

ValueAdded

This is the 204th issue of our VBH-PA information update. These updates will be emailed to network providers monthly. Please feel free to share our newsletter with others, and be sure your appropriate clinical and financial staffs receive copies.

Prescriptions and Recommendations for Child Related Services

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania (VBH-PA) recognizes that for services to be maximally effective they need to be in the correct dose, at the right time, and be of the optimal kind. This is identical to any medically necessary physical treatment. If someone has diabetes and they are prescribed insulin, but it is the incorrect dosage at the incorrect time, this can be life threatening. This is true for behavioral health services as well. If individuals receive the incorrect treatment at the wrong time they can become disheartened, drop out of treatment, or refuse to seek treatment in the future. This can have substantial effects on the individual and on society as a whole. For example, in one study conducted by NIMH in 2008, it was estimated that \$193.2 billion in earnings was lost annually due to untreated mental health issues. This does not take into account caregiver stress or other societal impacts of poorly controlled mental health concerns.

The evaluation is the cornerstone and guide for all of treatment. The evaluation is expected to tell the current story of the member. The evaluation is expected to have a strong theoretical orientation, to adequately describe the symptoms as they are appearing at the current time, to discuss any precipitants, and to discuss the strengths of the member and how these can be utilized in treatment. The prescription then flows from the evaluation to meet the needs of the family and member at that time. VBH-PA encourages each prescriber and evaluator to utilize the evaluation and other tools that they may have at their disposal (such as the CANS) to prescribe the services from the continuum of care that you believe to meet the family's needs at that time. We have heard at various functions that the evaluators may prescribe services that they feel will "be approved" or "what the family wants" versus what would be the natural prescription from the evaluation.

In addition, VBH-PA encourages the evaluators to remember that each case is unique. We have been asked if there was a previous FBA, would there need to be another one prior to BHRS services starting. VBH-PA would encourage another FBA if things have

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Upcoming BHRS Summits

BHRS SUMMITS

(Your choice of two locations per month.)

June 3 —
Courtyard by Marriott
Greensburg, PA

June 10 —
Hampton Inn & Suites
Mercer, PA

September 9 —
Hampton Inn & Suites
Mercer, PA

September 16 —
Courtyard by Marriott
Greensburg, PA

December 2 —
Courtyard by Marriott
Greensburg, PA

December 9 —
Hampton Inn & Suites
Mercer, PA

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT): Appropriate Use of Subutex vs. Suboxone

In response to recent questions regarding the appropriate use of Subutex (Buprenorphine) versus Suboxone (Buprenorphine/Naloxone) in the treatment of individuals with opioid dependence, VBH-PA wishes to share expert guidance with our provider network. VBH-PA's expectation is that network MAT providers will take this expert guidance into account when considering treatment options going forward.

- It is clear that the current standard of care is the use of Suboxone, not Subutex, for the office based treatment of opioid dependence for individuals seeking treatment who are not pregnant.
- Both Suboxone and Subutex contain buprenorphine. Buprenorphine is pharmacologically classified as a partial mu receptor agonist. The formulation of Suboxone contains buprenorphine and naloxone in a 4:1 ratio. Naloxone is classified as a mu receptor antagonist.
- The rationale for adding naloxone to one formulation is that incorporating naloxone's antagonist properties would yield a drug that is less subject to diversion and abuse. The 4:1 ratio of buprenorphine to naloxone was selected because it produced significant attenuation of buprenorphine's effects without producing significant signs of withdrawal.
- Studies have revealed more tendency of these overdose complications occurring with illicit and non-medical injection drug use of Subutex in combination with injection drug use of benzodiazepines rather than with Suboxone in combination with injection drug use of benzodiazepines.
- Abuse rates in opioid treatment programs, surveys of patient informants, and college survey programs were greatest for single ingredient buprenorphine tablets. Buprenorphine combination film rates were significantly less than rates for either tablet formulation in all programs.
- Office based physicians and programs have a fiduciary responsibility to maintain practice standards to assure public safety and to enact measures to protect against the consequences of misuse and or diversion of controlled substances.

