

State of Connecticut
State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services
March 20, 2019
Connecticut Valley Hospital

Present: Chairman John Hamilton, Paul Acker, J. Craig Allen, Sharon Castelli, Marcia DuFore, Kathy Flaherty, Allison Fulton, Jennifer Henry, Pam Mautte, Bob Painter, Larry Pittinger, Brian Reignier, Kevin Sevarino, Phil Valentine, Margaret Watt

Excused: Samuel Ball, Ingrid Gillespie, Juan Hernandez, Manuel Paris, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Kate Travis

DMHAS Staff: Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, Mary Mason, Marlene Jacques, Karen Kangas, Diana Lejardi, Marilyn Duran

Agenda Item 1: Call to order and introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 PM by Chairman John Hamilton.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting review and action

The minutes from January 16, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Commissioner's Update

- **Budget:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon announced that the Appropriations Committee heard testimony on the proposed DMHAS budget two weeks ago and the subcommittee workgroup will meet next Wednesday. About 41 beds for Young Adult Services (YAS) in Hartford, Portland, Torrington and Bridgeport will be converted to community operations. There will be no layoff option with these changes, so staff will not lose their jobs. PNP Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) were included in the Governor's budget and will be annualized. This should make a difference for providers. There is a proposed salary increase for collective bargaining staff, effective 7/1/19. Two annualized reduction to the grants line for \$1.6 million.
- **Legislative Update:** Mary Mason announced that language related to bills is still being rolled out. Gambling, sports wagering and online betting are hot topics in the legislature. Sober Home bills have died this year. On 3/25/19 the Public Health committee will hold hearings on *SB 1057 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID USE DISORDER*, *SB 1101 AN ACT CONCERNING AN EVALUATION OF HOSPITALS OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES*, and *SB 859 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS*. SB 1057 expands Medicaid to allow people with opioid use disorders to have home healthcare. The General Law committee will hold public hearing on 3/22/19 for *HB 7371 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RETAIL SALE OF CANNABIS* and *HB 7287 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM*. *HB 7200 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF CIGARETTES, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS TO PERSONS UNDER AGE TWENTY-ONE*. Right now legislators are working on which agency, DRS or DCP, will work on the enforcement part of this bill. DMHAS will still be involved in compliance checks.
- **Other: Role of mental health recovery support specialist, within the emergency room departments**
Karen Kangas said Hartford Hospital will have a mental health recovery support specialist very soon. Karen and Chyrell Bellamy are working on leading a discussion on the role of peers related to people who end up in emergency rooms for mental health issues and what programming related for that may look like. An email will go out so feel free to participate. That discussion will then be brought to the board for further discussion.

Agenda Item 4:

- **Best Practices Subcommittee Update:** Paul Acker is happy to announce that in as little as over two months the subcommittee was able to get a food truck that is now on the CVH campus in front of Haviland Hall. The food truck is called Vero, which has a restaurant in Middletown, and they do farm to table food service. The food truck is on campus Monday through Saturday. The subcommittee is also looking to expand and get another food truck.

The subcommittee is also reaching out to a couple of areas to start to find out where the experts are on best practices.

Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon said Kudos and thank you to the subcommittee for doing such a great job.

- **General Updates/Announcements:**

- **Region 5:** Alison Fulton announced that the region has an all-day conference coming up on 4/10/19 and the keynote speaker is John Hamilton.
- **Region 4:** Marcia DuFore announced the region held a legislative breakfast that was well attended with several legislators as well as Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon.
- There was some discussion on marijuana and the board decided to create a workgroup to further discuss it.
- CCAR celebrated their twenty year anniversary last week.

Agenda Item 5: Presentation on Data/Geo-Maps on Diversion Programs Statewide by Loel Meckel, LCSW, Assistant Director, DMHAS Forensic Division: Loel Meckel discussed the CT options for diversion from arrest, prosecution, conviction and incarceration; and he provided a handout on the sequential intercept model for developing criminal justice – behavioral health partnerships.

Agenda Item 6: Items for future agenda:

1. *Focus on new provider innovations sharing (Standing agenda item through Board consensus)*

Agenda Item 7: Adjournment/next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of CVH Page Hall.