

Behavioral Health Sub-Committee
Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
Connecticut Office of Policy and Management

September 5, 2019
9:00 – 10:00 am
(Russell Hall, CVH, Middletown)

Minutes

In attendance: Angel Acevedo (for Monte Radler), Brian Austin, Joseph Grzelak, Michael Norko, Joann Norman

1. Introductions – Angel Acevedo (para-legal) representing Public Defender’s office today
2. Minutes of May 2, 2019 meeting approved with corrections
3. Additions to agenda - none
4. Proposals for dually-diagnosed, high-need, justice involved adults
 - Efforts to secure additional funding for proposal at Sierra Pre-Trial Center have not been successful. Joe Grzelak reported that he and Michael Aiello have been working to improve the functioning of existing programs at Sierra. They are hoping to bring more of a behavioral health focus to the existing criminogenic focus and are planning a meeting with relevant leadership to discuss further.
 - We also discussed the need for more criminogenic needs training for behavioral health staff at CMHC and other DMHAS LMHAS. It is hoped that such cross-training will be helpful in reducing the number of SMI clients being arrested on minor charges, the number of defendants referred for competency evaluation and for competency restoration on low level charges with low bonds.
 - We will ask members of the subcommittee to think about other possible proposals to meet the needs of this group and email suggestions prior to next meeting.
5. BH program updates –
 - A. Brian Austin reported that the SAMHSA funds are being used for the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney’s Early Screening Intervention program in six sites, and with these funds the program can continue through Sept 2020.
6. DOC BH updates – Joann Norman reported that DOC Addiction Services has recently hired 16 additional addictions service counselors. DOC Behavioral Health Services has also been hiring new LCSWs to fill vacancies.
7. CJPAC: Next meeting Sept 26, 2019
8. Interest Area updates
 - A. BH Services/system barriers – none discussed
9. Other agency updates –

Brian Austin reported that Kevin Kane, Chief State’s Attorney, has announced his retirement Nov 1, 2019. A national search will be held, and in line with the new transparency legislation passed this spring, the final interviews will be held publicly and televised on CT-N. Brian also noted that more than half of all state’s attorney office staff will reach retirement age in the next three years. They have been hiring new state’s attorneys and will continue to fill vacancies. Joann Norman reported that a similar situation exists for future retirees in DOC. Joann also reported that DOC addiction services has expanded their training offerings to other disciplines, which has been very well received.

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- 10. Other Items – none discussed

- 11. Bi-monthly Meetings: 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2nd floor, CVH Campus
 - Nov 7, 2019
 - Jan 9, 2020 (note change from first Thursday of the month)
 - March 5
 - May 7
 - July 2
 - Sept 3
 - Nov 5