

State of Connecticut
State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services
February 18, 2015
Connecticut Valley Hospital

Present: Peggy Ayer, Kristy Barber, Marcia DuFore, Danielle Elliott, Kathy Flaherty, Wendy Fralick, Ingrid Gillespie, Gary Grabko, Irene Herden, Jennifer Gross, Juan Hernandez, Tina Inferrera, Marcus McKinney, Pat Mosimann, Bob Painter, Brian Reignier, Jim Smith, Tom Steen, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Phil Valentine, Jan Van Tassel, Margaret Watt, Leslie Woods

Excused: Sharon Castelli, Manuel Paris, Ismene Petrakis, Kevin Sevarino

DMHAS Staff: Commissioner Rehmer, Barbara Bugella, Paul DiLeo, Doreen Del Bianco, Kate McNulty, Mary Kate Mason, Ronna Keil, Marilyn Duran

Agenda Item 1: Call to order and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:42 PM by Marcus McKinney, Secretary

Agenda Item 2: Agenda review, Minutes of previous meetings review and action

The minutes from the January 21, 2015 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 3:

1. ***Budget:*** Paul Di Leo reported on the budget that came out and the information was included in the DMHAS Legislative Update # 9, from Doreen Del Bianco. DMHAS received some clarification on a couple of budget items from OPM. All rescissions for this year have been annualized.
2. ***Legislative Update:*** Doreen Del Bianco announced the budget hearing schedule. The DSS budget contains many cuts that will impact the people we serve. DDS eliminated their voluntary services program. Some good news is there are no out-patient commitment bills. The Governor has a bill on Opioid Use and Prevention that is coming out. Doreen is thankful for everyone who has come out to hearings and testified.
3. ***Governor's Second Chance Initiative:*** The Governor has reached out to the Yale School of Law since a lot of the students are interested in this initiative. There will also be a bill coming out to address this initiative. This initiative is really about trying to keep people out of prison for low level and non-violent crimes especially if they have a mental health or substance abuse issue.

Agenda Item 4: General Updates

Region 1: Margaret Watt gave an update on the TurningPointCT.org project which is giving away small grants to groups of young people who want to help keep it fresh and develop more content or do online conversations on the discussion forum.

Region 2: Kristie Barber announced that on Keep the Promise they had a testimony writing session with I am the face of mental health as the theme. Community conversations on mental health will be held in Middlesex County. The Legislative Breakfast will be held on 5/5/15.

Region 3: Jennifer Gross gave an update on the Norwich Oral History Project. The region got started on the project and is looking for help to get the word out.

Region 4: Marcia DuFore passed around a save the date for 4/29/15, a Health and Wellness Forum and Resource Fair on Balancing Mind, Body & Soul, to be held at CCSU Alumni Hall in New Britain. For more information email info@ncrmhb.org. The region is also holding a NETWORK4HEALTH forum for creating healthy communities on 3/4/15 at the Hartford Public Library.

Agenda Item 5: Other Business, Items for future agenda and Announcements

- Commissioner Rehmer announced she is leaving DMHAS on March 6, 2015.
- The Commissioner also announced that she is recommending to the Governor that Deputy Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon be placed as the Commissioner of DMHAS.
- Ronna Keil announced that there are nine Hearing Voices Network groups in the state and one is an in-patient group at Yale. On March 28 & 29 at CVH from 9:30 to 4PM there will be a free workshop for family members of voices hearers to participate and look at different pathways and strategies to support the people you love reclaim their lives. You can apply online at <http://www.cthvn.org/#!cthvn-participation-application/c7i>. Or by calling 1-855-810-5924 (toll free).
- Tom Steen sits on the Statewide Suicide Advisory Board that has been working on a grant. The plan was sent to the commissioners of DCF and DMHAS. It will be shared with everyone on a later date.
- Bob Painter shared an article on the Modern Asylum by Christine Montross.
- **CPN:** Ingrid Gillespie announced that the Connecticut Prevention Network is having a legislative breakfast which will highlight prevention at the Legislative Office Building on 2/26/15.
- **CLRP:** Kathy Flaherty announced that CLRP will temporarily shut down their housing and intake services again because of the rescissions in the budget.
- **CCAR:** Phil Valentine announced that in October 19-21st CCAR will host a Multiple Pathways of Recovery Conference at the Mystic Marriott Hotel. This is also Phil's last day attending the Board meetings for about 6 or 7 months. He will be walking the Appalachian Trail and will stop to speak at recovery community organizations. For more information you can follow on CCAR.org

Agenda Item 6: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of Page Hall.