

**State of Connecticut**  
**State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services**  
**May 16, 2018**  
**Connecticut Valley Hospital**

**Present:** Chairman John Hamilton; Paul Acker, J. Craig Allen, Greg Benson, Sharon Castelli, Michele Devine, Marcia Dufore, Kathy Flaherty, Robert Francis, Allison Fulton, Pam Mautte, Marcus McKinney, Bob Painter, Ismene Petrakis, Larry Pittinger, Brian Reignier, Kevin Sevarino, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Kate Travis, Deborah Walker

Guests: Dr. Craig Burns, Chief Mental Health Officer of DOC and Sandra Violette, Deputy Warden for Addiction Services

**Excused:** Sandy Cole, Juan Hernandez, Marcea Koffsky, Manuel Paris, Kate Travis, Margaret Watt

**DMHAS Staff:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon, Mary Kate Mason, Diana Lejardi, Marlene Jacques, Steve DiPietro, 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 April 18, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

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

- **Legislative:** The session is over and we did not go into a special session. A couple of bills that passed are SB 404 - AN ACT CONCERNING WHITING FORENSIC HOSPITAL AND CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL - To add certain professions to the list of mandated reporters. HB 5149 AN ACT CONCERNING SOBER LIVING HOMES. The Sober House bill states that if sober homes are credential by National Association of Recovery Residences (NARR) they may let DMHAS know and be put on the DMHAS bed website, so that people who are looking for a credential sober home can use the website as an informative source. SB 511 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOIDS - To evaluate and establish methods of combating the opioid crisis in the state has been rolled in SB 483 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF OPIOID DEPENDENCY AND OPIOID OVERDOSES IN THE STATE.
- **Budget:** There were no further cuts to the budget and no new money; but there were some restorations that were made to grants for mental health and substance use. Rescissions for this year were annualized. There is a 1% COLA for employees in the human services contracts. Money for initiatives to privatize in Danbury, Torrington, CRMHC, and Young Adult Services programs have been restored to their original place. There are unallocated lapses of \$9.5 million of savings that the Governor/OPM has to come up with for the 2019 year.
- **Whiting Forensic Hospital (WFH):** WFH is fully a separate hospital now. A CMS-DPH review was done and everything we said we were going to do was done. DMHAS received a formal letter acknowledging the fact. The pharmacy at WFH is running great. A CMS resurvey of the hospital was done and DMHAS received a letter that acknowledges we are back in good standing and in full compliance. Hal Smith, the new CEO for WFH, will start on June 1<sup>st</sup>. He comes very highly recommended. A Musical Intervention program, where people come together to make and enjoy music, will be presented soon at WFH.
- **Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT):** DMHAS was awarded a five year grant in the amount of \$8.3 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration (SAMHSA). Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon presented a brief overview of the purpose of SBIRT and training and education that started, particularly at the Women's Consortium. The program is an evidence-based practice and continues to be a priority for DMHAS to implement statewide. DMHAS is working with both adults and adolescents on SBIRT. Many of the federally qualified health centers, 11 out of 17, are still doing some SBIRT functions as well as the Department of Social Services. There will be an adolescent substance use intervention SBIRT workshop coming up on June 13<sup>th</sup>. For more information on this workshop go to [www.womensconsortium.org](http://www.womensconsortium.org).

- **Subcommittee on Best Practices – Update: meeting with WFH on 5/24/18:** The group will meet with the WFH Patient Steering Committee to hear the perspectives of WFH staff and individuals who receive services from WFH. The Best Practices sub-committee has been reaching out and talking to people to gather information and see what workgroups are going on at WFH.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Connecticut Department of Corrections (DOC)**

- **Mental Health Treatment within DOC:** Dr. Craig Burns, Chief Mental Health Officer of DOC, did a presentation on mental health care delivery at DOC and the continuity of care across the statewide system. As of today, the current population of inmates is 13,387. The MacDougall-Walker correctional facility has the highest level of medical care in the system. When a person gets into the DOC system they get evaluated with a score to see what their level of need is.
- **Substance Use Treatment within DOC and Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT):** Sandra Violette, Deputy Warden for Addiction Services, presented on MAT in a correctional setting. She has staff in eleven of the DOC facilities. Inpatient as well as outpatient treatment is provided statewide. The program is also facilitated at AA and NA meetings. The staff under her are trained, licensed or certified substance abuse counselors. Methadone maintenance treatment is provided in the jail system (Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, York) for inmates who are not sentenced.

#### **Agenda Item 5: General Updates/Announcements:**

- It's National Prevention Week and there are about 200 people at the Capitol Fair that started on Monday and it will end on Saturday at the Yard Goats game with Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon.
- **Advocacy Unlimited** – Greg Benson announced that AU will be holding a free 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and retreat on June 8<sup>th</sup> in Portland, CT.
- **CPN** – Pam Mautte announced that state targeted responses have been wrapped up as of April 30<sup>th</sup> and now they are reporting out on it. The process for distributing Narcan kits to those who need it in the community has been very successful. CPN is also continuing to work on the integration to the new RBHAO structure.
- **Region 4** – Marcia Dufore announced the region finished up their community conversations session in Hartford and are in the midst of a set of community conversations at the police station in Suffield. The region also finished up the 28-day review of the substance abuse rehab programs.
- **Region 5** – Janine Sullivan-Wiley announced the region has a lot of fun stuff going on in May for mental health awareness. Keep The Promise Coalition is now working on an educational program of five important facts about social clubs. DMHAS is doing learning collaborative with the social clubs starting next month.
- **Items for future agenda:**
  - Focus on new provider innovations sharing

#### **Agenda Item 6: Adjournment/next meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of CVH Page Hall.