

**State of Connecticut  
State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
February 21, 2018  
Connecticut Valley Hospital**

**Present:** Chairman John Hamilton, Paul Acker, J Craig Allen, Connie Anderson, Peggy Ayer, Kristie Barber, Greg Benson, Vered Brandman, Sharon Castelli, Marcia Dufore, Kathy Flaherty, Ingrid Gillespie, Jennifer Henry, Juan Hernandez, Marcea Koffsky, Bob Painter, Yashira Pepin, Jenny Pinette, Larry Pittinger, Louise Pyers, Brian Reignier, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Kate Travis, Phil Valentine, Deborah Walker, Margaret Watt

**Excused:** Sandy Cole, Marcus McKinney Manuel Paris, Ismene Petrakis, Kevin Sevarino

**DMHAS Staff:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon, Deputy Commissioner Navarretta, Mary Kate Mason, 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 December 20, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

**Agenda Item 3: Commissioner's Update**

- **Legislative:** Mary Kate Mason provided an update. At the appropriations public hearing people talked about what the services meant to them and how important funding is as well. This year one legislative proposal was submitted by DMHAS. It streamlines some reports into our triennial report. Legislature is proposing bills related to WFD and DMHAS's role is to make sure that the bills proposed help Whiting. Some changes are being proposed to PSRB by the public defender's office. The Governor is putting in a bill that creates a separate Whiting Hospital and licenses Whiting by DPH and makes DMHAS direct care staff mandated reporters. A bill on sober house also came out again.
- **Budget:** Deputy Commissioner Navarretta gave a summary of the budget. There were over \$18 million dollars' worth of hold backs on the current year budget and that was carried forward to next year. This is an adjustment year so there are some proposed increases to GA Managed Care and Home and Community-Based Services for caseload growth. With the lapses and other reductions there was a proposed reduction of \$577,000 to CMHC and home and community based services caseload growth. A reduction was made to the Personnel Services line and money put into the Managed Services line. We are \$832,000 above the current year appropriation with lapses.

**Agenda Item 4: Whiting Forensic Division (WFD) Update:** The Acting Director for Whiting Forensic Hospital is Dr. Mike Norko. He is very familiar and has much experience working in the WFD. An advertisement for a new CEO has been posted and interviews have been scheduled. Right now work is being done to separate the Dutcher and Whiting buildings from CVH to create the new Whiting Forensic Hospital scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>. Another part of the process for this legislative session is to have new legislation that will require Whiting Forensic Hospital to be licensed by DPH. Training is being done with all staff.

**Agenda Item 5: CT Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement (CABLE):** Louise Pyers did a presentation on the crisis intervention team program. CABLE is a non-profit organization that works in collaboration with NAMI and a number other agencies and networks across the state. Training is provided to the police and communities in terms of how to deal with people who may be in psychiatric crisis. CABLE is made up of people living with mental illnesses and family members; police, practitioners, mental health professionals and institutions of higher learning. Some of things CABLE does training on are suicide assessment, suicide by cop, post-shooting trauma, and mental health.

**Agenda Item 6: Update from State Board's Subcommittee on Best Practices:** Tabled for next meeting.

**Agenda Item 7:**

- **General Updates/Announcements:**
  - The Northwest RMHB provided new information on how to get non-emergency medical treatment rides for Medicaid members who have no other way of getting to their medical, behavioral health or dental appointments.
  - DMHAS is launching a campaign called *Change the Script* which is a statewide public awareness campaign to help communities deal with the prescription drug and opioids misuse crisis. The launch will be held on 2/26/18 at St. Francis Hospital and the Governor's office.
  - Margaret Watt announced that in light of the changes to the RMHBs and RACs contract this will be the last meeting for Kristie Barber from region 2.
  
- **Items for future agenda:**
  - State vs. Not for Profit: Role on Supportive Housing Programs
  - Department of Corrections: Mental Health and the Correction System Treatment Program Update
  - Update on Peers in Emergency Rooms

**Agenda Item 7: Adjournment/next meeting**

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

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of CVH Page Hall.