

Behavioral Health Sub-Committee

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
Connecticut Office of Policy and Management

April 6, 2017

9:00 – 11:00 am

(Russell Hall, 2nd Floor Conf Rm, CVH)

Minutes

In attendance: David Rentler, Kim McKeon, Sally Zanger, Martha Brown, Michael Norko, Angela Harris (by phone), Thomas Kocienda, Ed Mattison

- 1. Introductions: no new members
- 2. Minutes of January 5, 2017 meeting were approved.
- 3. BH program updates
 - A. Forensic funds initiatives – M Norko reported
 - i. DMHAS will be receiving a SAMHSA grant of \$5.5 million for each of two years as a result of the recent 21st Century Cares legislation to address increased use of opioids and increased numbers of overdoses. The DMHAS fact sheet on the CT Response to the Opioid Crisis was reviewed, particularly the items related to criminal justice
- 4. DOC BH updates
 - A. General – T Kocienda reported
 - i. Dr. Robert Trestman, Executive Director of UConn Health Center Correctional Managed Health Care left March 30. Gail Johnson is the new acting Director. Dr. Wu, director of medical services at CMHC also left, and Dr. Monica Faranella is acting director.
 - ii. DOC opened the TRUE (Truthful Respectful, Understanding, Elevating) Unit in January 2017. This is a young adult unit (18-25 y/o) in Cheshire Correctional Institute with operations and programming designed for that age range, with collaboration from the Vera Institute for training. The program is for sentenced inmates. It will have a capacity of approximately 90. The model is part motivational interviewing, part communication strategy. In the future similar programs may be developed at Garner and York.
 - iii. DOC is in the final stages of creating a policy for transgender inmates based on guidance from <http://www.wpath.org/> and individuals in the US who have been advocates for this population.
 - iv. The RFI re health care services provision remains open; closes later in April. Some proposals have been received to date.
 - B. Discharge planning – M Brown reported that negotiations are underway to transfer 8-11 discharge planners from CMHC to DOC for July 1.
- 5. CJPAC Next April 27, 2017
- 6. Interest Area updates
 - A. BH Services/system barriers – no report
 - B. Raise the Age – Juvenile court changes – Bills did not get voted out of committee, but might still be included in budget implementation. DMHAS has concerns related to the competency restoration of 18-21 year old adults according to juvenile court procedures which differ from adult procedures.
 - C. Other agency updates – M Norko reported that the Whiting Forensic Division of CVH is still trying to compile data regarding the increased number of defendants with very low level charges and low bonds experienced in late 2016. Similar efforts to compile data are underway for the Offices of Court Evaluation regarding the lower than usual rates of incompetent findings from among those referred for evaluation to the OFE.

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K McKeon reported that the Chief Public Defender is retiring Oct 1, and the Deputy Chief is retiring July 1. Interviews for Chief will take place over the next several months, and the new chief will undertake the recruitment for a new deputy.

7. Other Items – A recent report from SAMHSA (“Guidelines for Successful Transition of People with Mental or Substance Use Disorders from Jail and Prison”) was distributed to the subcommittee members. Ed Mattison commented that services in the community for people with substance disorders in this population are in need of expansion. For example, there is a need for sober houses that permit medication assisted treatment (MAT) or that enforce rules about use in the house only. Also need special services for women and children. We will plan to invite DMHAS substance abuse service system coordinator and Dr. Kathy Mauer from DOC to the July meeting for further discussion of this item.
8. Quarterly Meetings:

July 6, 2017	9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2 nd floor, CVH Campus
October 5, 2017	9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2 nd floor, CVH Campus
January 4, 2018	9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2 nd floor, CVH Campus