Expert documents on the subject include: "PCSS-MAT Guidance Adherence Diversion," "Proceedings of 2014 Buprenorphine Summit," "Abuse and Diversion of Buprenorphine Sublingual Tablets and Film," along with "SAMSHA Buprenorphine Dear Colleague Letter."

New Fraud, Waste and Abuse Policy

The new VBH-PA Fraud, Waste and Abuse policy has been posted to our website:

http://www.vbh-pa.com/fraud/pdfs/Fraud_Waste_and_Abuse_Policy.pdf.

Providers should take a moment to review the new policy.

Eliminating the Need for Medical Clearance Prior to Authorization for an Inpatient Level of Care Admission

VBH-PA is constantly looking at our processes and welcome feedback on things that are working well and those that are not. One area that was recently brought to our attention is on our precertification requests for authorization for an inpatient level of care. Currently we are requesting that someone receive medical clearance prior to an authorization being given for inpatient psychiatric care. We received feedback that this can potentially delay the ability for someone to enter a psychiatric hospital as they will need to be seen by a doctor first.

For the individual to be seen and medically cleared by the doctor, they oftentimes have to go to an emergency room and may wait for a long period of time to be seen. In addition, this is at times redundant because the inpatient unit will have to have a full history and physical completed within the first 24 hours of admission.

VBH-PA has discussed this with counties, our oversight entities, and the state, and have come to the conclusion that this line will be removed from our precertification templates. Although this will be taken out of the general list of questions asked for precertification purposes, VBH-PA may ask for medical clearance if the individual has known serious physical health concerns that could assist in making a determination that a member is more appropriate for a medical floor versus a mental health unit. In addition, if an individual is going to be transported from an emergency room to another facility, medical clearance may be required for the individual to travel.

Prescriptions and Recommendations for Child Related Services (continued)

substantially changed; however, if they did not change, then another FBA would be seen as redundant. The prescription for an FBA is predicated by the needs demonstrated within the evaluation and support by the case conceptualization within the evaluation. If an FBA is being prescribed, it is expected that the evaluation will answer why this level of care is being prescribed.

In reference to layering of services, there is not an “always or never” response that can be given as each case is unique. In general, and according to the experts in the field, those services that are evidence based practices should be prescribed as stand alone services because that is the way that they have been validated. If there is layering of services, please identify why those services are being prescribed, how the various services will communicate, and how they will work towards goal attainment with the member and family for the plan of care.

Feel free to contact Lisa Kugler, Psy.D., Vice President of Clinical Services, at Lisa.Kugler@beaconhealthoptions.com with any additional questions or concerns.

Check the Internet Portal for Up-to-Date Information About Your PROMISE Enrollments

Check the MA Enrolled Provider Portal lookup function at www.promise.dpw.state.pa.us. All provider letters and portal login screens contain your next revalidation due date. Look for changes on the provider portal for each 13-digit logon to check your service location.



Third Party Liability (TPL) Updates

VBH-PA is required to submit Third Party Liability (TPL) insurance updates to the Department of Human Services TPL Division. If the coverage listed in PROMISe™ and/or VBH-PA is no longer active, VBH-PA will need proof of the termination date before a claim can be processed for payment. This information can be faxed to the TPL Update Team at (855) 842-1285.

Please remind the member and/or responsible party that they must provide the most accurate information regarding their primary insurance coverage to the County Assistance Office. Do not request that the member/responsible party call VBH-PA to provide TPL information. VBH-PA cannot make TPL updates or terminations based on information received verbally.

When there is active third party insurance listed for a member receiving behavioral health services, VBH-PA requires that the provider submit an Explanation of Benefits from the primary insurance plan (Medicare/Commercial) along with the claim. If there is no third party insurance listed in PROMISe™ or ProviderConnect, the provider is responsible for reporting Third Party Resource information to the VBH-PA TPL Update Team.

