

CVH Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: December 13, 2024

Time: 8:00am – 9:00am

Location: Page Hall, AV Room, 365

Chair: Larry McHugh,

Secretary: Marguerite Griffin

Attendees:

Larry McHugh, Chairperson	Ben Florsheim, Mayor of Middletown, CT
Lakisha Hyatt, CEO of Connecticut Valley Hospital	Kevin Elak, Director of Health, City of Middletown, CT
Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, DMHAS	Harry Burr, Community Member
Justin Sleeper, CQO – Connecticut Valley Hospital	Eric Costa, Chief of Police – Middletown, CT
Phillip Pessina, Community Member	Richar Davis, Deputy Chief of Police- Middletown, CT

Apologies:

Rick Bush, COO, Connecticut Valley Hospital	Dr. Kichul Pak, CMO, Connecticut Valley Hospital
Sarah Gadsby, CEO, River Valley Services	Dr. Edwin Renaud, General Psychiatry Division Director Connecticut Valley Hospital
Maria LaPorto, Addiction Services Division Director, Connecticut Valley Hospital	

1. Opening and Positive Reflections

- The meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM by Chair Larry McHugh
- The Chair welcomed all attendees.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the Advisory Council meeting held on September 13, 2024, were reviewed and approved as presented.

Motion: Phillip Pessina

Seconded by: Harry Burr

Vote: Unanimously approved

Our Mission: Connecticut Valley Hospital provides trauma informed gender responsive treatment that empowers individuals to manage recovery, improve Quality of life and return to the community.

Our Vision: To promote recovery through collaborative, compassionate, and culturally competent treatment in a safe, healthy, and caring environment.

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3. Commissioner's Report: (Nancy Navarretta)

- Due to the election, we are unsure of the direction the administration will go; however, we will continue to provide services and advocate for those in need.
- State budget is tight, working with OPM and Governor's office to ensure monies are allocated for our needs.
- "Moving America's Soul on Suicide" –Well-made video on You Tube which discusses suicide attempts, encourage you to watch
- Attended a conference in New Haven highlighting persons in recovery who have published written stories
- Attended the recent All Commissioners' meeting participated in discussions pertaining to outreach and engagement
- Participated in the Governor's Prevention partnership 35-year celebration discussed the Opioid crisis with Connecticut
- CT is a leader in overdose reduction we are on track for a 16% decrease and mental health regressing post pandemic.
- Very happy to report the 988 telephone line and 211 telephone line usage numbers are reducing post pandemic. Less stigma with using the system trending in the right direction.

Questions: Chief Costa – is there any Police resources that can support 211.

Commissioner Response: 988 is more a federal number for mental health and substance abuse. 211 is a Connecticut state number that assists with housing, entitlement resources, addiction services, mental health crisis. We could connect you with Sarju Shah, MPH, Director, who can assist with training and support services.

4. Safety and Security Subcommittee / AWOLS Report GPD (Justin Sleeper) Report from January 1st through November 30th. In that time, we had 14 events, two true elopements which is defined as unauthorized leave., One of which the patient was returned to us, one remains at large. In May we had three events as we have seen historically spring is usually a time that is problematic. When the warmer weather is here, clients want to go outside.

- We recently had an elopement which we were in collaboration and communication with the Middletown Police as well as the Middletown Mayor's office.
- Teletype communication went out to agencies, State Police and other towns. Currently, we continue to track the individual. We believe the client has left the state heading to Texas

Questions: Phillip Pessina: Have you reached out to warming centers? Homeless centers? Yes

Detective Davis: Were photos disseminated? Yes

Responses: Mayor Florsheim - Communication to our office was effective and received smoothly.

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report (Lakisha Hyatt)

- Mentioned the great work that is taking place at the Connecticut Valley Hospital greenhouse. We are registered in state as a greenhouse grower.
- Board invited to spread the word of the growth of the hospital, the greenhouse, and Valley View Café.

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- When speaking of the hospital we refer to the hospital in its full name, why, CVH is the hospital of the past with the connotations of the past, using the name Connecticut Valley Hospital reiterates purpose, growth of the future.
- Due to strong Fall prevention efforts, Restraints and Seclusions rates are going down, lower than the national rate. These are examples of the hospital's Quality of Care.
- There are two seats on the Advisory Council that have opened, Mayor Florsheim and Mr. McHugh have discussed Cynthia Clegg, from Community Foundation and Middletown South Fire Chief Trzaski to join us.
- Two Opioid surveys were conducted one here on campus and one at the Blue Hills campus both did very well.
- We are very excited about strong sustainable strategies for 2025, building supervision throughout the hospital to sustain growth.

Questions: Mr. Burr, regarding the greenhouse and the restaurant, is there anyway through social media or the DMHAS website that we can get the word out to the community?

Responses: Yes, we use social media that can then be shared on the Middletown websites. Pictures will be sent to the Commissioner's office that can go on the DMHAS website.

Kevin Elak – can the café participate in offsite catering?

Mayor Florsheim- utilize the café for a lunch n learn? Ms. Hyatt will take idea to Food Services Director for discussion.

Closing Remarks

Mr. McHugh-Thanked all members for their contributions and adjourned the meeting at 8:45am.
Motioned by Phillip Pessina, seconded by Mayor Florsheim

Minutes Prepared By:

Marguerite Griffin / Executive Secretary

Date of Preparation: December 19, 2024

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