Department has successfully closed the 5 following market conduct targeted mental health parity examinations, Celtic, Cigna Healthcare of IL, Cigna Health & Life, Healthcare & Services Corporation, and United Healthcare Group. All examinations have been finalized and posted publicly to the website. Examination periods spanned the time frame between 2016-2018 and includes findings ranging from non-compliance with medical necessity guidelines as outlined by the American Society of Addiction Medicine, Step Therapy for “Depression Diagnosis Only” patients, Prior authorizations on buprenorphine containing medications. In total, the Department was able to bring in more than \$2 million towards the parity advancement fund. Please visit the Department’s website to review these reports in more detail.
- DOI reported that between November 2019 and January 30, 2020, GCI created digital advertisements, radio advertisements, and television advertisements placed statewide to highlight consumer’s mental health parity rights under the law and how the Illinois Department of Insurance is here to support them in seeking relief if their rights have been violated. The radio spots were both in English and in Spanish.
- DOI reported that no toolkits have been distributed to the public in 2020. GCI will insert the one-page disclaimer, pending final approval, into the toolkits until new toolkits can be printed.
- Epperson asked if the Department had any knowledge on insurance plans rolling back telehealth services on July 31, 2020. DOI staff has had conversations regarding rolling back telehealth and the information is inaccurate. Plans have expressed to DOI that carriers are going to extend the current accommodations until the end of the year.
- John Beck with Health Alliance asked if the 2 million collected from the market conduct exams were the fines paid by insurance companies. DOI confirmed.
- David Applegate thanked DOI for all of the work that went into the exams and stated that the Kennedy Forum is looking forward to HFS parity audits.

IV. Discussion

- Morthland asked members and guests if there were any other discussion topics that the Group would like to address in this meeting.
- Morthland reported that the Texas law regarding labeling insurance cards was provided to members and guests as additional Working Group Materials. The Kennedy Forum will look into this language and report back with suggestions to the Group.
- No other discussion topics were raised.

V.2021 Meetings

- Morthland asked members if there are any recommendations for 2021 meetings.
- Popovits suggested an October meeting rather than a November meeting because it was close to the holiday season.
- DOI will construct the 2021 public meeting notice and it will be posted to the DOI website.

VI.Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.