

**State of Connecticut**  
**State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services**  
**April 20, 2016**  
**Connecticut Valley Hospital**

**Present:** Chairman John Hamilton, Peggy Ayer, Kristie Barber, Sharon Castelli, Marcia Dufore, Kathy Flaherty, Jennifer Gross, Tina Inferrera, Jennifer Henry, Irene Herden, Juan Hernandez, Marcus McKinney, Pat Mosimann, Bob Painter, Ismene Petrakis, Larry Pittinger, Brian Reigner, Kevin Sevarino, Jim Smith, Tom Steen, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Margaret Watt, Donna Zaharevitz

**Excused:** Phil Valentine, Lee Heller, Sam Ball, Judith Shaw, Craig Allen, Manuel Paris

**DMHAS Staff:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon, Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, Paul DiLeo, Barbara Bugella, Michael Michaud, Bill Pierce, Marilyn Duran

**Agenda Item 1: Call to order and introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 2:38 PM by Chairman John Hamilton

**Agenda Item 2: Minutes of previous meetings review and action**

The minutes from the March 16, 2016 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

**Agenda Item 3:**

- **Budget/DMHAS Layoffs:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon talked about the DMHAS layoffs. This was a two phase process. First DMHAS had to list out the core services and then indicate what the reductions would be within each of the five core areas. Some of the staffing and programming had to be reduced.

Paul DiLeo gave an update on the budget. Part I of the budget reductions resulted in 76 layoffs at DMHAS. This was made public last week. Negotiations on the budget are still going on until they can come up with something the Legislature and the Governor can agree with. The numbers have not gotten any better in the projections for next year, but they have until May 6<sup>th</sup>. There may be a special session.

Phase 2 Part A of the budget deals with the impact on our state-operated systems and the layoffs. DMHAS closed the Norwalk Transitional Residence Programs (TRP) and will close the Bridgeport TRP, Connecticut Mental Health Center's West Haven Clinic Adult Team, Valley View Café and other smaller programs. Phase 2 Part B of the budget reductions deals with DMHAS PNP contract adjustments.

- **Opioid Forums:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon passed around posters of the substance abuse walk-in assessment number 1-800-563-4086 that is available 24/7. You can also find and download the posters from the DMHAS website. This information is also provided at the opioid forums; which are continuing state-wide and provide the opportunity for folks to share stories, etc.
- **Statewide Call Line/SA Walk-in Assessment Centers:** Michael Michaud talked about the call-line; which has been a Region 4 service since the late 1990s, but now will take calls statewide for the purpose of referring persons to SA Walk-in Assessment Centers. During routine business hours ABH handles the calls and during evenings, weekends and holidays Wheeler Clinic answers the calls. There are now 53 sites state-wide that do substance abuse walk-in assessment hours for DMHAS.

#### **Agenda Item 4:**

**Transportation Video:** Jennifer Gross from the Southeastern RMHB presented a video on the lack of affordable and accessible transportation being the number one barrier to services for clients to achieve their goals and get to services and employment.

#### **Agenda Item 5:**

##### **➤ General Updates/Announcements:**

- **Region 1:** Margaret Watt announced that tonight there will be an opioid forum in Wilton. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> Communities for Action will hold their annual behavioral health forum. Margaret shared a calendar of events in Southwestern CT for the month of May, which is mental health awareness month. TurningPointCT.org now has a couple of new bloggers.
- **Region 2:** Kristie Barber announced that the RMHBs held their legislative breakfast in Hartford. On May 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a state-wide community forum on behavioral health in Bridgeport.
- **Region 4:** Marcia DuFore announced that the region kicked-off their health ministries project two weeks ago for black churches in Hartford, New Britain and Middletown. The Connecticut Health Foundation is funding the project and there are eight sessions with pastors and health ministry leaders to develop their skills on health and wellness, behavioral health and substance abuse.
- **Region 5:** Janine Sullivan-Wiley said that the region is gearing up for its annual community education project. Janine provided fact sheets on mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders as well as where you can find services. These fact sheets go out to the libraries, local police departments, etc.
- **CPN:** Tom Steen reported that CPN has hosted 47 community forums on opioid abuse and misuse. There are now 55 medication drop boxes in CT and the number is growing. Tom introduced the Chair of the Capitol Area Substance Abuse Council Board Donna Zaharevitz.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Items for future agenda**

- May: CCAR, Certification of Recovery Homes in CT
- June: Community Health Center (CHC), Weitzman Institute (Integrated Primary/Specialty Care)
- Marcia DuFore made a suggestion to have someone come talk about the crisis response grant.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of CVH Page Hall.