

**State of Connecticut
State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services
February 15, 2017
Connecticut Valley Hospital**

Present: Chairman John Hamilton, Craig Allen, Rebecca Allen, Peggy Ayer, Samuel Ball, Kristie Barber, Deron Drumm, Marcia Dufore, Kathy Flaherty, Ingrid Gillespie, Jennifer Henry, Irene Herden, Mark Jenkins, Kati Mapa, Bob Painter, Larry Pittinger, Brian Reignier, Kevin Sevarino, Phil Valentine, Marcus McKinney, Ismene Petrakis, Kevin Sevarino, Tom Steen, Margaret Watt

Excused: Sharon Castelli, Juan Hernandez, Manuel Paris, Janine Sullivan-Wiley

DMHAS Staff: Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon, Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, Steve DiPietro, Marilyn Duran

Agenda Item 1: Call to order and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 PM by Chairman John Hamilton.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes of previous meetings review and action

The minutes from the January 18, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Commissioner's Update

- **Opioid-Related PSAs:** DMHAS has been working on a series of PSAs which many folks who have attended the opioid forums have shown some interest in being involved with and want to share their story of addiction, support, and recovery. Tom Gugliotti of DMHAS has been developing these PSAs and posting them on the DMHAS Facebook page. There was some discussion on what we can do more of with prevention, awareness, and education.
- **Budget:** The proposed budget came out last week and a vote on the final budget will most likely be done in June. The budget included baseline adjustments, which are additions to our budget, for increased service costs of \$3.1 million each year; funding for annualized caseload growth for \$2.7 million for the first year and a slight increase for the second year for a total of \$5.4 million. Some items that were reduced were the \$14.2 million annualized batch of last year, which included personnel services for \$2 million, other expenses for \$1 million, Young Adult Services for \$2.4 million, and substance abuse services for \$3 million. The DMHAS public hearing on the budget will be held on 2/23/17.

Agenda Item 4: Legislative Activities

- DMHAS has two bills it is trying to pass. One of the bills will give DMHAS statutory authority to let clients at WFD the ability to go to a hospital or convalescent after medical care. The second bill is to remove language for healthcare professionals that have to report to the Department of Public Health if they are diagnosed with a mental health condition or are arrested under a DUI.

Agenda Item 5: General Updates/Announcements

- **CLRP:** Kathy Flaherty announced that CLRP has already shut down their housing intake unit and the program cannot take any new clients right now due to the budget. Right now if you are a low income person that needs help you need to contact statewide legal services for assistance. If the budget gets passed CLRP will lose half of the staff.

- **CCAR:** Rebecca Allen announced that CCAR has all staff on board, a manager and four coaches, for the Emergency Department Recovery Coach Initiative. CCAR has two completed agreements with Manchester Hospital and Lawrence Memorial Hospital in New London, which will start in March.
- **CPN:** Ingrid Gillespie stated CPN submitted a number of suggestions for opioid bills to the Governor, at his request, and he took four of them. CPN is also organizing a series of five forums on Benzodiazepine with dates confirmed. CPN is also continuing to organize a number of remembrance quilt hosting sites and the numbers are growing.
- **Toivo-Advocacy Unlimited:** Deron Drumm stated that within the next six months Toivo will come out with an amazing website. Instead of a legislative breakfast there will be a Toivo experience of holistic practices held at the Capitol on 2/22/17.
- **Region 1:** Margaret Watt said the region is working on some testimonies for a couple of legislative bills HB 6887 and HB 6483.
- **Region 2:** Kristie Barber said the region will hold their legislative breakfast on 3/9/17 at the LOB.
- **Region 3:** Kati Mapa stated the region has been focusing on legislative testimonies right now and have done several testimony workshops with the Catchment Area Councils. A legislative breakfast will be held on 4/6/17.
- **Region 4:** Marcia DuFore announced that the region will hold their legislative breakfast on 3/21/17. The region held 1 of 6 community conversations around crisis response.

Agenda Item 6: Items for future agenda

- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mental Health and Addiction Services
- ACA/Healthcare Trends: Vicki Veltri, Chief Health Care Policy Advisor to Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman
- Other future agenda items?

Agenda Item 7: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of CVH Page Hall.