



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

MEETING MINUTES

In Person meeting: Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) Page Hall Conference Room
September 8, 2023, 2023

Present Council Members:

Lawrence McHugh, Chairperson; Lakisha Hyatt, CVH/Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS); LT Erik Costa Chief of Police, Middletown Police Department; Dr. Edwin Renaud, Division Director General Psychiatry Division; Richard Bush, CVH Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Harry Burr, Community Member; Phillip Pessina, Councilman; Kevin Elak, Director, Middletown Health Department; Justin Sleeper, CVH Chief Quality Officer

Absent/Excused Council Members:

Mehadin Arafteh, Community Member; David Bauer, Community Member, Ben Florshein, Mayor of Middletown, Chris Iovene, Middletown Police Detective; Emilio Magnano, (Alt) Middletown Police Detective; Dane Semper, Middletown Police Dept

Call to Order: Mr. McHugh called the meeting to order at 8:06am.

Review of Minutes: June 2023 meeting minutes approved.

Achieving Excellence Together

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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Topic	Discussion	Responsible Person
OCC Priorities	Commissioner Navarretta: Organizing OOC priorities. Clinical innovations: CVH hosted the first kick off first psychosis training across the state; funded/ CMHC/ YALE and IOL in Hartford. Program to learn how to identify early psychosis. Offering to connect family to services. Now offering consultation to everyone across the state. Crisis Continuum: building 24/7 mobile crisis program, have the monies, workforce challenges for 2nd and 3rd shift. RFP's – Peer respite and stabilization centers none in CT yet. We are over a year into 988 initiatives, SAMSA and federal gov. suggested having a centralized call line in addition to the hospital. Utilization Management: Paused during COVID, looking at the program again, moving people through the system, level of care, housing needs have increased. Try to connect individuals with services. Bring back transitional housing and working with Department of Housing Commissioner to get feedback from shelters systems. Building team to take care of buildings. Workforce: Manage buildings in the engineering department we have four employees across the state. Finding challenges, continue to submit requests to double the team to eight. Working with DAS and BITS to assist with modernizing the process. Mr. Burr asked about deferred maintenance, Commissioner Navarretta discussed we have the monies, we are challenged with the planning process of getting bids for repairs which takes a very long time. Overdose awareness day was held on 08/31/2023 in New Britain the Governor attended and we had great turn out. We have monies from ARPA dollars and OSAC dollars to get out to communities, will be looking for recommendations on how to distribute monies properly. Monies go into a special account via DMHAS to properly disperse the monies currently have 70 Million, info is on the DMHAS website to be transparent. Anti – Stigma Campaign: Elsa Ward – Office of recovery community affairs doing a great job, doing an anti-stigma recovery campaign. Will continue to add videos.	Commissioner Navarretta

	Access Health for Moms: is for pregnant parenting who is currently seeing a PCP or OB-GYN and have a substance use issue, the PCP can now call in real time, and a member from Yale New Haven will respond. Military support program – offering clinical service to the military in the community. Another choice to get confidential counseling. Attending forums across the state to find out gaps and needs in the community. Mr. Elak – happy to hear we are talking about the need for transitional and support housing in the community. Affordable housing needs are great. Warming centers are a challenge, and we are working with the mayor for support. Mr. Elak hopes there will be a mechanism for municipalities to talk to the state on what they are doing on their level to work together to make sure monies are being dispersed properly.	
CVH Campus Report	When individuals need a little more time in their recovery process that is when they come to CVH. Would like to spend a little time reviewing the Middletown campus provided overview of Campus Report. Introduced Chief Quality Officer Justin Sleeper- quality and compliance team monitor 1100 employees and over 361 beds in our facility to council. When Campus is over 150 years old we have an obligation to maintain the older buildings due to some decay we are happy the we have leaders that acknowledge that have monies that have been allocated to the clinical and administration of repairs and the magnitude of repairs. Last week we had visitors from the Governor’s Office and OPM who toured our campus is very uncommon, which demonstrates to us the need for understanding of our campus. We will now turn to the campus report where you will see some of the older building and some of the upgrades that have occurred. Commissioner Navarretta – the feedback from the Governor’s Office and Secretary Beckham was that the staff was wonderful, impressed with the cleanliness of the buildings, spotless, acknowledgement that we have challenges. Staff was wonderful, noticed staff interacting with clients. True appreciation of the challenges that CVH is experiencing. Ms. Hyatt acknowledge and introduced GPD Director Dr. Ed Renaud – under his leadership that we see the benefits of staff and the great work that the team is doing.	Lakisha Hyatt

	Report current campus use patients and staff – requires the review of treatment center and sharing of resources with the community. Ms. Hyatt provided overview of each building on the CVH campus. Reviewed campus tenants with committee. Reviewed how we collaborate with the community. Share some of the services: Recovery month – Hope and recovery series Community collaborates – Working with the Chamber, World Mental Health Day 10/10/2023 small business employees are struggling with mental health challenges, psychological first aid in service to raise awareness and a newsletter. Thanked Mr. Bush with his leadership. Reminded everyone that CVH fully eliminated posey-net and very rarely using the restraint bed, if necessary, we are using the restraint chair. Just hired a new recovery services manager, excited about the citizen work that we are doing. Police Chief was happy to share his experience with Valley View To Go. Ms. Hyatt will send over some flyers on Valley View and Mum Sale.(takeaway) Ms. Hyatt reviewed the number of beds that CVH has to Mr. Burr. Through our collaboration with agency staffing, universities, we are no longer struggling with nursing, but we are challenged with social workers. We are building on our networking by attending college open houses. Universities come to CVH. Commissioner Navarretta – we are participating in the CT Counseling Association event which we will be recruiting at that event . Large recruitment tool to get employees into the State employment system.	
Adjournment	9:02am motion to adjourn.	Mr. McHugh, Chairperson
Next Meeting	December 8, 2023	

Transcribed by: Marguerite Griffin