

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

**Minutes  
September 1, 2011 9:00 – 11:00 am (Russell Hall, CVH)**

**In attendance:** Brian Austin, Martha Brown, Linda DeConti, Judy Dowd, Sarah Kolb, Mike Lawlor, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Ed Mattison, Loel Meckel, Michael Norko, Louise Pyers, Alicia Woodsby,

- 1. Introductions:** Mike Lawlor and Sarah Kolb were welcomed to the meeting.
- 2. Review of minutes of May 5, 2011** - Approved with amendments
- 3. Additions to agenda:** Effects of increased releases from DOC on community resources
- 4. BH program updates:**

A. Forensic funds initiatives –Loel Meckel reported:

Continuing to request 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 statewide coordinator for Jail Diversion for Vets program. Approval is pending final decision about state budget.

60 Rental Assistance Program certificates (RAPs) are now available to DMHAS Community Forensic programs in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport..

Keys to Success program (Parole, Probation, CCAR) – With funding from DMHAS, CCAR will pilot a presentation at its Bridgeport Recovery Center on how to succeed on probation and parole. Representatives of probation and parole will also participate. 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.

Capital Region Mental Health Center's Jail Diversion program and the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Centers, Inc. are collaborating to implement the Jail Diversion Substance Abuse program. The goal is to permit the court to divert low risk offenders directly from arraignment to detox beds and/or treatment beds.

CT Mental Health Center and The Connection, Inc. are collaborating to add 7 beds to CSSD's 16 pretrial Sierra residential diversion beds operated by The Connection in New Haven. Additional funding will expand programming as well as capacity and will accommodate JD referrals of defendants with SMI who are incarcerated on a bond.

B. Rapid Treatment Option – Michael Norko reported no new cases.

C. Outpatient restoration – Michael Norko reported that PA 11-15 becomes effective October 1, 2011 and permits the court to transfer a defendant from inpatient to outpatient restoration. Procedures are being developed for communication/collaboration between inpatient and outpatient treatment teams.

D. DOC SOAR Initiative: SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) is a process promoted by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration that communities can implement to help adults with psychiatric disabilities access federal disability income, SSI/SSDI. DOC is receiving technical assistance to implement SOAR in Osborn Correctional Institute. DMHAS Forensic Services will assist with connecting these clients to SOAR activities in their communities after discharge. DMHAS Forensic Services is funding a statewide expansion of the DMHAS SOAR New Haven pilot.

E. Other: Louise Pyers reported that, with partial funding from DMHAS, the CT Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement (CABLE) recently presented a full day conference on strategies to reduce police suicide. 70 police departments sent 300 officers. Increased suicide risk is a product of the demands of police work and inadequate coping skills or support networks. Several years ago DMHAS and CABLE assisted the CT State Police in developing a Peer Support program and at this conference several other departments expressed an interest in doing the same..

Alicia Woodsby asked whether CIT was available for youth, and commented on reports of increasing school arrests of students. Louise Pyers responded that CSSD is currently funding CABLE to do this work, and they are in discussion with DCF representatives. They have accomplished train-the-trainer sessions, and emergency mobile psychiatric services are available through 2-1-1 calls, with a clinician response time of 45 min. if requested to scene, or at ER if police bring youth there. School Resource Officers are being trained.

Louise Pyers reported that two representatives from DOC and an advocate from CABLE have been selected to attend a National Institute of Correction Train the Trainer program in December for CIT in Corrections. Plans are pending approval. These three individuals will train first line custody staff (Correctional Officers) in this model.

**5. DOC BH updates:** Dr. Bannish was unavailable and there was no report. The suggestion was made to invite Dr. Mauer to future meetings.

**6. CJPAC** – August meeting was canceled.

**7. Interest Area updates**

A. Housing/employment – no report

B. BH Services/system barriers –

1) Updates re ROI: MOA was signed May 1. DCF is looking into joining the ROI later. There has not been an opportunity yet to make this report at CJPAC.

2) Rx for discharged inmates/detainees: Alicia Woodsby reported that family members are complaining that people are being discharged without medication. Judy Dowd responded that 3 entitlement workers and supervisor positions could not be filled. The DSS system currently does not allow Medicaid benefits to be suspended, even though the benefits do not have to be terminated. Discussions are in progress about fixing this. Also, DSS is working to cut the form (down to 2 pages) for re-instating benefits if incarceration < 24 mos.

C. Raise the Age – Juvenile court changes – meetings are expected to resume soon.

**8. Other agency updates** –

A. Sentence modification and earned risk reduction credit. We discussed CGS 53a-39 and Section 22 of PA 11-51; the latter 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 had previously noted that his original idea was to create the possibility that a sentence could be suspended with imposition of probation or parole. There were concerns about how to articulate appropriate amendments to 53a-39, and further discussion with Monte Radler will be needed at a future meeting. Brian Austin noted that PA 11-51 also makes it possible for individuals to get parole earlier, not just an earlier release date.

C. Louise Pyers noted that upcoming training in CIT is scheduled for Correctional Officers.

**9. Other Items** – Concerns re availability of community resources. Ed Mattison noted that housing resources are not adequate to meet the demands for housing for all individuals leaving DOC. Mike Lawlor asked Ed to quantify the limitations so that proposals could be crafted for the legislature to consider, since investing in housing would likely decrease criminal recidivism and need for DOC resources. Mike Lawlor also noted that PA 11-51 has increased releases, but that released in first half of 2011 are down compared to 2010, that the arrest rate is decreasing, and that the DOC population is decreased due to decreased admissions primarily.

**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]

B. Feb 9, 2012 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]

C. May 2012 TBD [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]

D. Sept 2012 TBD [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]