

Meeting Minutes  
System Barriers Workgroup  
Connecticut Valley Hospital, Russell Hall  
Second Floor Conference Room  
July 11, 2007 9 a.m.

Present: Loel Meckel, Workgroup Chairperson, DMHAS; Doreen DeIBianco, DMHAS/Legislative Unit; Fred Storey, DMHAS/DFS; Louise Pyers, NAMI; Monte Radler, Public Defenders Office; Alyse Chin, OPM; Linda DeConti, OPM; Mariefi O'Malley, DMHAS/DFS; Brian Coco, CSSD; Michael Aiello, CSSD

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Mariefi O'Malley - Temporary secretary at DFS until September 2007.
- b. Brian Coco - Supervisor for ten probationary officers at CSSD.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes of the June 7, 2007 meeting

- a. The Minutes of the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted with the following amendments:
  - i. In "Summary of meeting regarding Rx for pretrial inmates leaving DOC:" section, first point for "Strategies being explored:" should be corrected to read as indicated below without referencing DOC: "UCONN Health Center Correctional Managed Health Care Contract picks up the tab."
  - ii. Corrected grammatical error in second sentence (omitted "we") so the corrected sentence should read: "The Workgroup members agreed that we should continue to work on the barriers that are currently being addressed but that there was no time right now to take on another barrier."

III. Announcements

- a. Dr. Michael Norko joins DFS this month, replacing Gail Sturges who has since retired as Director of Forensic Services. Dr. Norko was former Director at Whiting.
- b. Dr. Patrick Fox moves to Whiting to replace Dr. Norko. Dr. Fox was a former consulting psychiatrist for DFS.
- c. Office Of Policy and Management (OPM) Criminal Justice web site goes "live" (online) July 16<sup>th</sup>. Take the time to visit online to give reviews/feedback on newly formatted website: <http://www.ct.gov/opm/site/default.asp>.
- d. National Alliance of Mental Illness – CT (NAMI-CT) has just moved to a new location: 241 Main Street, Hartford. Same phone line: 1-800-215-3021 (local calls: 860-882-0236).
- e. State Police Peer counseling is a program in combination with DMHAS to assist those in the State law enforcement (specifically unionized State Troopers, Sergeants and Master Sergeants) with peer support. These volunteers are trained to help their peers cope with stressors on-the-job or outside of work. The Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement (CABLE) is providing training for the peer volunteers. Currently there are 24 officers enrolled in the program - more training sessions for peer counselors will take place in September of this year.

IV. Accelerated Rehabilitation for defendants with psychiatric disorders  
Monte Radler is preparing a proposal.

V. Meetings to provide RX for inmates upon discharge from DOC  
Continuing to review level of need and options for resolution