



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

MEETING MINUTES

In Person meeting: Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) Page Hall Boardroom
June 9, 2023

Present Council Members:

Lawrence McHugh, Chairperson; Lakisha Hyatt, CVH/Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS); Richard Davis, Deputy Chief, Middletown Police Department; LT Erik Costa Chief of Police, Middletown Police Department; Aliza Castro, Division Director Addiction Services; Sarah Gadsby, RVH CEO; Edwin Renaud, Division Director General Psychiatry Division; Richard Bush, CVH Chief Operating Officer; Latoya Pemberton, Community Member, Amy Urban, CVH, Chief Nursing Officer; Jose Crego, CEO Whiting Forensic Hospital; Reena Kapoor, Whiting Forensic Hospital; Mr. Harry Burr, Community Member

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; Kevin Elak, Director, Middletown Health Department; Dane Semper, Middletown Police Dept

Call to Order: Mr. McHugh called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

Review of Minutes: March 2023 meeting minutes approved.

	Community support team, evidence-based approach for clients with limited success in a traditional treatment program. Most individuals served are from the North End area. Peer support is embedded in all of our services. We have Young Adult Services; staff are training in approaches and trauma care. Teach young adults basic life skills. Residential programs, transitional housing programs as a step down for individuals coming out of CVH or WFH. Mr. Crego WFH, CEO, – WFH-hospital was part of CVH until 2018 it became its own hospital, there are two buildings WFH max and Dutcher. The hospital caters to individuals that are Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, competency restoration by the courts, or committed for mental health care. We have 11 units, for men and women. Programs are usually 90 days competency restoration. Changes in Judiciary, more Judges and Prosecutors are referring individuals to WFH for competency restoration. Competency restoration clients begin in a long-term unit, with focus on psychotherapy; dealing with trauma to assist with stabilization. CEO, Joe Crego reviewed safety strategies, discharge procedures, safe use of grounds and privileges and safe transition strategies. Mr. McHugh celebrated the work of Mr. Crego and encouraged continued activity in the community. Acknowledged WFH needs to be recognized as a positive to the State. WFH has a release program that is important for community programs. Discussion observed rise in larceny cases. Chief Costa, Middletown Police Chief suggested meeting with the mayor- for further collaborative dialogue. Meeting will involve L. McHugh, Middletown Mayor, Police Chief, Sarah Gadsby, Joe Crego, and Lakisha Hyatt a meeting would be beneficial to the community. Mr. Burr – Discussion about larceny conviction ending at WFH. Dr. Kapoor – provided review of arrest and arraignment process. Review of strategies and barriers of the DMHAS jail diversion clinician diverts person to voluntary outpatient services. If the client does not understand, then ethically they must go to the WFH for evaluation.	
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	Commissioner Navaretta – Community based beds reviewed. Currently, we have 15 volunteer community beds across the state. Discussion: Non-profit organizations are contracted providers. Success is supported through collaboration between community police officers and CVH. RVS, WFH and CVH hospital contact information will be shared with Advisory Council members.	
Discharge Data	Discharge – Legislative Requirements to have clients to return to the community. We are not slating individual in one direction. Discharge report monitors CVH performance, discharge placement into the city of Middletown, or another area also known as unmatched discharges. Discharge subcommittee tracks short term residential placements vs. permanent residential placements. For 2022 results are stable. (1) Unmatched discharge from General Psychiatry Department. He was discharge to residential program in Middletown. Unmatched cases very small, based on clinical needs or clients’ request. Discussion: about tracking and follow up after discharge. Use of 211 and services within Middletown. Middletown has more available beds, CRT brings them into the system. They tend to return to Middletown. Hard to pinpoint why they return to the area, referred by family – harder to live in Middletown; housing is a problem; RVS is struggling to find affordable housing. There is a large amount of support services in the city.	Ms. Aliza Castro
	Other Business Appreciation extended to accepting invitation to join the council. New CNO held our first on the spot Nurse hiring event, 60 plus attendees, 37 offers. Just made an offer to a new Chief Quality Officer Next hiring event – Social Workers focused. Thank you for the board support	
Adjournment	8:55am motion to adjourn.	Mr. McHugh, Chairperson
Next Meeting	September 8, 2023	

Transcribed by: Marguerite Griffin