

Allegheny County Council

*436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

Mike Finnerty, Chair

Members; Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Paul Klein, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni, Sue Means, John Palmiere

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03.

Invited Guests:

Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Ms. Soroka was present from the Department of Budget & Finance.

Ms. Phillips, Mr. Amatangelo and Mr. Engel were present from Allegheny HealthChoices.

Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Finnerty, Sue Means, Sam DeMarco and Paul Klein

Members Absent: 5 - Nick Futules, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni and John Palmiere

III. Approval of Minutes

[9446-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2015 meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

**A motion was made by DeMarco , seconded by Klein, that this matter be Passed.
The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

[9447-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2015 meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

**A motion was made by DeMarco , seconded by Klein, that this matter be Passed.
The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

IV. Agenda Items

Discussion Topic

At the request of the Chair, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Amatangelo and Mr. Engel came to the table, and Ms. Phillips provided a brief overview of Allegheny HealthChoices and discussed the economic impact of County nonprofits. Ms. Phillips noted that the entity was formed to provide an overview of the Medicaid program, described how various entities administer Medicaid on the county level in other areas of the Commonwealth, and discussed the interaction between various components of the County's Medicaid management system. Ms. Phillips indicated that the agency's primary function was initially to monitor the activities and performance of Community Care Behavioral Health (which is affiliated with UPMC), and that this relationship has evolved over time to be more of a partnership geared toward coordinating the provision of behavioral health services as funding for the behavioral health program has gone from under \$80 million in 1999 to nearly \$400 million currently. Ms. Phillips noted that AHCI functioned as the project manager in coordinating the closure of the Mayview State Hospital and the reintegration of individuals who were receiving care there into the community.

In response to questions from Mr. Klein, Ms. Phillips discussed the behavioral care

environment within the County prior to AHCI's involvement began in 1999, and described the makeup of her Board of Directors.

In response to questions from Mr. DeMarco, Ms. Phillips agreed to furnish additional information regarding the funding that is provided to AHCI by various government entities. Ms. Phillips noted that there were significant unmet mental health service needs back when AHCI came into being in the late 1990s, and that the increase in funding since that time is a positive trend. Ms. Phillips discussed the treatment model that is employed for many of the individuals who receive services, and also noted that, while there has been an increase in the numbers of mentally ill individuals who are incarcerated, there is likely not a direct correlation between the closure of Mayview and an increase in County jail population.

Mr. DeMarco inquired about options that exist apart from the criminal justice system for individuals who may require mental health services and how performance is measured within this context. Ms. Phillips discussed how funding is allocated within the behavioral health program and how AHCI interfaces with local law enforcement in order to improve outcomes for individuals who might otherwise end up incarcerated.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Ms. Phillips noted that a report on the Mayview closure was issued within the last year, and that that report is available on the AHCI website. Ms. Phillips re-emphasized that AHCI doesn't directly provide mental health services, but works in concert with Community Care Behavioral Health, which is the service provider.

Ms. Means suggested that there may be wisdom in providing information regarding AHCI's activities and the resources that are available at various community fairs and other similar events. Ms. Phillips agreed that there is probably merit in providing that type of information, but that the various agencies that provide services might be the better agency to provide the information.

In response to questions from the Chair, Ms. Phillips discussed the populations for which AHCI coordinates services, and referred the Members to the AHCI website for additional information. Ms. Phillips also discussed how AHCI reports information regarding the providers' activities and what types of financial and performance factors that are reviewed by AHCI and Community Care Behavioral Health, and noted that it isn't always easy to establish outcome criteria in mental health services settings, as the metrics can be fairly subjective and may depend greatly upon the individual involved.

In response to questions from Mr. Klein, Ms. Phillips indicated that there are approximately 25 staff members working for AHCI within Allegheny County, and noted that the annual reports are posted on the website, with the 2015 report likely to become available later in the year.

In response to questions from Mr. DeMarco, Ms. Phillips noted that the County pays AHCI 2.7% of the value of the contract with Community Care Behavioral Health for its services.

Ms. Means inquired about how AHCI responds to requests for assistance from individuals who have no private insurance or Medicaid resources available, and Ms. Phillips provided a brief overview of how services are paid for through the interaction between insurance, Medicaid and human services funding.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Ms. Phillips discussed the interaction of

different services to provide an integrated system of care for people who may have needs beyond mental health or drug & alcohol services for things like transportation assistance, food expense assistance, and the like.

In response to a question from the Chair regarding individuals who may have health insurance through entities other than UPMC, Ms. Phillips noted that, as of now, the insurance provider is not a determining factor with regard to the services coordinated and overseen by AHCI. Ms. Phillips also noted that the Affordable Care Act has changed how mental health services are covered.

Ms. Means and Ms. Phillips discussed trends in treating opioid addiction.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03.