

State of Connecticut
State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services
May 17, 2017
Connecticut Valley Hospital

Present: Chairman John Hamilton, Craig Allen, Rebecca Allen, Connie Anderson, Mary Lou Anderson, Peggy Ayer, Samuel Ball, Kristie Barber, Sharon Castelli, Deron Drumm, Marcia Dufore, Kathy Flaherty, Ingrid Gillespie, Angela Harris, Jennifer Henry, Irene Herden, Juan Hernandez, Kati Mapa, Yashira Pepin, Manuel Paris, Larry Pittinger, Brian Reignier, Kevin Sevarino, Margaret Sirota, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Margaret Watt

Excused: Ismene Petrakis, Sandy Cole, Marcus McKinney

DMHAS Staff: Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon, Diana Lejardi, Paul DiLeo, Mary Kate Mason, Nancy Navarretta, Marilyn Duran

Agenda Item 1: Call to order and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 PM by Chairman John Hamilton.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting review and action

The minutes from the April 19, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted with one amendment.

Agenda Item 3: Commissioner's Update

- ***1 Recent DMHAS Public Service Announcements (PSA) Lesley (Supported Employment)***
 - Lesley talked about how supported employment has changed her life for the better and how it can help others as well.For more information please go to the DMHAS Facebook page, Twitter, and website.
- ***Quilt (photos):*** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon announced that the first quilt has been completed and was displayed at the prevention conference this week. The CHR clubhouse members put it together. There are two other quilts that are close to being completed. The quilts are a wonderful tribute to people and will be displayed around in different events, schools, and conferences.
- ***State Targeted Initiatives Federal Grant (STR):*** Deputy Commissioner Navarretta gave an update on the STR grant that is for 2 years and 5.5 million federal dollars. DMHAS is posting RFPs just about every week on this grant. Some of the RFPs that have been posted are on Opioid Education and Family Support Group; "Welcome MAT" at Substance Abuse Residential Programs; Treatment Pathways; Methadone Clinic Based Recovery Coaches; and Hospital Emergency Department Medication Induction for Opioid Use Disorders (OUD). There will be more RFPs posted soon.
- ***Access Line and Related Transportation Enhancement:*** Diana Lejardi did a presentation on the Access Line and Transportation Enhancement. It has a 1-800 phone line answered 24/7 and operated by ABH since 1998. The Access Line provides callers with detox screening, referral, and transportation to the substance abuse treatment services they need. As of July 1st all requests for transportation must go through the 1-800-563-4086 line. The two providers for transportation are Columbus House Road to Recovery and the Access Line.
- ***Budget:*** Paul DiLeo gave an update on the budget. We are dealing with six different budgets right now. The Governor's original and revised budget; the Appropriations Committee; Democratic; and Republican's House and Senate budget. The highlights of the Governor's May budget, as it relates to DMHAS, would be that there is some caseload growth in the YAS, hospital discharge, mental health waiver, and general assistance programs. Overall, the budget reduces DMHAS's appropriation from the Governor's original

budget by about \$12 million. DMHAS received a rescission last week of about \$7.1 million. The budget reduces mental health and substance abuse grants; it includes a term called state-operated restructure or privatization. It also reduces funding for CLRP, RACs, RMHBs, and CMHC's research by \$1.2 million and annualizes some of the reductions that occurred earlier in the fiscal year.

- **Legislative:** Mary Kate Mason provided a legislative update. Bills this session have very little on mental health. If you know any elected officials in your district reach out to them and let them know the importance of mental health services. The focus this session is on opioids; although they are not looking to fund any initiatives. They're only looking to do laws that with no cost associated to the state.

Agenda Item 4: Item for June Agenda

- The Executive Committee has agreed to design an assessment tool for the State Board on how to achieve diversity composition.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion on the Value of Announcements/General Updates/Announcements

- **CPN:** Ingrid Gillespie provided and update: CPN received very positive feedback from the 5 Regional Benzodiazepine and Opioid forums that we conducted. Thank you to John Hamilton and Dr. Craig Allen as the presenters for all 5 forums. May 14-20th is National Prevention Week. Go to cprevention.org for a series on information briefs on the daily topics for this week.

CPN members continue to be very busy with requests for trainings, information, and technical assistance. CPN is presently working on an initiative focused on getting opioids into blister packs.

- **CLRP:** Kathy Flaherty announced that CLRP has reopened the housing intake but will need to lay off a third of the staff effective July 1st.

Agenda Item 6: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 P.M.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of CVH Page Hall.