

**DCF Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee
Monthly Meeting Notes**

October 5, 2007, 1:00PM

Riverview Hospital for Children and Youth
Middletown, CT.

PRESENT: Janet Williams M.D., DCF Medical Director; Naida Arcenas APRN, DMR ; Charles Rich MD, Community Health Services; Anastasia Okoniewski APRN, Yale; Beth Muller APRN, UCHC; Tina Renneisen APRN, Yale; Tina Spokes RN, Hartford ARG; Naveen Hassam APRN, Danbury ARG; Curtis Harmon APRN DCF; Miland Kale M.D. CTJS; Patricia Cables APRN, Wheeler Clinic; Pieter Joost Van Wattam M.D., CBC; Irv Jennings M.D., Family & Childrens; Michelle Morgen Helb, Boys and Girls Village ; M. Waqar Azeem M.D., RHCY, Gonzolez M.D. IPP; Chris Malinowski APRN, Village For Children and Families; Brian Keyes MD, NAFI; Ginger Bochicchio RN, ARG DCF; Marian Cancelliere APRN, Waterbury ARG; Jacqueline Harris MD, Western Regional Medical Director

1. Call to order: Janet Williams MD called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm in the RVH AB Conference Room to accommodate a larger audience. Introductions were done.
2. Set date/time of next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for **November 2, 2007 at 1PM in the Riverview Hospital AB Conference Room.**
3. Announcements: Dr. Patricia Leebans will be presenting on the Behavioral Health Care of Foster Children in West Haven on November 8, 2008.
4. Minutes: The minutes of the September 14, 2007 meeting were corrected and approved. Naveen was inadvertently omitted.
5. Review of latest draft by Yale University's Natalie Weber MD and Joan Kauffman PhD Analysis of Psychotropic Medication Prescribing in DCF Population
Latest draft was reviewed and discussed. There are concerns about the difficulties matching diagnoses with medication classes. It is preferable to look at symptoms versus diagnosis.
6. Update Med Link Implementation
 - Things are going smoothly. Some of problems originate from receiving incomplete forms or out of date forms. Please be vigilant about utilizing recently distributed 465 forms.
7. Review PMAC Bylaws
Recommended
 - Members appointed by by-laws are invited by current members and should serve at the pleasure of the chairman and not be limited to a two year term.
 - Members should ensure that the chairperson has a recent copy of a CV
 - Members should alert chairman if they plan to exit the group
 - Group finds monthly meetings useful and will continue to meet q month for the near future.
8. RFP for Pharmacy Services
RFP for pharmacy consultation has been posted and there are two responses, one being Dave Aresco's company. Applications are due by the end of October.

9. Other

- The chairperson requests that this committee assist in developing and reviewing guidelines for appropriate dosing. We would like general thresholds to encourage continuity between APRNs and MDs giving consent to providers. We need to be flexible and create a general frame of reference to guide prescribers and DCF. It was suggested that we create this guideline as we do our six month reviews of the different medication monitoring categories.
- Dr Jennings presented the idea of tying medication treatment/use to particular types of environments and levels of care/acuity. He finds that in less structured environments such as Safe Homes or PDCs, there might be the need for greater use of psychotherapeutic agents. It was suggested that we invite Bert Plant PhD, DCF Director of Community Services, to a subsequent meeting to engage in this discussion.
- Dr Jennings also raised his concerns regarding the use of DCF APRNs and MDs for providing "second opinions" versus simply being a typical guardian. There was discussion about the non-typical nature of the children that present for medication prescribing and the need to provide additional protections. This led to discussion about safety issues in the continuum of care and need to teach effective non-medication strategies within the workforce
- Reviewed briefly article on Clozapine

10. Adjournment: Dr. Williams adjourned the meeting at 3pm.