



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MEETING MINUTES

In Person meeting: Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) Page Hall Boardroom
March 10, 2023

Present Council Members:

Lawrence McHugh, Chairperson; Lakisha Hyatt, CVH/Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS); Kevin Elak, Director, Middletown Health Department; Richard Davis, Deputy Chief, Middletown Police Department; LT Erik Costa Chief of Police Middletown Police Department; Aliza Castro, Division Director Addiction Services; Sarah Gadsby, Acting RVH CEO; Edwin Renaud, Division Director General Psychiatry Division; Richard Bush, CVH Chief Operating Officer; Latoya Pemberton, Community Member – CVH Staff; Stacy Demarco, Director of Social Work

Absent/Excused Council Members:

Phillip Pessina, Councilman; Mehadin Arafah, Community Member; David Bauer, Community Member, , Ben Florshein, Mayor of Middletown, Chris Iovene, Middletown Police Detective; Emilio Magnano, (Alt) Middletown Police Detective;

Call to Order: Mr. McHugh called the meeting to order at 8:03am.

Review of Minutes: December 12, 2022 meeting minutes approved

Topic	Discussion	Responsible Person
Chairperson McHugh DMHAS Commissioners Update	Requested for table to introduce themselves, to new member on Board. <u>Office of the DMHAS Commission Updates</u> • Legislature budget is still in session, no vote on budget • Reviewed IT Centralization – has occurred and working well • HR Progression of additional Social Workers considerable outreach to nursing schools– recruitment. State of CT doing additional advertising for hiring. • Additional funding from Federal grant for the recruitment of nurses and health care professionals • Strong Collaboration of CVH and River Valley Services (RVS) with Middletown Community • Kudos to CVH and Whiting – recovering citizenship project. Innovative project working across sites including LMHA collaboration.	Ms. Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner
Chief Executive Officer Update	<u>Connecticut Valley Hospital Updates:</u> • Thank you for wonderful support from community. • The Joint Commission (TJC) accredited hospital, survey was successful • CVH is focused on Education and training specifically to understand elements of survey as a professional learning opportunity. • Team is growing, (3) new hires started today, Director of Social Work, Chief Nursing Officer, Program Manager. • (5) managers participated in training to ensure TJC readiness • CT Legal Rights project – decrease in meetings • Treatment and services ○ Weekend club house, boutique, store ○ Trauma services – new training to continue to update training ○ Recovery series – Hope & recovery presentation to hear message of encouragement 1. Reinstated Weekend Clubhouse at Page Hall	Ms. Hyatt, Chief Executive Officer/CVH

	2. Trauma Services Team launched a revised trauma training required for all new employees 3. Recovering Citizenship a. Hope and Recovery Series: Recovery Inspiring Recovery Wednesday March 8, 2023 1:00p-2:00p Yerbury Chapel b. Recovery Services Overview (See attached) c. Daily Dual Recovery Anon groups Campus wide. d. Started the What's Up Group. e. Five Program Specific Steering Committees f. Starting the Citizenship project 12-week curriculum. Focusing on the five R's. Rights, responsibilities, relationships, resources and encompass these in the curriculum. Using the Citizenship project guide g. Hiring the 8th RSS and will be fully staffed. 4. Expansion of Vocational Programs: a. Valley View-Take Out opening soon. Soft opening April and Official Opening by June. b. Recovery Employment Program (REP)-Second Chance Organization -Collaboration with Chamber of Commerce i. Employment site ii. ASD entry to the REP Program iii. CVH Client- Vocational Laundering Program Completed Organizational Assessment on the delivery of Co-occurring Services including a Clinician Skills Questionnaire • 14 Clinicians such as Psychology, Social Work and Rehabilitated services will be taking MI, MI principles, techniques and strategies trainings. This is an advanced training. 5. Launching our Restraint Response Team: multidisciplinary team of managers and clinicians to conduct an in-depth review in addition to the normal clinical team review. Eliminated Posey Net restraints in 2022 goal to eliminate chair restraints in 2023. Use of restraints is a treatment failure. Required all staff training as a strategy to foster sustained reduction. 6. Young Adult Services Talent Show, Holiday Bizarre and BHM Program. 7. Virtual Treatment Spaces in use • Collaboration with United Way, NAACP, Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, MARC Services, St. Vincent DePaul all taking place up on the hill	
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Other Business	Newspaper article regarding stepdown of stabbing incident that took place in Hartford, the stabbing of a female police officer. We need to change the public has a misconception that CVH, Whiting and River Valley are all the same. We want to maintain the hard work we have done to strengthen reputation of CVH. The public is upset that client has been released. Police Chief Costa is so very pleased to have the relationship with CVH and the community. Middletown police can continue to assist the “hill” better since the transparency of communication. Chairman reviewed concerns regarding a client receiving services at WFH and safety concerns due to patient risk. Advisory board discussion related to • Traumatic event on Main Street more than 30 years ago and recent WFH situation that may resurface those fears. • Reviewed safety measures at WFH including PSRB. • Discussion R/T recent legislation involving PSRB involvement in transition from Whiting mas to Dutcher Advisory Board agreed to invite Mr. Crego, CEO Whiting Forensic Hospital (WFH) to the next advisory meeting for orientation to WFH understanding PSRB and maintain transparency. Commissioner Navarretta – provided brief overview and supported the idea. Board discuss importance of transparency and stakeholder education. Board briefly reviewed the low number of clients discharged to the Middletown community, 2020, and 2021. PSRB work group is a well-balanced group to provide the true story. Mr. Elak –asked about CJTS building use and Commissioner provided overview of it being a very large project. Commission Navarretta stated as resources become available they will request for quotation from architects. Ms. Gadsby – Complemented Middletown Police department, happy to be involved in day to day operations. Mr. McHugh –complimented Chief of Police and his attitude for transparency. Complimented Ms. Hyatt for her involvement in the community the North End project, positive direction. Ms. Hyatt – acknowledged partnership Ms. Gadsby raising awareness with the community.	Mr. McHugh / Police Chief Costa
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 8:49am.	

Next Meeting	Next meeting: Friday. June 9, 2023 at 8:00am in person.	Mr. McHugh, Chairperson
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Transcribed by: Marguerite Griffin