

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

**Minutes
May 5, 2011 9:00 – 11:00 am (Russell Hall, CVH)**

In attendance: Michael Aiello, Brian Austin, Martha Brown, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Ed Mattison, Loel Meckel, Mark Meola, Michael Norko, Michael Peloso, Monte Radler, Judith Rossi, Alicia Woodsby, Sally Zanger

1. Introductions: No guests or new members were present.

2. Review of minutes of February 3, 2011 - Approved

3. Additions to agenda: None

4. BH program updates:

A. Forensic funds initiatives –Loel Meckel reported:

Open positions to continue CT Offender Reentry Program (CORP) in New Haven, to restart Crisis Intervention Team clinical support in New Haven, and to establish a Jail Diversion for Vets program in New Haven were rescinded. The future of these positions will depend on decisions for the state budget for SFY12.

We expect the 60 Rental Assistance Program certificates (RAPs) to become available to DMHAS Community Forensic programs very soon.

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) implementation is proceeding in New Haven and expansion to other areas is being planned.

DMHAS Forensic Services and CSSD are meeting at each DMHAS Local Mental Health Authority with the local probation staff to review referral processes, communication, services, and collaboration.

The Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) is a peer staffed agency that promotes recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction through advocacy, education, and support. A large proportion of people served by CCAR have or have had criminal justice involvement. With funding from DMHAS and in collaboration with CSSD, CCAR is reaching out to Adult Probation offices to make their support services available to probationers.

B. Rapid Treatment Option – Michael Norko reported a new admission in March 2011. The individual was found not competent and sent for restoration. The final length of stay was 96 days, no savings in this case.

C. Outpatient restoration – Michael Norko reported that a pilot in New Haven is ready to proceed when an appropriate case occurs. The pilot will use the CompKit as a manualized approach to outpatient education for competence to stand trial restoration, and will use the CREST day reporting center as a base of operations and service for these clients.

D. SOAR Initiative: DOC is very interesting in training and expects to make perhaps 50 applications/year.

E. Other: no report

5. DOC BH updates: Dr. Bannish was out of state and there was no report. In later discussion, it was noted that efforts to increase the release of inmates brings increased needs in the community for housing, food stamps and MH/SA services.

6. CJPAC - No report

7. Interest Area updates

A. Housing/employment – Sally Zanger reported that CLRP is concerned that DSS rules are not flexible regarding manifestations of mental illness and termination of RAP certificates (e.g., any arrest leads to termination regardless of the severity or circumstances). It was noted that the DMHAS contract for RAP certificates calls for DMHAS review if there is an objection to a termination.

B. BH Services/system barriers –

1) Updates re ROI: MOA was signed May 1. DCF is looking into joining the ROI later. The MOA was to be sent to all members.

2) Rx for discharged inmates/detainees: Loel Meckel reported the following:

Pretrial discharges from court - Currently in Middletown, Meriden, New Haven, Wtby; defendants released from DOC custody and on medications are directed to the Bail Commission office. Bail Commissioner completes paperwork and provides the defendant with a card with which they can obtain medications prescribed by DOC at a local pharmacy. CSSD will begin expansion to other courts.

Sentenced discharges from DOC – Currently in Willard/Cybulski and York; rather than getting discharge meds at the time of release, DOC provides the defendant with a card with which they can obtain medications prescribed by DOC at a local pharmacy. This process avoids the expense of medications being provided to people who will not use them.

C. Raise the Age – Juvenile court changes – nothing new to report.

8. Other agency updates –

A. CSSD recently released an RFP to expand the Advanced Supervision and Intervention Support Team (ASIST) program to new locations. ASIST is co-funded and co-managed by CSSD, DMHAS, and DOC in seven locations. ASIST is for adults with moderate-serious mental illness who have criminal justice supervision and would be incarcerated without the combination of clinical services, community support, and supervision provided by ASIST.

B. Sentence modification & the CT Sentencing Commission: CGS 53a-39 and Section 4 of HB 6391 being considered by the Sentencing Commission. Discussion ensued that Sec 4 of HB 6391 could be utilized to accomplish many of the same goals as the idea for a sentence modification amendment that was friendly to persons with psychiatric disabilities. The disparity discussed has been that people with psychiatric disabilities have been much less likely to get “good time.” Monte Radler noted that he had worked on the latter, and would send the draft text. His original idea was to create the possibility that a sentence could be suspended with imposition of probation or parole. It was also noted that sponsors are required for individuals with substance use problems under TS, and perhaps we should discuss modifications to this requirement. Related to discussions re parole, it was suggested that Ed Kendall be invited to join the BHS.

9. Other Items –

10. Quarterly Meetings (2010 CJPAC mtgs scheduled for 9/9, 10/14, 11/10, 12/9)

A. Nov. 3, 2011 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2nd floor, CVH Campus]

B. Feb 2012 TBD

C. May 2012 TBD