



**Maryland Association for the
Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Inc.**

Minutes from November 9, 2016 meeting

Meeting called to order at 1:00 PM

MATOD Board Members present: Marian Currens, Chuck Watson, Howard Ashkin and Ken Stoller. Vickie Walters and Yngvild Olsen were excused due to scheduling conflicts.

MATOD Members present: Please see the Sign-In sheet

MATOD Members via phone: Karen Reese, Nicole Lyon, Jennifer Thompkins, Yehuda Moradian

State Partners: Barry Paige, Kathy Rebbert-Franklin, Christina Trenton

Minutes from September 14, 2016 approved with one spelling correction (sorry Ann Ciekot).

The meeting began with recognition and celebration of the successful AATOD conference with cake generously provided by Riverside Treatment Services. Special thanks were offered to Vickie Walters, Ken Stoller, Marian Currens and Lil Donnard for their tireless and appreciated contributions. Baltimore's AATOD conference broke many benchmarks, including the largest attended conference in history.

1. OMS and Re-Bundling Status Report

OMS: Members experienced difficulties accessing Provider Connect on October 1st immediately prior to and after the application crashed. Within a few days, access was improved. Members shared difficulties related to authorizations for patients transferring from one provider to another for the same level of care. The recommendation solution is to call BHO with the transferring patient, so the patient can inform BHO to close the prior authorization and open a new authorization where the patient is transferring to. Members reported that this solution took less than 30 minutes. Programs were reminded that the OMS requirement started 10/1/16, and to visit BHO's website for information related to procedures, forms and how OMS will impact treatment authorizations. Members were also reminded that OTPs can complete the OMS questionnaire on the 1st day of treatment, or during the patients' first 3 weeks of treatment.

Re-Bundling: Members voiced concern that the final proposal did not address the authorization process for counseling, medical and medication services. Medicaid (Rebecca Frechard) stated publically (Provider Council call) that only one (1) authorization will be required to cover 26 weeks of services. Medicaid has published varying limits on counseling units for Level 1 providers during the authorized span of time. Ann Ciekot suggested that providers continue to communicate their concerns and recommendations to MATOD, for inclusion in a letter to DHMH when the formal public comment period opens. Ken Stoller reminded members that MATOD's BOD was able to convince BHO to expand the authorization window of time for IOP patients.

2. SOTA Update - Barry Page and Kathy Rebbert-Franklin updated members:

SAMHSA Mid-Level Exceptions:

SAMHSA is reviewing OTP requests very slowly. While they have approved 2 OTPs, there are many more that have been denied or remain pending.

Membership was recommended to ensure that their exception requests address how a mid-level exception can improve the quality of care patients receive and improve the utilization of the Program Physician or Medical Director's time. Further discussion between BHA and SAMHSA are scheduled for December – Barry Page will update members at the January 11th MATOD meeting.

OTP Quality of Care Workgroup Summary:

Best-practice standards and recommendations were created by providers, consumers, and community stake holders, in response to Legislative request for BHA's plan to address community concerns amid the Opioid epidemic. The workgroup's recommendations are being reviewed by Dr. Barbara Bazron (BHA Executive Director), for submission to HGO Committee.

Kathy discussed the recommendations of increased training of accreditation and best-practice standards, increasing the availability of Naloxone to OTP patients and increased utilization of the PDMP.

3. **BOPCT Update** – Members discussed the on-going need for additional qualified counselors in order to provide increased treatment services to more patients. The BOPCT schedule was discussed, and members were encouraged to attend the monthly Open Meetings on the 3rd Fridays of the month. Members were reminded of the July 2017 Board vacancies for one LCPC, 3 LCADCs and 1 consumer.
4. **AATOD Update** – Ken Stoller provided the following update:

AATOD Report to MATOD during MATOD meeting 11/9/16:

Ken Stoller, M.D., MATOD Liaison to the AATOD Board of Directors

- 1) Ken forwarding last AATOD board meeting minutes (from June) to MATOD membership.
- 2) Key issues discussed in Open AATOD meeting during AATOD Conference:
 - a. Kim Johnson, SAMHSA:
 - i. She offered to send a federal representative to help with addressing barriers – e.g., to opening a new OTP. For example, the person could talk at a public forum.
 - ii. CDC study costing \$10 million will be starting – outcome of treatment of different medications. Will take a long time.
 - iii. “TOP-Q”: 5 year TA program to facilitate integration and care coordination. Is this something Maryland is getting involved with?
 - iv. Lots of grants including TCC-MAT, TCC-TAC (innovative things like apps), TCC-HIV, TCC-PTP (peer to peer).
 - v. CBHSQ – Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality – Data on treatment need, locations of OTP's and Bup docs – showing where the needs for treatment are. (Is Maryland aware and using?)
 - vi. MATx App
 - b. DEA officials:
 - i. Willing to start licensing mobile treatment vans again. Working with counsel to draft new regs.
 - ii. NTP's accepting meds back – The NTP has to be registered to accept the medication, and have a container, etc. OR witness destruction by the patient. But apparently they are willing to work further on this to make it more OTP-logistic-friendly, so they can take meds back more simply and effectively.
 - iii. NTP's and telemedicine – is under discussion. Physicians need DEA numbers and medical license in both states (where they sit and where the patient is located).
 - iv. Can use NTIS (National Treatment Informatics System) to get up to date info on bup prescribers. www.ntis.gov
 - v. Revising NTP guidelines – two docs, one for NTP's and one for DATA providers. Aiming for Spring 2017. Mark is very impressed that they've already shared it with SAMHSA and other partners.
 - vi. Mark says they are also discussing the issue of how to enable OTP's to deliver to jails and residential treatment sites, which has been a sticking point among some field agents.

- 3) Other issues AATOD is addressing:
 - a. Benzo guidelines
 - b. PDMP study (lots of additional meds discovered, resulting in assignment to more treatment. See report Ken sent for more detail.)
 - c. Medicare payment – No-go through CMS. AATOD to work now through ONDCP, may need legislation.
 - d. Want to help expand OTP's
 - e. White papers – read them.

5. Treasure's Update – An update was not available.

6. BHO Audit Update – BHO Financial audits will begin by summer 2017. Programs were advised that prior audits included a focus on: a) individualized treatment plans, b) documentation of the time that counseling sessions began and ended, c) individualized progress notes and d) proper documentation of Trainee supervision. Financial audits can result in retraction of prior payments if documentation is insufficient. BHO's audit tools are on their website, but the OTP audit tool is still in development.

7. Legislative Update: The 2017 legislative session opens January 11th. Ann Ciekot summarized the importance of building on the relationships and gains in 2016. The FY 2018 Budget is due January 17th – work has begun to protect and improve SUD/Behavioral Health funding. Some key areas include the reintroduction of “Keep The Door Open” (funding), Telehealth, Medicaid's budget and educating decision-makers about the benefit and costs associated with MAT.

8. MATOD Public Policy Committee: In addition to MATOS's Board members, the Public Policy Committee needs volunteers. The Committee is led by Ann Ceikot, who organizes weekly conference calls, necessary testimony or letters of support and overall activities in support of the passage or defeat of SUD/Behavioral Health related bills. Membership was encouraged to send an email to Ann if interested (aciekot@policypartners.net).

NOTE: 2017 MATOD meetings will start at 12:00 noon to accommodate those who travel.

Meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month, from 12:00 – 2:00, in the Dix Building Basement.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 11th from 12:00 – 2:00

Meeting adjourned at 3:15

Respectfully submitted by:

Howard Ashkin, MMH, PsA
MATOD Secretary