

State of Connecticut
State Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services
April 17, 2019
Connecticut Valley Hospital

Present: Chairman John Hamilton, Paul Acker, Janice Andersen, Sharon Castelli, Michele Devine, Marcia DuFore, Ingrid Gillespie, Irene Herden, Mark Jenkins, Pam Mautte, Marcus McKinney, Bob Painter, Larry Pittinger, Brian Reignier, Phil Valentine, Margaret Watt

Excused: Kevin Sevarino, Kate Travis

DMHAS Staff: Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, Mary Mason, Marlene Jacques, Diana Shaw, Marilyn Duran

Agenda Item 1: Call to order and introductions

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

Agenda Item 2: Moment of Silence for Deron Drumm, Executive Director of Advocacy Unlimited (AU)

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of previous meeting review and action

The minutes from March 20, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation – Harm Reduction/Innovative Engagement – Dr. Robert Heimer, Yale University

Dr. Robert Heimer discussed harm reduction and innovative engagement practices. Through the needle exchange program they were able to place 600 willing individuals into treatment. A problem that was found is that the people who had to wait for more than 2 days to meet with a referral treatment provider their rate of successfully keeping the referral fell from 80% to 60%; if it was a week 50% and if it was more than a week 20%. There is not enough treatment for people that will keep them from being in a vicious cycle of starting treatment and failing and then going back to using. The failure rates at 6 months are 90%. The rates of success for programs with a harm reduction focus can be as high as 75% or 80% for any year. The reason for having a harm reduction approach is that evidence demonstrates that it keeps people healthier and safer until they are ready to make the changes in their life.

Agenda Item 5: Commissioner's Update

- **Budget:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon shared that 1199 held a press conference related to the different privatizations in the DMHAS budget and there may be some press coming out on this. There are no layoff options on these privatizations. For Young Adult Services (YAS), Torrington, Danbury and other sites people will be moved into other vacancies. The Appropriations budget will come out at the end of this month.
- **Legislative Update:** Mary Mason announced that bills have been sent out of committee that will be considered by the House and the Senate. There are two opioid bills; one is the Governor's which is in the General Law committee and primarily addresses issues related to the Department of Consumer Protection and the second opioid bill, from Public Health committee addresses making Narcan available at institutions of higher education and changing some language around pharmacist availability with Narcan as well as the possibility of DMHAS studying the efficacy of home health agencies doing substance use treatment. The marijuana bills got out of committee and online gaming is moving forward.
- **Other:** Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon shared that UCONN is looking at expanding and developing their recovery work, recovery housing; and also looking to do a recovery coach academy training and developing recovery allies.

The International Recovery and Citizenship Collective (IRCC) is holding their annual conference May 13th – 16th in New Haven, CT.

Agenda Item 6:

- **Best Practices Subcommittee Update:** Larry Pittinger shared that the subcommittee is now talking with another food truck vendor to come on board the CVH campus as well as other possible vendors for the future. The subcommittee is also doing some research for best practices in Whiting Forensic Hospital.
- **General Updates/Announcements/Conference Highlights:**
 - **CCAR:** Phil Valentine announced CCAR held their annual volunteer dinner which was well attended. CCAR also held a legislative day at the State Capitol. CCAR Director of Recovery Advocacy Michael Askew is working on putting together a series of trainings and a vetting process for the new volunteer recovery advocate role. On May 10th the Connecticut Conference on Municipalities will hold their Triple Crown event for non-profits at the Hartford Club.
 - **CPN:** Ingrid Gillespie said CPN is providing informational facts to folks on Marijuana so they can make an informed decision regarding the legalization of it. Medication Adherence and Anti-diversion Strategy (MAADS), a packaging pilot, is now working with UCONN.
 - **Region 4:** Marcia DuFore shared that the region has been focusing their efforts this year on housing and the lack of housing resources for people in our system. Leaders in all the coalitions that deal with housing and homelessness were brought to a forum on Housing Supports in Connecticut.

Agenda Item 7: Items for future agenda:

1. *Focus on new provider innovations sharing (Standing agenda item through Board consensus)*
2. *Have the ADPC Recovery subcommittee to present or disseminate information on changing the language for harm reduction (next month).*
3. *Have each RBHAO give an update/presentation*

Agenda Item 8: Adjournment/next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 beginning at 2:30 PM in room 217 of CVH Page Hall.