

TCB Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2024

2:00PM-4:00PM

Legislative Office Building 1E

Zoom Option Available

Attendance

Alice Forrester	Gary Highsmith	Michael Moravecek
Angel Quiros	Gerard O’Sullivan	Michael Patota
Betty Ann MacDonald	Howard Sovronsky	Mickey Kramer
Beverly Streit-Kefalas	Jason Lang	Nicole Klarides-Ditria
Carol Bourdon	Jeanne Milstein	Sean King
Carolyn Grandell	Jeff Vanderploeg	Sinthia Sone-Moyano
Catherine Foley Geib	Jillian Gilchrest	Tammy Exum
Catherine Osten	Jodi Hill Lilly	Tammy Freeberg
Ceci Maher	Jody Terranova	Tammy Venenga
Christina Ghio	Kai Belton	Toni Walker
Claudio Gualtieri	Kimberly Karanda	Yann Poncin
Cristin McCarthy Vahey	Lorna Thomas-Farquharson	Yvonne Pallotto
Edith Boyle	Michael D. Powers	

TYJI Staff

Izarelli Mendieta-Martinez
Erika Nowakoski

Welcome and Introductions

Tri-Chairs Representative Tammy Exum, Senator Ceci Maher, and Claudio Gualtieri welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Acceptance of TCB Meeting Minutes

Erika Nowakowski requested a motion to accept September’s meeting minutes. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Overview of the Meeting

The October monthly meeting was opened with an update on the development of the mission statement options for the TCB Strategic Plan, followed by a presentation on Innovations Institute at the UCONN School of Social Work’ scope of work. Additionally, the TCB Workgroup Co-Chairs provided an update on the legislative recommendations of each workgroup.

Mission Statement Level Setting

The two mission statement options for the TCB strategic plan were developed based on surveys responses previously collected from the TCB members. Committee members were presented with these options and asked to vote on their preferred choice. Out of 36 responses received, 28 votes were received by TCB members. Option 2 was identified as the preferred choice, receiving 20 votes, while Option 1 received 8 votes. Based on these results, the TCB Tri-Chairs agreed to close the survey and proceed with Option 2 as the selected mission statement.

Overview of TCB Scope of Work by the Innovations Institute

The Innovations Institute provided an overview of their organizational background and their learning management system, which includes 17 modules on relevant topics. Innovations recommended nine modules for the TCB to focus on (1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, and 16) for level-setting purposes.

Innovations Institute's provided the TCB with information about their upcoming reports. The first report focus on reviewing interagency structures and governance and oversight mechanisms in Connecticut in relation to children's behavioral health with a draft due by December 16, 2024 and a final report by April 30, 2025. The second report will examine a financing desk review related to children's behavioral health with initial recommendations by March 31, 2025, and a final report with recommendations by June 6, 2025. Additionally, a draft framework for an updated children's behavioral health expenditures report will be delivered by June 30, 2025.

Innovations Institute will develop a report on data infrastructure, data-sharing, and continuous quality improvement (CQI) which assesses data systems related to children's behavioral health in Connecticut. This report's draft will delivered by December 16, 2024 with the final report, completed by April 30, 2025.

A service array assessment report will be developed to summarize the efforts to identify the publicly funded children's behavioral health service array in Connecticut, population needs and identify service gaps. The report will incorporate data from a provider survey currently being develop with the collaboration of Innovations Institute and the service array subgroup. The survey will be disseminated to providers on January 2025 and a summary of the initial findings presented for review in April 2025. The draft of the service gap analysis report will be completed by June 30, 2025.

A TCB member inquired about the integration of families and the involvement of state commissioners addressing the social, mental, physical drivers of health. The presenters clarified when addressing children's services, they are referring to the recipient of the system, which includes families for services like peer support. Another member brought concerns regarding how the workforce issue contribute to the service gaps of the system. The presenters reported data on access and current utilization will highlight the impact of workforce issues. It was reported that other states are working to improve their data tracking, state plan amendments financing shifts and creating seed funding for new initiatives. Concerns about excluding individuals with ID or Autism were raised. The presenter responded the EPSTT Guidance promotes inclusion and focus on improving health for all children. The importance of sharing information about potential workforce barriers and how to address barriers to the TCB committee were discussed.

Legislative Recommendations Timeline Presented by TYJI

The TCB workgroup co-chairs presented on the draft workgroup legislative recommendations. Members were encouraged to provide feedback on the draft legislative recommendations to TYJI following the TCB meeting. TYJI will compile the feedback and share with the TCB workgroup co-chairs. This feedback will be reviewed within the workgroups and the language will be modified. During the TCB November meeting, the workgroup members will present any modifications made. The draft legislative recommendations will be finalized in December with voting taking place during the TCB January meeting.

The TCB System Infrastructure workgroup co-chairs presented recommendations developed by the system infrastructure workgroup. These recommendations align with those from the Services Workgroup in addressing the current Medicaid reimbursement rates. During the discussion, the Medicaid Part 1 study was referenced, highlighting that Connecticut's rates was approximately 62% below those of comparison states. The recommendation proposes a \$45 million investment to the children's behavioral health system and continued evaluations of the current Medicaid reimbursement rates. Additionally, the group discuss the need for incentives to encourage commercial insurance companies to align with expected Medicaid rates. The second draft system infrastructure workgroup legislative recommendation emphasized the need for comprehensive data to evaluate the effectiveness of system, identifying which data is necessary to ensure accountability, transparency and resource identification. Discussions of the creation of a public dashboard with real time data was brought forward.

The co-chairs of the TCB Services workgroup provided an update on the workgroup draft legislative recommendation, which will focus on assessing service array landscape to identify the existing service gaps. During the discussion, a member raised concerns about ensuring the private providers were included to provide a full view of the system in the state. Due to timeline constraints, the first phase of the survey will focus on the Medicaid population with the second phase looking into private insurers.

Next Steps

Members were encouraged to join the Services Array subgroup for those interested in contributing to the service array survey. The School-Based Workgroup and the Prevention Workgroup are set to be activated in 2025 and applications for co-chair candidates can be submitted via the workgroup form. Further details regarding the next TCB Strategic Plan Meeting will be shared with the committee once finalized.

Next Meeting: November 13, 2024

Time: 2:00PM-4:00PM

Hybrid Model Option (In person and available over zoom)