

Summary of the March 29, 2018 Every Woman CT Advisory Committee Meeting

Participants: Amanda Vercellone, Regina Owusu, Susan Lane, Marc Camardo, Leigh Lynn Vitukinas, Michal Klau Stevens, Connie Heye, Erin Jones, Jordana Frost and Marijane Carey

The meeting was held at PPSNE's Hartford North Health Clinic new space where primary health care services are offered including PrEP and PEP. This site is NCQI Level 3 approved and staff includes a Patient Care Specialist, who offers care coordination for patients. The remaining need is in the area of mental health. Currently the clinic is working with Wheeler, which has a clinic nearby.

Legislative Information: HB5039

Erin Jones and Susan Lane provided a summary and status report on HB 5039, An Act Protecting Health Care Fairness and Affordability. This bill, which protects some key provisions in the ACA, has a lot of moving parts both substantively and politically. This is a Governor's bill. For a synopsis, go to <http://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/Press-Room/Press-Releases/2018/02-2018/Gov-Malloy-Tours-Planned-Parenthood-Facility-Pushes-for-Health-Care-Legislation>, which is a press release from the Governor's office. To view the bill, go to <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/TOB/h/2018HB-05039-R00-HB.htm>.

ASTHO's Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) Learning Community: Increasing Access to Contraception

Regina Owusu from DPH was welcomed as a new member of the Advisory Committee. She has taken over from Monica Jensen as the DPH lead for CT's ASTHO LARC Learning Community, which was ending in June. This three-year Learning Community was designed to improve the capacity of states to successfully increase access to LARCs. Thirteen states, including CT, participated in year 1 & 2, which focused on states' implementation efforts for immediate post-partum placement (IPP) of LARCs. Year 3 expanded the focus on LARC issues broadly and added an additional five states to the Learning Community. Attached is the PP presentation that Regina shared at the meeting.

In May ASTHO is hosting a wrap up meeting and offering guidance to states as they continue their work without ASTHO's technical assistance. The Connecticut delegation includes EWCT Advisory Committee members Regina Owusu, Susan Lane and Jordana Frost. Amy Gagliardi, an original member of the ASTHO LARC Learning Community, will also be attending the meeting. In follow up to the May ASTHO-sponsored meeting, the next Advisory Committee meeting's agenda will include a presentation and discussion on opportunities for increasing access to contraceptives within CT's landscape.

Discussion on a Potential Partnership with Bayer Pharmaceuticals

Jordana has been approached (along with other entities including DMHAS) by Elliot Jones from Bayer. He is interested in exploring a relationship with the EWCT Advisory Committee possibility around joint training efforts targeting medical practices and/or completing a process flow study of various types of contraception in different types of settings for both privately and publicly insured patients. The purpose of the flow study would be to help identify potential access barriers and opportunities for improvement across our state. This invitation from Bayer generated a thoughtful and in-depth discussion that ended with no decision being made at this meeting. A continuation of this discussion, with a goal of making a decision regarding a relationship with Bayer, will be an agenda item at the next Advisory Committee meeting. In the meantime, Jordana will let Bayer know that we are still exploring the feasibility of having a relationship with them.

Update: Eliot left Bayer in May. His role has been handed off to Jessica Todd. The other contact who is familiar with this work is Dana Sullivan, Bayer's Medical Science Liaison.

Prepared by M. Carey