

**State of Connecticut
State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services
May 15, 2019
Connecticut Valley Hospital**

Present: Chairman John Hamilton, Paul Acker, J. Craig Allen, Sharon Castelli, Marcia DuFore, Kathy Flaherty, Alison Fulton, Ingrid Gillespie, Jennifer Henry, Irene Herden, Marcus McKinney, Manuel Paris, Larry Pittinger, Kevin Sevarino, Margaret Watt

Excused: Bob Painter, Juan Hernandez

DMHAS Staff: Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, Hal Smith, Yvonne Addo, Marlene Jacques, Karen Kangas, 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 April 17, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Commissioner's Update

- **Introduction of the new DMHAS Chief of Staff Yvonne Addo**
- **Quarterly Report - Whiting Forensic Hospital (WFH) – Hal Smith, CEO:** Hal shared some data and highlights on major performance indicators for psychiatric hospitals such as the use of seclusion; use of restraint or special holds and the use of constant observations of 1:1's all of which have continuously gone down in numbers. There have been zero reports of seclusion and restraints and special observations for the last few months. A full senior leadership team which is up and running now.

A new change agenda has rolled out on May 1st it is called *Whiting 2000 Moving Forward*. All staff, via survey, is participating in forming the new mission, vision and value statement.

WFH has reported, for the past year, less than half of the national average for the use of seclusion, restraint and constant observation to the National Research Institute.

Both WFH and Dutcher have patient steering committees and they meet together once a month. Internet is now available for patients and more community events have been planned as well. An integrated overhaul of all the multi-disciplinary programs is being done.

- **Budget:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon shared that budget negotiations are continuing and the Appropriations Committee budget has come out. Many of the reductions in the Governor's budget for DMHAS have been restored in the Appropriations budget.
- **Legislative Update:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon shared that many of the bills that DMHAS and others put forward that will impact DMHAS are still being worked on this legislative session.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation – Harm Reduction – Language, ADPC Sub-Committee: Tabled

Agenda Item 5: Presentation

“Fresh Start Pallet Products” – a program utilizing insights into recovery for collaboration between a Behavioral Health provider and a community initiative addressing social determinants of health through a business innovation – Kim Beauregard and Pastor Rick Kremer: Fresh Start Pallet Products, LLC is an initiative conceived in the backyard of Grace Lutheran Church in the Asylum Hill neighborhood of Hartford, CT. It was

conceptualized as a business after listening to stories of hungry people with little hope, and too many lost dreams. “Let’s build furniture out of used shipping pallets, and, in that way, invite people to a new start, a second chance.” By networking with healthcare and social service partners, they support people in their life transformation from poverty, joblessness and dependency to a new sense of purpose and meaning. This is about transformation that requires time, hard work, strong spiritual and social supports, and a new view of one’s (1) health, (2) place in society, and (3) self-confidence. It is these things that over time will bring about permanent life changes. It is working. For more information go to: www.freshstartpalletproducts.com

Agenda Item 6: Items for future agenda:

- *Finding Hope in the Battle Against the Opioid Overdose Crisis – Dr. J. Craig Allen*
- *ADPC Recovery subcommittee to present or disseminate information on changing the language for harm reduction*
- *RBHAO group update/presentation*
- *Focus on new provider innovations sharing (Standing agenda item through Board consensus)*

General Updates/Announcements/Conference Highlights:

Region 5: Alison Fulton announced that on May 18th the regional playhouse is hosting a program, *Hope for Mental Illness*, and admission is free. She also wanted to thank Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon and John Hamilton for attending some of the forums held in the region.

The region has distributed 95 Narcan Kits and trained 178 people this month.

The CABLE program for public safety, first responders, peer support personnel, supervisors and clinicians is coming up In Southington, on June 25th.

Agenda Item 8: Adjournment/next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of CVH Page Hall.