

**State of Connecticut**  
**State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services**  
**March 18, 2015**  
**Connecticut Valley Hospital**

**Present:** J. Craig Allen, Peggy Ayer, Kristy Barber, Sharon Castelli, Deb Dettor, Marcia DuFore, Danielle Elliott, Kathy Flaherty, Wendy Fralick, Irene Herden, Jennifer Gross, Juan Hernandez, Tina Inferrera, Marcus McKinney, Pat Mosimann, Bob Painter, Manuel Paris, Brian Reignier, Kevin Sevarino, Jim Smith, Janine Sullivan-Wiley, Margaret Watt

**Excused:** Bob Correll, Ismene Petrakis

**DMHAS Staff:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon, Barbara Bugella, Paul DiLeo, Doreen Del Bianco, Kate McNulty, Ronna Keil, Mary Kate Mason, Steve DiLella, Marilyn Duran

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 PM by Marcus McKinney, Secretary

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

The minutes from the February 18, 2015 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

**Agenda Item 3:**

1. **Budget:** Paul Di Leo reported that DMHAS met with the Appropriations sub-committee regarding the budget. Rescissions have been annualized for the next fiscal year. Paul explained that though we are getting case load growth in many programs do not have the case load growth we asked for and that is why it appears as a cut in the budget. We have a reduction to our research activities at CMHC. The staffing contract was hit with the annualized rescissions for about 1.2 million. The RACs and Governor's Prevention Partnership were also cut. The Gatekeeper Program was eliminated. The RMHB's also took a big hit. Legal services at CLRP were cut. We did get an increase in caseload funding of about 13 million dollars in the first year. We got a 3 million dollar increase in the Governor's Mental Health Initiative.
2. **Legislative Update:** Doreen Del Bianco announced that everyone that participated in the budget public hearing process did a great job. HB 6856 AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION is being heard today. SB 1089 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES is a very comprehensive bill that will have a big impact on the DMHAS system. Two bills that are studies on senior disabled housing came out this week. One from the Housing Committee (SB 888) and the other from the Aging Committee (SB 1004). Bad zoning bills have come out as well and one we are hoping to defeat is SB 203. There are taskforces coming out on hoarding, conservators, veterans' mental health, comprehensive and children's mental health and emotional behavioral health. The Appropriations Committee deadline will vote on a budget is April 30<sup>th</sup> with the Finance Committee the following day.
3. **SIM Project:** Paul Di Leo spoke about the State Innovation Model created by the Affordable Care Act. This was designed on how a state pays for healthcare and is about primary care transformation. The testing phase started and the go live date is January 2016. If you would like more information contact Michael Michaud from DMHAS.
4. **Rapid Rehousing:** Steve DiLella gave a couple of updates on new proposals and programs that have come out. DMHAS put out an RFP for 110 permanent supportive housing units in the fall and we got back a significant amount of applications requesting more than 110. We are actually able to fund 176 units. We were also notified by HUD that we were awarded a 2.7 million dollar grant for an additional

193 units. Through DOH, DMHAS put out a rebid for all of the shelter funding. Some agencies did not get funding. We put rapid rehousing dollars into those contracts. The DMHAS budget has increases in supportive housing. The Governor is also giving us an additional one million dollars for support services for the chronic homeless. We will have 50 units set aside from the HUD Section 811 grant for the chronic homeless folks and for the MFP population.

#### **Agenda Item 4: General Updates**

**Region 1:** Margaret Watt announced that the region is working on a study of outpatient access to prescribers and ways to bridge the gap. The region is working to bring the Community Care Team Model to Greenwich. The region is also working on initiatives for May on mental health awareness.

**Region 2:** Kristie Barber announced that Howard Reed attended and spoke at the budget public hearing as well as the Friendship Club of Meriden. The RMHB Legislative Breakfast will be held on 5/5/2015 at the LOB. The region is holding community conversations in Old Lyme and so far 25 people have signed up to attend.

**Region 3:** Jennifer Gross announced they will hold a Legislative Breakfast on 4/21/15 at the LOB. The region is still looking for folks to share their stories about the Norwich State Hospital.

**Region 4:** Marcia DuFore said the region held their Legislative Breakfast and 13 legislators spoke and 133 participants signed in. The region received a grant from the Hartford Foundation to work with providers in the Manchester area for folks in crisis.

**Region 5:** Janine Sullivan-Wiley met with a group home in her region regarding zoning issues and they have come up with a couple of new strategies of support. Danbury hospital changes are not all bad and this will be seamless process for the people being served. Tobacco treatment in the region has really been moving along.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Other Business, Items for future agenda and Announcements**

- **CLRP:** Kathy Flaherty announced that CLRP will temporarily shut down their housing and intake services again at the end of the month.
- **CCAR:** Deb Dettor said Phil Valentine has started his hike of the Appalachian Trail. Please go to [www.at4recovery.org](http://www.at4recovery.org) for more information. Phil will be speaking about recovery along the trail at recovery organizations.
- A suggestion was made to write a thank you letter to Senator Bye and Representative Walker.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 beginning at 2:40 PM in room 217 of Page Hall.