

State of Connecticut
State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services
June 19, 2019
Connecticut Valley Hospital

Present: Chairman John Hamilton, Paul Acker, J. Craig Allen, Janice Andersen, Michele Devine, Marcia DuFore, Alison Fulton, Ingrid Gillespie, Jennifer Henry, Irene Herden, Robert Lawlor, Pam Mautte, Rita Natale, Robert Painter, Larry Pittinger, Brian Reignier, Kevin Sevarino, Margaret Watt

Excused: Sharon Castelli, Phil Valentine, Juan Hernandez

DMHAS Staff: Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, Yvonne Addo, Marlene Jacques, Carol Meredith, Mary Kate Mason, Diana Shaw, 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 May 15, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Commissioner's Update

- **Budget:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon talked about the final budget that passed which was very similar to the appropriation's budget. Many of the privatizations that were included in the DMHAS budget did not remain in the final budget. There were no significant reductions or increases in the final budget. There were a couple of increase for unionized staff, salaries and cost of living.
- **Legislative Update:** Mary Kate Mason shared that it was a fairly successful session for the most part as far as no bills that harmed folks with substance use disorders or mental health issues. The mental health parity act passed as well as Tobacco 21, which increases the age to 21 for purchasing tobacco products, and DMHAS will do compliance checks. Fees and penalties for dealers will increase. A bill on opioid use passed and it will have DMHAS study a few things such as in-home care for opioid use and treatment as well as study whether or not folks should be required to involuntary take a ride to the hospital following a suspected overdose.
- **ADPC Recovery Subcommittee – Handout on changing the language:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon provided information regarding alternative language around addiction that the ADPC Recovery Subcommittee worked on.

Agenda Item 4: New Haven Opioid Project Presentation and discussions: Robert Lawlor and Sarah Ali, from CT High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, presented on what they are doing with the opioid project in New Haven. The program was started by congress in 1988 as a mechanism to fund taskforces for state, local, federal and private law enforcement partners to work together and form taskforces that provided intelligence, resource and manpower sharing. The program is now in twenty-four states and the plan is to go nationwide by 2020. The program brings public health and public safety personnel together to work as a team.

Agenda Item 5: RBHAO group update and discussions: There was some discussion on prevention campaigns that have been done throughout the years. Prevention work has evolved throughout the years and it is an important part of the continuum of services provided. It is integrated into everything the RBHAO groups do. It is not only part of substance use prevention it is also behavioral and mental health promotion. RBHAO's purpose is to perform the statutory functions of the RMHBs and the RACs as strategic community partners who will work across the behavioral healthcare continuum. RBHAO will be responsible for a

range of planning, education, and advocacy of behavioral health needs and services for children and adults within one of DMHAS' Uniform Regions.

Agenda Item 6: Best Practices Subcommittee Update:

- Short-Term Mobile Food Trucks at CVH: They are finding that Saturdays are not a big day for them. Consequently, the plan is to revise these schedules.
- The original directive of the Mental Health State Board was to develop and implement the Best Practices Subcommittee which will also address what had occurred at Whiting Forensic Hospital. Therefore, in addition to implementing the short-term mobile food trucks and exploring the possibilities of bringing Valley View Café back cost neutral to DMHAS, the best practices subcommittee has been looking at expanding their reach into other areas. For example, exploring what is being done with people with serious mental illness and substance use disorders who remain in long-term institutions.

Agenda Item 7: General Updates and Announcements:

- Advocacy Unlimited will hold a problem gambling training 6/20/19 from 10:00 to 1:00.
- There is a 25 hours education and training problem gambling prevention certificate available through any of the RBHAOs.
- CCAR got funded for a community center and is now actively looking for a space in New Haven.
- Kevin Sevarino will be doing training on urine and drug screening on July 22nd.
- CPN is meeting with a group on Tobacco 21 to look at how most effectively support all initiatives regarding education.
- Region 5 will hold their first multi-catchment area council consumer action group planning meeting.
- Region 2 will hold their 30 year anniversary celebration of Tom Parson's Day at CVH, on 6/20/19. Tom Parson was a huge advocate for mental health.
- Region 3 held their youth forum which was well attended with middle school students from the region. The region also held a professionals training on the intersection of opioids deaths and suicide.
- On July 25th there will be training for prescribers on buprenorphine products at the Women's Consortium.
- The Director of CVH Helene Vartelas is retiring as of 7/1/19, after 31 years of service. There will be a national search for a new director for CVH.
- DMHAS has been recruiting for a new assistant director of for the office recovery community affairs.

Agenda Item 8: Possible Topics for future agenda:

- **September 2019:** A faith-based initiative presentation: "Imani Breakthrough", (Chyrell Bellamy and Team)
- **October 2019:** Presentation – Finding Hope in the Battle Against the Opioid Overdose Crisis (Dr. J. Craig Allen)

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment/next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of CVH Page Hall.