

Meeting Minutes -



Arkansas
Behavioral Health
Integration Network

Location: Zoom

Date: June 14, 2024

Meeting: AR CoCM Community Stakeholders Meeting

Time: 12:00-1:00

Attendance

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. David Jones | 5. Miste Trent | 9. Matt Kern | 13. Mark Jansen |
| 2. Patti Gibson | 6. Sheneca Smith | 10. Brea Strong | 14. Amanda Lunsford |
| 3. Caitlyn Johnson | 7. Sarah Bernes | 11. Nicole Portrude | 15. Sheryl Hurt |
| 4. Tisha Deen | 8. Michael Keck | 12. Patty Morrow | 16. Jeremy Stark |

Agenda Items

1. Welcome/Updates/Announcements
2. SAMHSA BHI-Hub CoCM grant Executive Committee Meeting Report
3. UAMS Update
4. CoCM update from DHS
5. APA CoCM Conference Discussion
6. BHI-Hub CoCM Training Review
7. CoCM Events & Resources

Summary:

Welcome/Updates/Announcements

- Tisha, the Federal Advocacy Coordinator for Arkansas for psychology, welcomed everyone to the community stakeholder group meeting and encouraged open discussions about ongoing issues in integrated care.
- She opened up the meeting by sharing her recent experience from a Hill Visit in DC, where she advocated for a bill to increase Medicare reimbursement rates for integrated care as well as updates about the American Psychological Association's legislative activities, particularly the Complete Care Act. This bill, which has been introduced in both the House and Senate, aims to provide technical assistance to primary care practices adopting integrated care, increase Medicare reimbursement rates, and establish quality measurement reporting requirements for alternative payment models. Tisha also mentioned her recent meetings with Senator Bozeman's, Senator Cotton's, and Representative Hill's offices regarding these issues.

UAMS Update

- UAMS mentioned a potential collaboration with Steven Gillespie, an expert in billing and coding in behavioral health, to educate the team on billing codes and their implementation in Arkansas. Patty Morrow shared that collaborative care codes were adopted onto the Medicaid fee schedule in Missouri after years of advocacy work, which could serve as a valuable example for other states.
- Tisha shared that they have hired two BHCM's to cover Pine Bluff, Batesville, and internal medicine with the anticipated start date of July 8th. Their experience includes a community health worker and a social work graduate with military experience. Implementation for Pine Bluff and Batesville will begin

in July, but Internal Medicine will begin in September. They will do a readiness review to see which clinics will be next in the implementation process.

SAMHSA BHI-Hub CoCM Grant Executive Committee Meeting Report

- Patty Gibson confirmed that the Executive Committee continues to meet and progress. There weren't many items to report on except for the update from the last meeting held on 6/10, which reported that human subjects and consent forms were not approved by SAMHSA but have since been revised and sent to the state for submission to SAMHSA on 6/10.

CoCM Update from DHS

- David also reported on the consent forms submitted to SAMHSA and provided additional details on why they were not approved. He revealed that SAMHSA had requested specific patient protection on the documents, which again, Teresa's team had successfully addressed.

APA CoCM Conference Discussion

- Patty Gibson discussed the ongoing progress and challenges of implementing the CoCM model across the country but did present some positive feedback regarding the findings of Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield's implementation of collaborative care model for addiction and substance use disorders. She emphasized the success of CoCM in treating mental health conditions, with evidence showing it to be more effective than traditional care and cost-saving for the healthcare system. Patty also discussed the barriers to CoCM implementation, including payment models and the need for adequate training and resources. She highlighted the Arkansas Psychiatric Society and the American Psychiatric Association as being supportive of this approach.
- Sarah from the University of Michigan's Department of Psychiatry shared about her team's newly received grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation to evaluate their technical assistance to practices implementing collaborative care. She also mentioned they were in the startup phase of a pilot project using collaborative care billing codes.

BHI-Hub CoCM Training Review

- Caitlyn discussed the first of three foundational training on the collaborative care model (CoCM) led by Virna Little for the FQHC's. She highlighted the importance of this model requiring buy-in from all levels of a healthcare organization, from front desk to leadership. She also clarified various myths surrounding the CoCM model, emphasizing that isn't a type of therapy and does not require patients to be on medication. She continued by sharing a concise graph provided by Virna that outlines the care approach, coding, and patients' appropriate diagnosis. The training was well received, with attendees expressing confidence in the information presented but some uncertainty about implementation and billing. Future trainings, led by Virna, will address these concerns and will be available on the website for those who could not attend live.

Benefits of Resources for CEUs

- Misty highlighted the value of ABHIN's website and new podcasts, which offer useful resources and can contribute to Continuing Education Units (CEUs). She then shared upcoming events and resources, including CFHA's 30th-anniversary conference in San Antonio, the Arkansas Schizophrenia Conference, the ASU annual conference, and the Arkansas Council for Behavioral Health conference. Lastly, Misty announced a webinar on digital solutions for integrated behavioral health, featuring Dr. Scott Breiting, scheduled for July 11th. You can access these events and resources using the links below.

Important Date(s):

- ▶ **Wednesday, July 10th, 11:00** – [AIMS Center Webinar – Reflecting on 20 Years in Collaborative Care](#)
- ▶ **Thursday, July 11th, 8:00** – ABHIN Webinar: [In Context: Digital Solutions for Integrated Behavioral Health](#)

- ▶ **August 4th – 7th**, Washington D.C – ACU 2024 Conference:
[*Envisioning a More Equitable Future: Advancing Stakeholder-Centered Innovation*](#)
- ▶ **August 12th – 14th**, Hot Springs – [Arkansas Council for Behavioral Health Conference](#)
- ▶ **Friday, September 27th, 8:00 – 3:00** UAMS – [2024 Arkansas Schizophrenia Conference](#)
- ▶ **October 24th – 26th**, San Antonio, TX – CFHA’s Integrated Care Conference,
[30 Years of Integration: Innovating in the Pursuit of Healing](#)

CoCM Resources:

- ▶ [ABHIN CoCM Training & Resource webpage](#)
- ▶ [AIMS Center](#)
- ▶ [BCBS Updated CoCM Payment Policy & Billing Codes](#)
- ▶ ABHIN *While You Wait* Podcast now streaming:
 - [Amazon](#)
 - [Spotify](#)
 - [YouTube](#)

