

## **Behavioral Health Sub-Committee**

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

**November 13, 2025**

**9:30 am – 11:00 am**

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

### Minutes

1. Introductions/Roll call –Chris Burke, Jessica Waggoner, Judith Dowd, Matthew Hono (Research Technician attending for Richard Sparaco), Richard Sparaco (attended last few minutes), Sintia Claudio, Thomas Burr, William O’Connor.
2. Approval of minutes; September 11, 2025 – After adding new DOC Ombudsman name DeVaughn Ward, minutes were approved.
3. Agency updates
  - a. William O’Connor, Public Defenders Office – Three different cases under the board, went to court last month seeking discharge, whether it was application for discharge or petition for continued commitment. Waiting for decision on all three. And there’s a fourth one next Friday in Stamford, subject to recent Supreme Court decision.
  - b. Thomas Burr, NAMI
    - i. Monthly Public Policy Coalition meeting tonight at 6:30 via zoom. Hosting legislative forum as done each fall, same forum, different dates/opportunities on 11/20 and 12/2. Also added this year Mental Health 101 on 11/18. All meetings via zoom at 6:30.
    - ii. DMHAS released their report regarding respite beds at Gloria House in New Britain. Overall, recorded good results. But some concerns about running below capacity due to marketing. Full report available by sending an email to Thomas.
  - c. Judy Dowd, OPM - JI Waiver expect to be approved by May which coincides with the CAA coverage of youth under the age of 21 insured by Medicaid which is a federal mandate. Once JI Waiver is in line, will be able to expand to everyone else.
  - d. Matthew Hono, Sentencing Commission – working on several reports: Competency to Stand Trial report in collaboration with Jessica Waggoner, reaching final approval processes in the coming months. Full commission meeting on 12/10 when report will be approved, including a presentation from Jessica and Rich. Report on Yale safe center evaluations of community and mental health released from DOC quantitative portion of the report been stalled due to data request currently going through OPM, but qualitative portion is going smoothly and hoping it will be published featuring around 15 interviews of individual experiences trying to obtain community mental health resources. Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting scheduled before end of year.

- e. Jessica Waggoner, DMHAS
  - i. Competency is not increasing but there's more outpatient restoration. There have been a few cases where the court has nulled cases which were recommended for Whiting. This is new and making sure that everyone is working on discharge planning for those individuals. There are been a slight decrease in competency admissions to Whiting.
  - ii. PSRB continues to move forward with a number of TL and CR applications for individuals that are under the board. This will increase the number of people out on CR in the community.
  - iii. Looking at utilizing the surplus Mental Health block money for training. Looking specifically at training regarding the evaluation and treatment interventions for older individuals and those with neurocognitive issues. There has been a noted increase in this population in the competency system. Also looking at training opportunities regarding evidence-based competency evaluation tools.
- 4. Discussion around future areas of discussion/focus for this Sub-Committee: All present agreed to keep the Sub-Committee and focus on agency updates as well as competency, PSRB, and the JI Waiver. Will send out an email to those not currently present for their input.
- 5. Meeting Schedule: Currently the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8 but will be rescheduled to a February date.