Documentation that is NOT sufficient for TPL updates:

- Navinet sheets with no effective and/or termination dates (Blue Exchange must be verified for out-of-state and out-of-area plans)
- Third Party Administrator (TPA) eligibility sheets can only be used to terminate the TPA eligibility information

Please contact the VBH-PA Customer Service Department at 1-877-615-8503 if you have any questions. Customer Service is available for assistance Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NW3 Autism and Special Needs Family Support Groups

Value Behavioral Health of PA compiled a list of Autism & Special Needs Family Support Groups located in our northwest three (NW3) counties of Crawford, Mercer and Venango. The listing can be found on our website here: http://www.vbh-pa.com/vbh_counties/nwbhp/NW3-Autism-Support-Group-Meetings.pdf. Providers, feel free to print and distribute to your patients.

[Upcoming RTF Summits](#)

Friday, October 7th
9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Location:
Doubletree by Hilton
910 Sheraton Drive,
Mars, PA 16046

Another Great Turnout at the VBH-PA Mental Health Awareness Walk

On Tuesday, May 17, 2016, Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania (VBH-PA), the Transition Age Advisory Group (“TAAG”) and the VBH-PA Family Advisory Group (FAC) hosted their 4th Annual Mental Health Awareness Walk at Twin Lakes Park in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Westmoreland County. Over 90 participants from seven counties, including youth and young adult members ages 16-29, attended the day’s event. Sixteen vendors exhibited that day and offered a wide variety of information for the attendees. The “TAAG” Event Committee, which included case managers and youth members, made all the decisions and determined how the walk was organized. The day started with volunteers working feverishly to ensure each and every detail was handled expertly.

After a brief welcome at noon by Westmoreland County Commissioner Ted Kopas, the walk began with a blast from an air horn. The crowd gathered and walked past the towers of balloons and walked one and a half miles around the lower lake. The day was overcast and the temperature was in the low sixties, but everyone had fun walking to support Mental Health Awareness! After the walk was over, beautiful gift baskets donated by the vendors were raffled off to the attendees.

Look for the “Save the Date” in early 2017 so you can walk with us next year to support Mental Health Awareness in all 13 VBH-PA counties!



“TAAG” You’re It!

Join us at “CAMP TAAG” for a variety of activities including a confidence building course, an outdoor swimming pool, fishing, canoeing, craft and art projects, dancing, scavenger hunt, and delicious FREE food. Enjoy the activities or simply relax at CAMP “TAAG” and watch for additional surprises throughout the day!

10:30am	Registration & Exhibits open
11:00am-4:00pm	DJ
11:00am-3:00pm	Craft area open Sports Court open Volleyball Court open
11:00am-12:30pm	Corn Hole Competition Lake Activities
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch
1:00pm-3:00pm	Swimming Pool open
1:30pm-2:30pm	Punt, Pass, and Kick competition on football field WISH 99.FM Street Treat Patrol
2:00pm-3:00pm	Lake Activities
2:30pm-3:00pm	Scavenger Hunt
3:00pm	CAMP “T.A.A.G.” Group Photo
Immediately following photo	Contest winners announced Gift Basket Giveaways Closing Remarks

Please call Karan Steele with any questions at (724) 744-6537.



Return registration form to:
Karan Steele
Email: karan.steele@beaconhealthoptions.com
Mail: VBH-PA, 520 Pleasant Valley Road
Trafford, PA 15085
Fax: 1-855-541-5211

2016 “TAAG” PICNIC

COME AND JOIN US FOR “CAMP TAAG”

CREATE YOUR OWN PERSONAL CAMPING ADVENTURE!

Value Behavioral Health of PA is pleased to announce the 5th Annual “TAAG” Picnic for Transition Age Youth ages 16-29.

Where: Family Resource Family Retreat Center
1100 Freeport Road, Mars, PA

When: Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please be advised: If you plan on swimming, please bring appropriate swimwear. Athletic shoes will be required for some scheduled activities.

THIS IS a FREE event FOR EVERYONE IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA!

REGISTRATION DUE BY AUGUST 5th

Each guest must be registered individually by name.
(Please duplicate this form as needed.)

Name: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

All young adults 16-29 years old are welcome to attend; however, due to limited space, HealthChoices’ Transition Age Youth Members will be given priority registration. Transporting a transition age young adult? You are welcome to enjoy the day too.

