

CYBHWG Workforce and Rates subgroup

June 1, 2022

Leads: Representative Mari Leavitt, Hugh Ewart, Laurie Lippold

Review of subgroup timeline

Rachel Burke, *Health Care Authority (HCA)*

See page 4 for slide

Brief updates

Workforce Board (Renee Fullerton)

- Introductions: Renee Fullerton, new Workforce Board staff.
- Currently looking at all the recommendations around behavioral health from 2016 to current to identify the status, and where to go from here.

Apprenticeship Program (Sheryl Schwartz)

- Recruiting cohorts. Press release coming out soon, including some of the employers.
- Three tracks: BH Tech, Peer Counselor, SUDP-all starting this fall.

Behavioral Health Integration subgroup (Kristin Houser)

- BH Integration startup costs – issues:
 - There is a long lead time to hire BH professionals.
 - Funds must be out the door by July 2023; you can get the grant even if hiring the BH professional may occur later.
 - Supervision hours needed before being fully licensed; some clinics are hiring people who aren't fully licensed and eating the supervision costs.
 - Startup costs should include supervision, looking into this.
 - HCA has said startup costs may be able to cover supervision costs without a lot of HCA administrative effort; elements of integration criteria are spelled out in the legislation.
- Community Health Workers (CHW) proviso – Sarah Rafton is lead.

Barriers to licensure and workforce retention and recruitment, (Sara Stewart)

- Meeting June 14, 2022, to discuss barriers and issues around licensure and workforce retention and recruitment; currently 50 people are signed up.
- Meeting invite limited to:
 - Licensed Mental Health Counselors
 - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
 - Licensed Clinical Social Workers
 - Individuals with clinical supervision experience in each of the clinical licensure categories.
 - Employers who hire the clinical licensure categories.
 - Representatives from community behavioral health agencies including supervisors.
 - People with Associate level degrees from each of the clinical licenses.
 - Students
 - Representatives from DOH/HCA
 - Certified Counselors

Families and providers access survey update

Highlights

- 175 responses from providers and a little over 200 responses for families.
- Looking at having someone from Seattle Children's crunch the data.
- Hugh to share results at the next meeting, if available.

Focus on the subcommittee/implementation

- Hugh and Laurie: reviewed efforts underway, issues that have been raised.

Burning Issues for 2023 legislation

Highlights

- Focus efforts on solving workforce issues related to items the legislature has passed and are facing challenges to the workforce shortage.
- Issues related to insurance not paying on time or in a timely fashion.
- Child and Teen Referral Service starting to hear that more and more therapists are dropping insurance coverage because of long delays in payment by commercial insurers.
- We have a lot of practitioners having this issue. Navigator system could be beneficial.
- Empanelment process can take 8-9 months.
- Process for dealing with insurance is onerous – easier to do pro bono than to invest the time in it. HCA is where we need to start. Medicaid needs to get onboard.
- Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC): Really ramping up efforts to address parity. Working with contractors; can prompt them to dig into these issues. Doing investigations into main insurers in WA state. **Therapists, please call our help lines, make reports; give us the documentation so we can act. Go to the OIC and file complaints or call the consumer advocate. See numbers below.**
- Moving toward credentialing as a facility rather than an individual; physical health services are getting kicked out of our contracts.
- There is a lot of interest in barriers to taking insurance. Perhaps Sara's group should take that on and more members from this group should participate.
- Does it make sense to focus our efforts on short-term solutions, e.g., standing up CLIP beds, short-term residential stabilization facilities, etc.?

Chat:

Barb Jones – Interested in hearing about workforce experiences and concerns.

Insurance questions and complaints

[OIC complaint line](#)

Call toll-free: 800-562-6900

Call local: 360-725-7080

Other/next meeting

- Let Hugh and Laurie know if there are other burning issues you think need to be addressed.
- Next meeting:
 - Discuss issues for 2023 (barriers to taking insurance, workforce issues from other subcommittees, implementation of investments from 2021 and 2022), what else?!
 - Update on the June 14th Barriers to Licensure meeting.
 - Review survey results, if available
 - Respite update (from 2021)
- Goal: 2nd meeting in August, have a very good idea of what to address in recommendations.

