**CRC Advisory Minutes**

3-8-18

**Advisory members’ action steps/follow-up requests:**

* **Please Ask Teams:**
  + **Summer Camps list-** do we need to create/update our own list or are these websites sufficient (which would allow us to focus our resources on other tasks)?
    - [SPED Child and Teen Special Needs Camp 2018](http://www.spedchildmass.com/camps-special-needs-massachusetts-autism-aspergers/) (*Printable list*)
    - [Summer Fun Camp Directory](http://fcsn.org/camps/) - Federation for Children with Special Needs
    - [Autism Speaks: Camps in Massachusetts](https://www.autismspeaks.org/resource-guide/by-state/126/Camps/ma)
    - [Camps for Children with Diabetes](http://www.childrenwithdiabetes.com/camps)
    - [Summer Camps for Amputees and Children with Limb Differences](http://www.amputee-coalition.org/events-programs/youth-camp/about-camp/)
  + **Request to translate burial packet into Spanish.** To help us determine cost/benefit of translation, please estimate how often needed. (Note this is a long document- likely will be pricey to translate.)
  + **Community Resource/Public Benefits presentations-** are there topic suggestions that they would like us to review during staff mtg?
  + Share program updates below as pertinent to your team.
* **CRC Advisory Members:** 
  + **Elena’s Orientation:** we’re seeking 1-2 CRC Advisory members to meet with Elena to review your role and interaction with her position. Please contact Ellen with questions or to volunteer (thanks in advance!)
  + **Member rotation- members please tell Ellen:** how long have you served? If we move to a 2-year term of service and set up a staggered rotation, do you have a preference to rotate-off sooner or continue longer?

Thanks!

***Style note****- Agenda content in black text; discussion, further information and follow-up requested in* ***purple****.*

**CRC Updates**

* **Welcome to our new General Resource Specialist- Elena Chace!** Started 3/5,will notify staff when ready to accept consults (expect another week or two of orientation).
  + **Much appreciation to the 2nd Interview Committee:** Melanie Cohn-Hopwood, Clorinda Cottrell, Eric Hanson, Petrina Jacob and Martha Southworth.
  + **Background:** BS in Human Services and Criminal Justice from Northeastern, January 2018. Related experience includes co-op with Attorney General’s office as a Victim’s Comp assistant, Samaritans volunteer, relief staff at DV shelter, founded a campus suicide and mental illness education organization.
  + **Can we get a volunteer or two for her to shadow?**
  + **Enhanced service model**- To better support staff, patients and families and improve job satisfaction we will be enhancing the service model to include direct patient contact for resource requests. Planning- **what would be helpful from a SW perspective? Discussion:**
    - **SWs looking forward to having the option to turn over selected cases**
    - **Suggest that SW assess and then refer.** Often the consult doesn’t reflect the real need/request.
    - **Would like the resource specialist (CRS) to document in Epic.**
    - Case that morning- SW spent most of the morning looking for free medical clinics in Maine for transplant pt- we’re required to connect them to care. Ideally would like the ability for CRS to follow-up and confirm- did it work/make connection?
    - Frequent need- Housing resources such as the RAFT program. Discussed and all agreed- we wouldn’t become housing advocates, we’d connect to housing advocates, HCECs, etc.
      * **Overall agreement that it makes sense to maintain the same level/depth of intervention as currently**- connect to resources, but don’t take on ongoing case management tasks or assisting with applications, etc.

**Team Feedback, questions, project ideas, resource sharing?**

* SW reported on first **Maine Medicaid transport** case. Much more complicated than we were originally informed. Must register to access online form. Requires prior authorization – need service codes, letter of medical necessity and last two consult notes. Will require teaming – more appropriate for medical staff (nursing?) to provide these. NOTE: their **Medicaid office informed SW that while we can complete request, Medicaid prefers PCP do so**.
* One team had previously communicated request for **SRO list to be reformatted for easier printing**. This will be a project for Elena. CRC will also clarify wording on website to distinguish between updated list and old list available for photo reference.

