

State of Connecticut
State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services
January 15, 2025
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present online: Chmn. John Hamilton, Jennifer Buckley, Thomas Burr, Sharon Castelli, Kathy Flaherty, Allison Fulton, Caitlin Geaghan, Mark Irons, Pamela Maute, Giovanna Mozzo, Allyson Nadeau

DMHAS Staff: Commr. Navarretta, Deputy Commr. Harrington, Cheryl Arora, Krystin DeLucia, Marilyn Duran, Chris McClure, Chandra Persaud, Sarju Shah, Kelly Sinko, Elsa Ward

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 PM Chmn. John Hamilton

Agenda Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting review and action

The minutes from the November 20, 2024 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Commissioner's Update

Legislative: Kelly Sinko presented. For the DMHAS legislative proposal we are going to try and put everything into one bill. The four concepts we have are 1. The Pretrial Intervention Program. 2. Recovery-friendly language 3. OSAC Technical Fix and 4. "Opioid Drug" definition.

This is a long legislative session and ends in June. Some of the next step in session are the Governor introduces his two-year biennial budget in February. Some important deadlines are the Public Health Committee Raised Bill deadline – 2/19/25 and the Public Health Committee JF deadline – 4/02/25. We will also do a re-vamped Legislative Update.

Agency Update:

Some activities over the past month were:

- Commr. Navarretta and Elsa Ward met with Advocacy Unlimited at their new place and met with CCAR also. It was a very collaborative meeting, and they talked about our different approaches to recovery supports and what the peer support community feels is important.
- The Commissioners have met with the governor's office a few times around transition plans and potential issues that may arise with any transition at the federal leadership level, the governor has said publicly he's committed to Connecticut and DMHAS values delivering services based on our mission.
- ADCP met in December.
- OSAC met in this week we continue to address prevention, treatment and harm reduction, and recovery supports.
- DMHAS just passed this week a housing recommendation that's \$15 million over 4 years. And it will match people to vouchers to case management and other client supports. So folks with OUD or at risk for overdose, will be eligible. DMHAS has extended harm reduction centers and not only continue the ones that exist but bringing up one in Bridgeport.

Agenda Item 4: Quarterly Report – Whiting Forensic Hospital, Jose Crego, CEO

Tabled for February

Agenda Item 5: Presentation – Oder Adult Services, Erin Leavitt-Smith

Tabled for February

Agenda Item 6: RBHAO Report – Pamela Mautte

The RBHAOs are continuing to do their monthly messaging at the Department of Motor Vehicles across the state as well as through the radio. On February 5th they have a workshop coming up with a snow day of February 6th. It's a workshop on healthy outcomes for positive experiences. The national keynote speaker is Jerry Moe.

In March, they have problem gambling awareness month activities that are being planned and April 1st they have a statewide round table being planned that will focus on adult use of alcohol. And lastly, as the RBHAOs, they have established a community of practice for dialogue educators in the state, as most of their staff have completed the dialogue, education, training and use it in many of their community presentations.

For cannabis, all of the RBHAOs have awarded our two local coalitions their mini grants that will be used towards dedicating prevention efforts for youth. They had a press release that went out on that as well and mostly every region wrote in the report who their mini grantees would be. As far as the SOAR RFW everyone's on board. They are still doing our naloxone trainings and same with the PDO working on getting the leave behind kits put together and sending the information out. They are working on those deliverables. They have had through the Substance Exposed Children initiative members trained and people certified in the training of the trainer. They have a meeting tomorrow so more on that to come. Their LPC staff, everyone's moving along with their LPC and same with gambling. Suicide initiatives are going well across the state. QPR trainings postvention trainings are all still being held.

Agenda Item 7: General Updates/Announcements

- McCall Foundation and Liberation received the \$7 million extension of the clear grant, which is the flexion grant with law enforcement through the Bureau of Justice Grant, which is really exciting, and two of the elements that are different in this grant for the next three years is being able to identify those at risk as returning citizens coming out of DOC and working with kids on Handle with Care model for anyone or a parent who's had an overdose to be able to work with the child's school and identify kids that have been impacted by a parental overdose.

Agenda Item 7: Potential Future Topics (need for Presenters):

- Access to Beds or Lack of for Mental Health and Substance Use – Denise Paley
- Update on Cannabis – Sarju Shah

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, **February 19, 2025**, beginning at 2:30 PM.