

Meeting Minutes
System Barriers Workgroup
Connecticut Valley Hospital
Russell Hall – Isaac Ray Conference Room
March 19, 2008 - 9:00 a.m.

Present: Loel Meckel, Workgroup Chairperson, DMHAS; Martha Brown, UCONN Health Center, Judith Rossi, Chief State's Attorney's Office, Michael Peloso, CSSD, Brian Coco, DOC, Amanda Alves, OPM, Louise Pyers, NAMI, Fred Storey, DMHAS, Gina Desbiens, Public Defenders Office, Michael Aiello, CSSD.

Welcome and Introductions – Introductions were made.

Additions to Agenda – None were made.

Acceptance to the minutes of the prior meeting: Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Schedule next meetings: The group concluded that it would begin meeting bi-monthly beginning in June. Future meetings are as listed below:

System Barriers Workgroup

Wednesday, June 18, 2008, @ 9:00 AM

Wednesday, August 13, 2008 @ 9:00 AM

Meetings are held at Connecticut Valley Hospital, Russell Hall, Second Floor Conference Room unless otherwise specified.

Updates

Rx for DOC pretrial inmates upon discharge:

No other meeting has been scheduled; waiting to hear back about proposal of language. The issue thus far appears to be a need for staff resources as opposed to funding. A combination of plans are being discussed regarding the procedure for when an inmate is discharged, how many weeks worth of medication, how to initiate the contact for benefits; what method to put in place for the pharmacy. The effort is progressing and the group is working on details.

Release of Information:

Loel stated that releases have been forwarded to him from CSSD, Public Defenders Office, DDS, DCF, DMHAS and DSS. The problem is that the releases are too individualized to make a standard release acceptable. Most realistic to forward all to the Attorney General's office for endorsement and to develop an MOA or MOU to incorporate language that releases can be accepted by all. CSSD stated that their legal team would also need to review the MOA. Next step is a review by the Behavioral Health Subcommittee and presentation of proposal to the CJPAC.

Police Custody Rates:

Loel stated that the first step in looking at the data is to decide what data is needed. Amanda Alves will speak with Linda DeConti as to when would be the best time to begin looking at the data.

Proposal being considered for CJS-involved persons with psychiatric disorders: Louise Pyers reported that NAMI, CABLE, and the Autism Spectrum Resources Center have submitted a proposal to the Judicial Department to train probation officers. This effort is driven by CSSD and she should know more within the next few weeks.

The Supervised Diversionary Program (MH AR) legislation is being reviewed – some items may need to be clarified. CSSD will receive funding eight (8) probation officers and will receive \$612,000 for services.

Agency/Program Updates:

ASIST – Forty-one active cases – over the next two weeks all positions should be filled. Oversight meeting are held every two weeks.

CIT - Another Bridgeport CIT clinician person will be hired. Up to twenty officers from Bridgeport PD will be trained in April and 20 in July. CIT training will be held on July 14-18 in New Canaan. Louise stated that bail staff are allowed to attend the training. There was discussion about a proposal to expand the training to the Judicial Marshalls. Proposal will be forwarded to Loel, who will then discuss with Dr. Mike Norko.

Sierra – Eleven clients – staff relationships are getting better. There are three to four pending cases.

CREST – An open house for court personnel is scheduled. A plan to have a laminated cheat sheet affixed to the judges' bench was discussed.

TCM – DMHAS has TCM in two locations, Waterbury and Hartford, and have been operating for four years. The program consists of sentenced men who are substance abusers, some with mild mental health issues. They are generally referred to the program at least five months prior to release. With the program, there has been a very low recidivism rate, last year it was 4%. The program is expanding to Bridgeport in FY 09. An RFP is in for review for New Britain/Bristol and New London/Norwich. The capacity for the two existing locations is 20 per location. There is a possibility for an increase in staff for Hartford.

Mike stated that there is discussion for a jail re-interviewer staff with MSW to dedicate to certain facilities. They are in collaboration with DOC for three mental health and one adolescent staff. Mike further offers the following:

In 2006, prior to mental health re-interview staff:

Osborn interviewed 157, released 114

Garner interviewed 35, released 17

2007 after mental health re-interview staff hired:

Osborn interviewed 598, released 291

Garner interviewed 156, released 49

System Barriers to address: None

Other Business: In response to whether or not the committee to review strategies for early recognition of mental illness among incarcerated persons would be a CJPAC issue, Loel stated it probably would be.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.