**Community Resource Updates and Seeking Feedback**

* **MassHealth ACO updates –** 30 day transition period through March people can continue to get their care here and should be able to continue with scripts, prior auths, etc. **PFS staff should be trained and the primary place to refer questions.**
* **RIDE On-Demand Paratransit pilot updates**
  + **Clarification: On Demand service is not available to those with 30 Day medical necessity approvals.**
  + **Cost structure has changed:** originally after an initial $2 ($1 for Uber pool users) the MBTA would pay the remaining fare up to a total of $15 with the participant responsible for any cost over $15. The current subsidy is up to $40 per trip after the initial $2 ($1 for Uber Pool).
  + **Pilot set to expire April 1- unclear if it will continue.** Per *The**Boston Globe*: **“**T staff recommended the program continue through June, at least, with discussions about the future of the service to occur during budgeting for fiscal 2019.” It is not saving as much as they hoped as initial savings have been offset by higher usage (as discussed in our previous meetings- people who wouldn’t use the traditional RIDE service are using On-Demand).
* **Reminder: SNAP replacement benefits**- SNAP recipients who lose power for more than 4 hours or lose food due to other disasters (fire, flood, appliance failure, etc.) can apply for [replacement benefits](https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/snap-replacement-benefits-due-natural-disaster-power-loss-flooding-or-other-misfortune). Must apply within 10 days of loss. **UPDATE:** DTA requested and received permission from USDA to accept requests for losses from the March 2/3 storm and March 8/9 storm and tomorrow’s storm (3/13) **through April 2nd.**
  + **How do they verify loss?** DTA will confirm what happened by contacting a third party, using news reports or, in unusual cases, visiting the client's home. This can be local news reports of affected areas, information from power companies (for outages) or municipal fire/police departments (in the case of a fire), documentation from a community or other agencies (Red Cross, shelters), statements from appliance repair providers. If the household does not have information confirming the extent of the power loss, ask DTA to make a collateral contact (third party contact) to the power company.
* **DRAFT Public Charge memo leaked**- this is **not** final and would likely take several months to go into effect. Would expand the types of benefits considered for “public charge” from just cash benefits and Medicaid for LTC to virtually any public benefit- including Head Start, Health Insurance, LIHEAP, etc., including for US citizen children. Does not change benefits **eligibility**, but would does allow the government to deny a new visa or new LPR/Green card application (adjustment of status). Remains NOT an issue for people who already have LPR (unless leaving US for over 180 days). **Pts may have heard about it and may ask questions.** You can reassure patients that it is NOT an issue for refugees or asylees applying for LPR, and **will not apply to benefits received before proposed rules go into effect. Please feel free to contact Ellen with any questions.**
  + **Discussion-** SWs noted that these changes would have serious impacts and would have a chilling effect. Immigrants, even legal immigrants, are already afraid to apply for benefits in the current climate. Some have suggested that part of the GOP’s strategy is to sow confusion and fear even among those these changes wouldn’t impact.
* **Summer Camps list-** typically updated in February. Due to vacancy we’ve been unable to update. **Do we need our own list or can we give existing websites?**
  + [SPED Child and Teen Special Needs Camp 2018](http://www.spedchildmass.com/camps-special-needs-massachusetts-autism-aspergers/)
  + [Summer Fun Camp Directory](http://fcsn.org/camps/) - Federation for Children with Special Needs
  + [Autism Speaks: Camps in Massachusetts](https://www.autismspeaks.org/resource-guide/by-state/126/Camps/ma)
  + [Camps for Children with Diabetes](http://www.childrenwithdiabetes.com/camps)
  + [Summer Camps for Amputees and Children with Limb Differences](http://www.amputee-coalition.org/events-programs/youth-camp/about-camp/)
    - **Options for those without computer access?** The first listing above([SPED Child and Teen Special Needs Camp 2018](http://www.spedchildmass.com/camps-special-needs-massachusetts-autism-aspergers/)) can be printed-out.
* **Request to translate burial packet into Spanish- estimate need? Please ask teams- to help us determine cost/benefit of translation, please estimate how often needed.** (Note this is a long document- likely will be pricey to translate.)
* **Topics for Staff Meeting review? Please ask teams.**
* **Member rotation-** leadership suggested we offer opportunity to interested staff; we’ll be discussing guidelines for length of service and rotation. How long have you served? If we stagger rotation- do you have a preference to rotate-off sooner or continue longer?

**Next meeting: Thurs June 14, 12:00 - 1:00, SS Conf room**