

DCF Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2020, 1:00 PM

PRESENT via Video Conference: David Aresco RPh; Paul Rao, MD; Irv Jennings, M.D.; Beth Muller, APRN; Margaret Rudin, APRN, PhD; Carlos Gonzalez, M.D.

1. The meeting was held remotely via videoconference; Dr. Rao called the meeting to order at 1:08pm.
2. The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2020 from 1pm – 2:30pm as a remote meeting.
3. DISCUSSION: Telehealth experiences and coordination of care challenges in the current climate.
 - i. Dr. Rao submitted a letter incorporating the recommendations from PMAC about telemental health services to DCF Commissioner Dorantes. A copy of the letter was distributed to the membership prior to the meeting.
 - ii. It was noted that the CT legislature recently voted to extend coverage of telemental health services.
 - iii. The challenges involved in obtaining monitoring studies, including routine vital signs, was discussed.
 - iv. HIPAA issues were discussed, including the challenges of inter-provider communication. The redundancy of HIPAA documentation between agencies was noted. Recommendations were made regarding this issue in the letter sent to the DCF commissioner.
 - v. Considerable discussion took place regarding client internet accessibility and quality.
 - vi. Advantages and disadvantages of various telehealth platforms were discussed.
 - vii. Recent DSS data around utilization of telehealth services indicates that 25% of encounters are telephone audio-only services.
 - viii. Billing and coding of these telehealth encounters was discussed
 - ix. It was noted that feedback from patients using telehealth is being sought by various groups, including DSS and advocacy groups.
 - x. Regarding DCF committed children: the value and risk/benefit ratio of requiring baseline monitoring studies was discussed. It was noted that getting labs drawn is now difficult logistically. Additionally, increased difficulty coordinating monitoring studies with PCPs was also noted. Dr. Rao reminded the group that a statement on the CMCU website indicates that the mandatory monitoring requirements are waived. No specific suggestions were made to change the protocol or alter the language.
 - xi. School re-opening plans were discussed.
 - xii. Suggestions were made regarding the use of PPE in those practice settings where in-person visits continue and may be necessary.

Dr. Rao adjourned the meeting at 1:52PM.

Respectfully submitted: David S. Aresco Consulting Pharmacist