

DCF Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2020, 1:00 PM

PRESENT via Video Conference: Amy Veivia, PharmD; David Aresco RPh; Paul Rao, MD; Dielka Brutus, APRN; Brian Keyes, M.D.; Irv Jennings, M.D.; Lee Combrinck-Graham, M.D.; Beth Muller, APRN; Margaret Rudin, APRN, PhD; Allen Alton, M.D.; Pamela Shuman, M.D.; Tina Spokes, RN

1. The meeting was held remotely via ZOOM; Dr. Rao called the meeting to order at 1:06pm.
2. The next meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2020 from 1pm – 2:30pm as a remote meeting.
3. DISCUSSION: Telehealth experiences and coordination of care challenges in the current climate:
 - Several PMAC Members who are community providers provided feedback and remarks regarding what the role of telehealth could/should be as the state “re-opens” and relaxes COVID-19 restrictions/rules, etc.
 - i. Feedback provided by Beth Muller, Dr. Combrinck-Graham and Dr. Jennings were made available to PMAC members, reviewed, and discussed at length. Discussion highlights included:
 1. Reimbursement issues/challenges. Noted may be agency specific
 2. Involvement of patient and/or parents in the treatment plan
 3. “Evidence based” decisions
 4. Noted decisions regarding the role of telemedicine may be made relatively quickly so any recommendations/actions made/taken by PMAC need to be expedited
 5. Evaluation of what does “least harm”; telemedicine or live visitations
 6. Noted there may be guidelines on this topic from various professional medical organizations that could be used even if fundamental in nature
 7. Possible resistance to this format/technology from patients/clients/family should be considered
 8. The future may result in there being a choice relating to live vs telemedicine visits
 9. Noted evidence for the effectiveness of telemedicine is anecdotal
 10. Telemedicine may have the advantage of more parent participation
 11. Client participation may be age dependent, for example the very young may not be appropriate for this approach
 12. Noted communications between systems may be an important issue
 13. Noted problems with DCF case workers showing up as scheduled; also noted that this is not a new problem.

14. Paper vs. verbal consent needs to be managed
15. Noted working remotely can sometimes be a barrier to effective communications
16. Noted Courts are beginning to re-open
17. Effectiveness of available remote software; Zoom has shown noted improvement while others such as Facetime have not
18. Noted Zoom is now more secure and is HIPPA compliant
19. Noted a proposed end date for the “emergency” in CT is 09 September 2020.
20. Noted telemedicine may have some logistical advantages
21. A barrier may be accessibility of the needed technology to patients, such as adequate bandwidth
22. Noted there would be a significant difference in using telemedicine with patients already known to the practitioner vs. new patients
23. A suggestion was made have a check list or similar tool placed on the PMAC web site regarding tips on using telemedicine; the ACAAP tool kit may already have a check list that can be used
24. Possible eye strain related to long term computer (screen) use noted
25. Noted that some services will continue to need to be provided in person i.e. hospitalizations, residential programs, group homes
26. Noted in some cases the patients are remote, but the treating staff is at their work location
27. The possibility of meeting outside noted but also noted climate issues
28. Note indoor spaces can be modified to allow social distancing but also noted in some cases internal space does not allow this without major re-modeling

ii. Documentation demands were discussed as follows:

1. Changes in coding
2. Telehealth coding; need for a modifier.
3. Laws that may limit telehealth and prescribing such as the Ryan Haight Act
4. Telehealth as part of an EMR

Dr. Rao will put together a document based on these discussions and distribute it to the membership of PMAC.

4. Dr. Rao adjourned the meeting at 2:19PM.

Respectfully submitted: David S. Aresco Consulting Pharmacist