

Meeting Minutes -



Arkansas
Behavioral Health
Integration Network

Location: Zoom

Date: August 8, 2025

Meeting: AR CoCM Community Stakeholders Meeting

Time: 12:00-1:00

Attendees:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Kim Shuler | 5. Mark Jansen | 9. Teresa Hudson |
| 2. Caitlyn Johnson | 6. Jason Williams | 10. Michael Keck |
| 3. Miste Trent | 7. Amanda Lunsford | 11. Sarah Bernes |
| 4. Patty Gibson | 8. Terry Amstutz | 12. Virna Little |

Agenda:

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| 1. Welcome/Updates/Announcements | 4. DHS Update |
| 2. IBHA Executive Committee Meeting Update | 5. UAMS Update |
| 3. ABHIN Update | 6. CoCM Events and Resources |

Meeting Notes:

SUMMARY:

The discussion centered on the onboarding of two new clinics, McGee Family Practice and River Valley Medical Wellness, into the Collaborative Care Management (CoCM) program. McGee Family Practice raised concerns about the accessibility of behavioral health services in their region and the clinic's initiative to integrate social work into their care model, emphasizing the role of telemedicine. Updates were provided on the program's progress, the development of a project logo, & Dr. Gibson's participation in national CoCM meetings.

UPDATES ON COLLABORATIVE CARE MANAGEMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS:

Patty Gibson, MD, presented data indicating that access to mental health care remains a critical issue, with only 40% of those in need receiving treatment. She shared insights from a recent study showing an increase in wait times for mental health appointments, which now average 300 days. Additionally, she highlighted the role of the Bowman Family Foundation in advocating for mental health parity and the importance of COCM in improving access to care. The following are links to the articles she highlighted:

- [Meaningful Engagement in Depression and Anxiety Collaborative Care: Associations With Systematic Case Review](#)
- [Factors Leading to Patient Disengagement for Unknown Reasons in Virtual Collaborative Care](#)
- [Bowman Family Foundation](#)
- [2024 MHPAEA Report to Congress](#)
- [Mental-Health-Parity-Toolkit-FINAL-3.pdf](#)

COLLABORATIVE CARE UPDATES AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES:

Project updates included the development of a new logo. Teresa emphasized the importance of tracking patient engagement to understand dropout rates and improve outcomes, while Virna Little shared insights on the successful launch of PTSD and bipolar care in collaborative care settings across multiple states, highlighting positive feedback from care managers and providers.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO MLN AND COLLABORATIVE CARE REIMBURSEMENT:

There was discussion on the upcoming changes to the MLN, highlighting that consent can be obtained by any care team member rather than just the primary care provider. The removal of the G0512 code for FQHCs in

favor of CPT codes is expected to be a major improvement. Additionally, there is ongoing advocacy for eliminating reimbursement disparities between nurse practitioners and MDs in collaborative care settings.

Important Date(s):

- ▶ **August 26th**, 2:00 – 3:00 – [Beyond Depression and Anxiety: Scaling CoCM for Serious Mental Illness and Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- ▶ **October 2nd**, 8:00 – 2:00, Little Rock, AR – [UAMS, Women's Mental Health Forum](#)
(Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, 4823 Woodlawn Drive, Little Rock, AR)
- ▶ **October 9th & 10th**, The Arkansas Psychological Association is bringing a two-day event to Little Rock committed to suicide prevention, ***Turning the Tide: Strengthening Hope, Connection, and Community***. Registration info coming soon!
- ▶ **October 16th – 18th**, Raleigh, North Carolina – [CFHA Integrated Care Conference](#)

CoCM Resources:

- ▶ [ABHIN CoCM Training & Resource webpage](#)
- ▶ [ABHIN CoCM Monthly Office Hours](#)
- ▶ [AIMS Center: Collaborative Care Monthly Finance Office Hours](#)
- ▶ [AIMS Center: Collaborative Care Monthly Implementation Office Hours](#)
- ▶ [AIMS Center's BHCM Learning Community](#)
- ▶ ABHIN *While You Wait* Podcast now streaming:
 - [Amazon](#)
 - [Spotify](#)
 - [YouTube](#)
- ▶ [3rd Annual BHI Conference Presentation Recordings](#)