I am (please check all that apply):

HealthChoices’ Youth Member

Other (Please specify): _____

I will be transporting HealthChoices’ Transition Age Youth Members



2015 CAMP “TAAG”



5th Annual “TAAG” Picnic **CAMP “TAAG”** 2016 Exhibitor Reservation Form

EXHIBIT BOOTH INFORMATION

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania (VBH-PA) is pleased to announce the **5th Annual VBH-PA “TAAG” Picnic for Transition Age Youth/Young Adults ages 16-29, Camp “TAAG” Create Your Own Personal Camping Adventure!** This year’s picnic will be held at Family Resources Family Retreat Center at 1100 Freeport Road, Mars, PA on Wednesday, August 10, 2016, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Exhibit space is free and available on a first come, first served basis. Set-up for exhibits will begin at 9:30 a.m. We are requesting vendors to exhibit from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Exhibitors are invited to participate in the activities. Snacks and lunch will be provided (please be sure to indicate below if you would like a lunch reservation).

Like last year, the “TAAG” Picnic committee members plan to have “TAAG” Picnic attendees visit each exhibit booth. Each exhibitor will be given a hole punch and each “TAAG” Picnic attendee will need to get their personal card punched at each exhibit booth to be entered in the gift basket giveaways specifically from the exhibitors. The “TAAG” Picnic committee members feel that this will provide additional traffic through the exhibit pavilion. Exhibitors will be outside this year, weather permitting, so you can be part of all the action at the picnic.

If you and one additional staff member are interested in exhibiting at the 2016 VBH-PA “TAAG” Picnic, please complete the following and return to **Karan Steele** by email at karan.steele@beaconhealthoptions.com or by fax at 1-855-541-5211.

The deadline for registration is August 5, 2016, and space is limited.

Exhibitor Information (please print or type)

Name of Organization			
Contact Person		Phone	
Email Address		Fax	

Complimentary Registration for Two Staff

1. Name			
2. Name			
Can you supply a gift basket for a raffle?	Yes	No	
I/we plan to attend lunch	Yes	No	

We are strongly requesting a basket giveaway donation for each exhibit space. Basket giveaways will be at approximately 3:00 p.m. Times may vary (exhibitors do not need to be present). If you have any questions, please call Karan Steele at (724) 744-6537 or (724) 493-1338 or email at karan.steele@beaconhealthoptions.com.

Upcoming Trainings

View all of our upcoming trainings on the Provider Trainings webpage: http://www.vbh-pa.com/provider/prv_trn.htm



2016 WPIC Videoconferences Spring Series!

VBH-PA is pleased to announce that our Engagement Center will be a videoconferencing site for the WPIC Office of Education and Regional Programming 2016 spring videoconference series. These programs are free of charge and there are NO fees for continuing education credits. The videoconferences are held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Walnut Room at VBH-PA's Trafford Engagement Center. For CEU information, registration information and complete descriptions of these trainings, please view the "Upcoming Trainings" section on our [Provider Training](#) webpage.

Suggestions or ideas for articles that you would like to see published in *ValueAdded* can be faxed to Kim Tzoulis, *ValueAdded* Editor, at (724) 744-6363 or emailed to kimberly.tzoulis@beaconhealthoptions.com

Articles of general importance to the provider network will be considered for publication.

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Upcoming Videoconferences*

- **June 8**—*Trauma: The Early Childhood Perspective*
- **June 22**—*First Break Psychosis: Implications for Treatment and Prevention*

Registration:

To register for these trainings, please visit the ValueOptions® [Provider Trainings Web page](#). Select **Pennsylvania** from the state dropdown list (DO NOT change any of the other fields) and then click on **Select**. Scroll down the screen and put a check mark in the box next to the event(s) and then hit **Register**. Phone-in registrations will not be accepted.

***Please Note:** These videoconferences are NOT webinars. **You must be in attendance at the Trafford Engagement Center to view these videoconferences.** VBH-PA is one of many sites offering this opportunity. Please click [here](#) to view all locations offering this videoconference series. To register with another location, please contact the coordinator for that site.