**Taxonomy Commission**

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2019

2:00-4:00 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, February 14, 2019

Start time: 2:07pm

End time: 4:01pm

Location: Michael Matta Conference room, 11th Floor, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108

Members present:

* Lauren Peters – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (Chair)
* Matthew Veno -- Division of Insurance
* Deirdre Calvert, LICSW -- Column Health
* Kate Ginnis, MSW, MPH, MS -- Boston Children’s Hospital
* Sarah Chiaramida, Esq. -- Mass. Association of Health Plans
* Kiame Mahaniah, MD -- Lynn Community Health Center
* Sarah Coughlin, LICSW, LADC-I -- National Association of Social Workers

Members calling in:

* Scott Weiner, MD, MPH -- Brigham and Women’s Hospital
* Diana Deister, MD -- Boston Children’s Hospital
* Claudia Rodriguez, MD -- Brigham and Women’s Hospital
* Ken Duckworth, MD -- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mass.

**Proceedings**

Undersecretary Peters called the meeting to order at 2:07pm.

**Vote:** The Undersecretary introduced a motion to approve the January 17th minutes, which was seconded and approved, by roll-call vote. Dr. Mahaniah abstained due to his absence from the January 17th meeting.

Undersecretary Peters asked if members had any changes they’d like to suggest to the current draft of the recommended taxonomy. Dr. Rodriguez suggested changing the current language used around substance use disorders. The commission deliberated and agreed on a solution, before moving on to the unaddressed categories for the recommended taxonomy. The commission deliberated and finalized the working draft of the recommended taxonomy.

Undersecretary Peters opened the discussion of treatment modalities to be included in the commission’s recommendations. Similar to the process used for the recommended taxonomy terms, the commission used the Draft Change Form document as a basis for its deliberations, looking to additional modalities from the Psychology Today “Therapist Finder” tool for consideration.

Dr. Rodriguez left the meeting via conference call at 2:45pm.

The commission continued to deliberate. Ms. Chiaramida suggested looking, during a future meeting, at the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) directory structure to help the commission understand the level of detail that should be included in its recommendations. Undersecretary Peters agreed with this suggestion.

Undersecretary Peters opened the discussion of which medical conditions to include in the draft taxonomy item of “Coping with medical illness.” The commission deliberated and agreed to either recommend a list of ten medical conditions based on prevalence and impact within behavioral health practice, or to recommend the capability for “free text” search for conditions, if this was technologically feasible within provider directories. Ms. Chiaramida offered to ask among stakeholders what would be feasible.

Undersecretary described the commission’s next steps, of looking at validation processes used by other groups and using them to build recommendations. Ms. Chiaramida recommended looking at the work of Aperture, Inc. as an example. Undersecretary Peters emphasized that the recommended validation process should not “create additional hurdles for behavioral health providers,” as that would be “antithetical to the goals of this group.” She explained that the standard of the “reasonable person” may be used by the commission in its next meeting when thinking about its recommendations. She then explained that she will be having a conversation with a representative from Aperture before the next meeting to determine what their current function/capacity for validation is, and that she would then report out those findings to the group.

**Vote:** The Undersecretary introduced a motion for the meeting to adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously approved, by roll-call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01pm.