

**Behavioral Health Sub-Committee  
Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission  
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division  
Connecticut Office of Policy and Management**

**Minutes  
November 3, 2011 9:00 – 11:00 am (Russell Hall, CVH)**

**In attendance:** Dan Bannish, Ed Mattison, Loel Meckel, Michael Norko, Louise Pyers, Monte Radler, David Rentler, Sally Zanger

- 1. Introductions:** David Rentler of the Board of Pardons and Parole was welcomed to the meeting, and will attend regularly in the future.
- 2. Review of minutes of September 1, 2011 -** Approved with an amendment
- 3. Additions to agenda:** Capacity of community resources
- 4. BH program updates:**
  - A. Forensic funds initiatives –Loel Meckel reported:  
State Positions - Awaiting approval to fill positions for CT Offender Reentry Program (CORP) in New Haven, Crisis Intervention Team clinical support in New Haven, and Jail Diversion for Vets program. Approval is pending final decision about state budget.

60 Rental Assistance Program certificates (RAPs) are now available to DMHAS Community Forensic programs in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport.

Jail Diversion Substance Abuse program – Implemented 10-17-11. JDSA is a collaboration of Capital Region Mental Health Center's Jail Diversion program and the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Centers, Inc. The goal is to permit the court to divert low risk offenders directly from custody at arraignment to detox beds and/or SA treatment beds.

Sierra transitional JD pretrial beds – Admissions are pending to the 7 beds DMHAS added to CSSD's 16 pretrial Sierra residential diversion beds operated by The Connection in New Haven. DMHAS' CT Mental Health Center provides clinical services. Additional funding will expand programming as well as capacity and will accommodate JD referrals of defendants with SMI who are incarcerated on a bond.

B. Rapid Treatment Option – 1 new admission on 10/15; Competency hearing is pending.

C. Outpatient restoration – Michael Norko reported that PA 11-15 became effective October 1, 2011 and permits the court to transfer a defendant from inpatient to outpatient restoration. Procedures are being developed for communication/collaboration between inpatient and outpatient treatment teams.

D. DOC SOAR Initiative: SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) is a process promoted by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration that communities can implement to help adults with psychiatric disabilities access federal disability income, SSI/SSDI. DMHAS Forensic Services is funding a statewide expansion of the DMHAS SOAR New Haven pilot starting with Waterbury, Norwich, and Middlesex County.

E. Other: DMHAS has a new policy on collaboration and communication between DMHAS staff and Probation and Parole staff. The policy defines the collaborative process regarding roles, boundaries, confidentiality, and disclosure. The policy was distributed to all DMAHS staff.

**5. DOC BH updates:** Dr. Bannish reported the following

A. DOC MH – general:

Dr. Kathy Mauer is the new DOC Medical Director. Dr. Mauer is investigating collaborations to improve retention of psychiatrists.

DSS will hire 3 entitlement specialists to process state entitlement applications for DOC inmates

The Urban Institute may use a grant to work with DOC on facilitating Medicaid benefits for inmates

B. Other DOC f/u reports:

1. Early release for inmates w/ SMI – Most inmates admitted to ASIST are leaving DOC at end of sentence rather than through early release; there has been an increase in the proportion of sentenced inmates with a serious mental illness who are leaving end of sentence; Dave Rentler will review these cases to determine why they were not released early

2. TBI prevalence – no report
3. SO community beds RFP – no report.
4. CJ-DATS research – no report

**C. Discharge planning –**

Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) to be implemented starting with the Bridgeport jail.

DOC and DMHAS released a Request for Information in November for responses from providers for a nursing home for inmates and persons in psychiatric hospitals with significant medical needs.

There is a desire to increase use of special parole for individuals with SMI/SA needs. Dave Rentler noted that there needs to be a consistent philosophy re the use of special parole. There was discussion re the possible amendment to special parole statute to focus on individuals with SMI needs (54-125e)

**6. CJPAC – next Meeting Nov 17**

**7. Interest Area updates**

- A. Housing/employment – no report
- B. BH Services/system barriers – no report
- C. Raise the Age – Juvenile court changes – no report

**8. Other agency updates –**

A. Sentence modification and Risk Reduction Earned Credit. Monte Radler will review Special Parole and its possible relevance to sentence modification. Inmates with mental illness will receive credit for participation in clinical services

B. Keys to Success program – no report

**9. Other Items –** Capacity of community resources. Ed Mattison expressed concern that community provider system is not adequate to meet demand. He reviewed a draft letter to Mike Lawlor. The group suggested modifications including data on cost-effectiveness.

**10. Behavioral Health Subcommittee Quarterly Meetings**

- A. Jan 5, 2012 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]
- B. April 5, 2012 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]
- C. July 5, 2012 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]
- D. October 4, 2012 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]

**11. CJPAC mtgs** scheduled for Nov 17, Dec 29. 2012 dates TBD.