

**State of Connecticut
State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services
December 20, 2017
Connecticut Valley Hospital**

Present: Chairman John Hamilton, Paul Acker, Peggy Ayer, Kristie Barber, Sandy Cole, Greg Benson, Marcia Dufore, Kathy Flaherty, Ingrid Gillespie, Angela Harris, Larry Pittinger, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Eileen Swan, Kate Travis, Phil Valentine, Margaret Watt

Excused: Sam Ball, Juan Hernandez, Marcea Koffsky, Ismene Petrakis, Kevin Sevarino

DMHAS Staff: Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, Steve DiPietro, Michael Michaud, Diana Lejardi, Marilyn Duran

Agenda Item 1: Call to order and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM by Chairman John Hamilton.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting review and action

The minutes from the November 15, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Video: ATR/Faith-Based programs, "Raqeeb"

Raqeeb shares his story on recovery and hope. While in a sober house he was able to take a program on spirituality where he could share his beliefs and listen to others. Faith-based programs help to change the way you think and to look within yourself. All videos are on the DMHAS Facebook and website

Agenda Item 4: Presentation: Multicultural Healthcare Equality

Ellen Boynton, Director, DMHAS Office of Multicultural Healthcare Equality (OMHE) gave a presentation on what DMHAS is doing to promote health equity and to reduce health disparities. OMHE provides trainings on multiculturalism.

Agenda Item 5: Commissioner's Update

- **Legislative:** Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta reported that there is nothing new with the legislative process to report on since we are not in session.
- **Budget:** Steve DiPietro reported the impact of the deficit mitigation plan that has been proposed includes approximately a 3.5 million dollar reduction to the grant lines for mental health/substance abuse and waiver services. DMHAS does not need to take any action on this right now because it is a proposal that would need to be voted on through legislature to be approved for implementation.
- **CVH Whiting Forensic Division (WFD) Update:** Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta gave an update on WFD and said three management consultants who will assist with changes at WFD

have been interviewed so far. DMHAS is working on the hiring of individuals for the managerial level positions. Everyone working at WFD has/will be trained appropriately. DMHAS continues to work with our state partners to make the necessary changes happen.

Agenda Item 6: Update from the State Board's Subcommittee on Best Practices

Larry Pittinger gave an update on the subcommittee. The subcommittee has met a few times already. There is a lot of activity involved in reopening the Valley View Café and establishing a basis for making recommendations around best practices.

Agenda Item 7: Adjournment/next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of CVH Page Hall.