Attendees:

Kevin Black, Legislative staff

Marci Bloomquist, Community Health Plan of
Washington (CHPW)

Rachel Burke, Health Care Authority (HCA)

Donna Christensen

Hawa Elias, CHPW

Dr. Robert Hilt, Seattle Children's Hospital

Kristin Houser, Parent

Avreayl Jacobson, King County Behavioral Health
and Recovery

Barb Jones, Office of Insurance Commissioner (OIC)

Joe LeRoy, HopeSparks

Cameron Long, Legislative staff

Melody McKee, University of Washington (UW)

Joan Miller, Washington Council for Behavioral
Health

Sheryl Schwartz, HCA

Sharon Shadwell, Department of Children Youth and
Families (DCYF)

Susan Skillman, UW

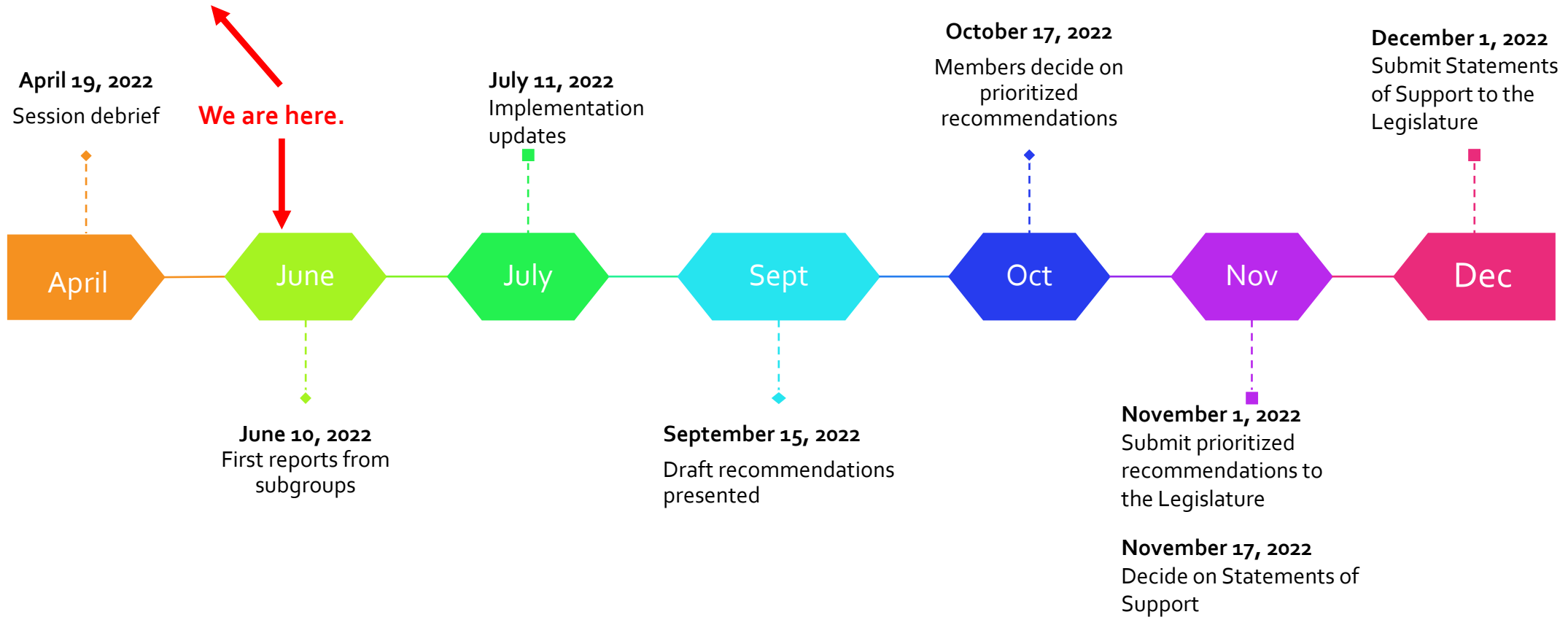
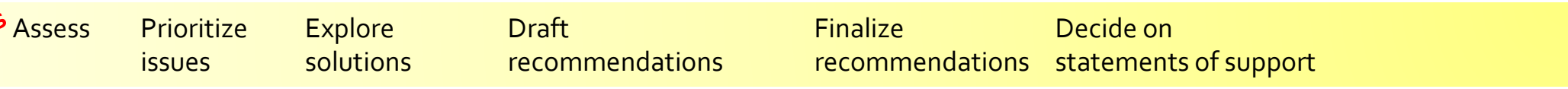
Sara Stewart, WA Mental Health Counselors
Association

Alex Wehinger, Washington State Medical
Association (WSMA)

Cindi Wiek, HCA

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Workgroup Recommendation Timeline

Subgroups



Work Group

