

Behavioral Health Sub-Committee

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
Connecticut Office of Policy and Management

May 8, 2025

9:30 am – 11:00 am

(Russell Hall, CVH, Room 217-A; and TEAMS)

Minutes

1. Introductions/Roll call:
 - a. Present: Chris Burke (Assistant Director of Forensic Services DMHAS), Jessica Waggoner (DMHAS - Director of Forensic Services), Thomas Kocienda (DOC), Thomas Burr (NAMI CT), Judith Dowd (OPM), Michael Aiello (CSSD), Christine Musgrave (Forensic Services – minutes), William O'Connor (Public defender), Alex Tsarkov (Sentencing Commission), Reena Kapoor (member of the public)
2. Approval of draft minutes of meeting on January, 2025 → Approved without changes.
3. Legislative Matters:
 - a. Supervised Diversionary Program updates – Jessica Waggoner reported
 - i. Proposed language to include individuals with IDD and Autism Spectrum Disorders will not move forward this year. There will be continued conversations with DSS, DDS and DMHAS to determine a path to move forward.
 - ii. Additional proposal to add a family violence component is likely to move forward.
 - b. PTIP updates- Jessica Waggoner reported – this will allow DMHAS to be a funder of last resort for individuals referred for treatment. Insurance providers would be billed as primary payor. It does appear this amendment will move forward.
 - c. Proposal to limit the use of special conservators in comp evals to those with felony criminal charges - Bill O'Connor reported that this amendment did not make it out of committee.
 - d. PSRB commitments - Bill O'Connor reported that this amendment places the burden of proof to extend a commitment on the State of CT, and this amendment appears as though it will move forward.
 - e. Amendments/bills impacting DOC - Thomas Burr reported
 - i. Senate 1394 provision of health care services to inmates. This bill is still in play and is on the Senate calendar.
 - ii. Senate 1543 DOC act with a list of correctional institution measures bill is tabled for the senate calendar a week ago. Hopefully it will make it through.

4. Competency to Stand Trial Updates:
 - a. Increase in competency evals since November, 2025. 18 active orders right now, expecting to continue to see an increase. Waterbury and New London have the highest outpatient orders. Has not yet statistically affected Whiting admissions yet but continue to see this if outpatient orders remain at this rate.
5. PSRB Updates - Significant increase in PSRB media coverage which has had some negative effects on acquitees. Some are inaccurate and mostly negative. PSRB has been working to educate police, communities, and legislators to try and ease tensions.
6. Agency Updates:
 - a. DMHAS- Jessica reported that Chris Burke is retiring in June.
 - i. Reena – dealing with the outpatient comp orders from Waterbury in the New Haven office. The big question right now is do you have to go step by step before sending to Whiting or can that be a next step?
 - b. CSSD - Michael Aiello reported that CSSD is working on existing MOA with DMHAS that will allow PSRB acquitees to access The Connection Inc for PSB treatment through the CSSD contract. Up to ten per year.
 - c. DOC - Thomas Kocienda reported that there were no other new updates for DOC other than the bills already mentioned.
 - d. OPM - Judy Dowd – Justice Involved Waiver update, CMS approved the advanced planning document that will support the cost of getting all the agencies an EHR that can speak to each other with a 90% match.
Reena – dealing with the outpatient comp orders from Waterbury in the New Haven office. The big question right now is do you have to go step by step before sending to Whiting or can that be a next step?
 - e. Sentencing Commission - Alex Tsarkov reported that he will be leaving the Sentencing Commissioner for the Board of Pardon and Parole, and this will likely be the last meeting with this group.
 - f. Public Defenders - William O'Connor reported that there has been increase in new PSRB acquitees/commitments. 6 initial hearings in the first half of the year, two more on the schedule. Defense seems to be used when appropriate despite media coverage.
7. Next meeting TBD. We will need to reschedule this meeting moving forward as there is a conflict with a larger meeting. Jessica will be sending an email out to find a date and time that works for everyone. [Russell Hall, CVH, Room 217-A and Teams for those unable to attend in person].