

**State of Connecticut**  
**State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services**  
**November 18, 2020**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Present online:** Chmn. John Hamilton, Paul Acker, Craig Allen, Sharon Castelli, Michele Devine, Marcia DuFore, Michaela Fissel, Kathy Flaherty, Allison Fulton, Ingrid Gillespie, Jennifer Henry, Pam Mautte, Giovanna Mozzo, Manuel Paris, Larry Pittinger, Brian Reigner

**DMHAS Staff:** Deputy Commr. Nancy Navarretta, Marilyn Duran, Marlene Jacques Mary Kate Mason, Art Mongillo

**Agenda Item 1: Call to order and introductions**

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

**Agenda Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting review and action**

The minutes from the October 21, 2020 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

**Agenda Item 3: Commissioner's Update**

- **COVID-19** – Deputy Commr. Navarretta announced that Commr. Delphin-Rittmon has tested positive for COVID and is resting comfortably and getting better every day. She appreciates everyone's well wishes.

The severe weather protocol was sent out last week to everyone. The protocol comes out once a year and details how every town sets up their warming centers and the point of contact being 211. DMHAS's role is at the core of this protocol; we immediately notify all of our homeless outreach team and then folks go looking for people who may be at risk or vulnerable to bring them to warmer places.

DMHAS continues to disburse PPE as needed to folks. DMHAS is working with Quest and FQHCs; so that if there are any PNPs that do not have a formal agreement with the lab or access to testing they are trying to connect them with staff and link together to setup an agreement with Quest.

Most of the clinics across the state are using hybrid models, which are part of telehealth, including audio and visual equipment and providing in-person visit as needed and based on client preference.

In terms of COVID data for DMHAS, the cumulative data shows a total of 87 in-patient positive cases and of those 74 have recovered and are well; 160 employees across our entire state operated system tested positive and 132 have returned to work with medical documentation. DMHAS has expanded testing for direct care staff and are looking to do some self-testing soon. DMHAS is also meeting regarding the COVID vaccination implementation and will keep us informed.

- **Legislative Session** - Mary Kate Mason stated the session may start off virtually and will keep us informed. The Democrats have a super majority and so their agenda will pass. The new House Speaker Matt Ritter believes that legalization of marijuana is something he is interested in and that should be in the agenda. The DMHAS legislative package has not been finalized yet.
- **Budget** – Deputy Commr. Navarretta announced that there is no new information to share right now. Last month's state budget was projecting a shortfall of 1.2 billion for 2021 and the new numbers will come out later this week.

**Agenda Item 4: Presentation and Discussion: Emergency Department Recovery Coaching “An Opportunity for Change” and an update on recovery friendly work places initiative – Jennifer Chadukiewicz, CCAR EDRC Program Manager**

- Jennifer shared CCAR’s vision and mission statements. She talked about what a recovery coach is and does and the multiple pathways of recovery. She also talked about the recovery coach roles and the program implementation. She talked about coachervision which is an intentional, supportive, needs-based relationship in which one person, the Coachervisor, using the coaching model, provides support to the recovery coach in their day-to-day activities and encourages the development of their self-directed long-term success. She talked about the expected outcomes and the ED Recovery Coach training and responsibilities. ED Recovery Coach expansion started in 2017 with five towns; in 2018 six towns were added; in 2019 eight towns were added and in 2020 two more.
- EDRC 3-year data 3-1-17 to 2-24-20 received 9,781 calls from EDs and 6,578 individuals were seen at 20 EDs. 66% of the people served were for alcohol. 93% of the people served are engaged with a Recovery Coach and received assertive linkage to care. 74% connect to care from ED confirmed by follow-up call. There are 18 ED Recovery Coaches responding to 22 hospitals. There are five community centers which have held 79 all recovery meetings with 1,039 participants (in person and zoom).
- Recovery Friendly Workplace (RFW) Toolkit developed by CT Department of Labor in conjunction with community partners, and ADPC Sub-committees, during pandemic! CCAR was a contributing partner to this initiative. Toolkit provides a variety of resources for employers, most are grant funded. Toolkit, supported by and facilitated through RBHAOs, was promoted through CBIA, DOL, DMHAS and social media September 13, 2020.

**Agenda Item 5: Work Group Update**

- **Marijuana work group:** They have not convened yet.
- **DMHAS Social Justice and Health and Equities:** John Hamilton announced that the group has met twice now. Maggie Young, Maria Skinner, Daryl McGraw and Mark Jenkins are also on the committee now as well as Marcia Dufore and Pam Mautte. The committee has made a recommendation to try and tie together efforts with ADPC and specifically the criminal justice workgroup. A proposal was made to bring a future presentation to the Board on an effective police diversion program that Maria Skinner is involved in. The workgroup talked about funding or scholarships for workforce development.

**Agenda Item 6: General Updates and Announcements**

- Paul Acker and Michaela Fissel will work on language for a proposal recommendation for peer respite support for the next State Board meeting.
- Paul Acker announced that AU has the application process open for the next recovery support specialist program starting in January via Zoom. The application is on the AU website under recovery support specialist training.
- Michaela Fissel announced that on January 22<sup>nd</sup> the AU emerging adult team “Join Rise Be” is hosting a virtual summit. This is the fourth year holding this summit and it is a wonderful opportunity to get young people involved in the advocacy efforts and also promote pathways to recovery among young people who are transitioning to adulthood. This is a conference for young people by young people.
- Craig Allen announced that Beacon and the CT Hospital Association is holding a conference on Medication for opiate use disorder in a hospital system tomorrow morning.
- Brian Reigner announced that we would like to wish Kevin Sevarino the best considering everything he and his family have been through with COVID.

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

- A look at Emergency Depts.: from the perspective of a person living with mental illness (Brian Reigner to get Presenter)
- Hidden in Plain Sight
- Update on Sober Housing

- HealthCare: Access to Specialty Services
- Alcohol Awareness
- Share findings and recommendations of peer support services (Michaela Fissel and group)

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20th beginning at 2:30 PM.