

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

**Minutes**

**January 5, 2012 9:00 – 11:00 am (Russell Hall, CVH)**

**In attendance:** Michael Aiello, Brian Austin, Dan Bannish, Martha Brown, Linda DeConti, Sara Frankel, Daniela Giordano, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Loel Meckel, Michael Norko, Colette Orszulak, Louise Pyers, Monte Radler, David Rentler, Sally Zanger

1. **Introductions:** Sara Frankel and Daniela Giordano of NAMI-CT were welcomed to the meeting; both may attend future meetings.
2. **Review of minutes of November 3, 2011** - Approved without amendment
3. **Additions to agenda:** Louise Pyers was congratulated for being honored as the 2011 International Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Coordinator of the Year by Crisis Intervention Team International at their annual conference in September at Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**4. BH program updates:**

A. Forensic funds initiatives –Loel Meckel reported:

State Positions – Positions posted and in various stages of interviewing and hiring for CT Offender Reentry Program (CORP) in New Haven, Crisis Intervention Team clinician in New Haven, and Jail Diversion for Vets program.

Sierra transitional JD pretrial beds – Admissions have been lower lately than expected, may be due to holiday effect.

Dan Bannish noted pockets of denials for jail re-interview; also recent experience with individuals with \$2-3k bonds staying in DOC pre-trial more than 30 days and losing their Medicaid entitlements.

B. Rapid Treatment Option – Michael Norko reported that the 9<sup>th</sup> admission under this pilot occurred in Oct 2011, 10<sup>th</sup> in Nov 2011 – both were found competent. Average length of stay for those found competent is now 34 days, compared to 90 days for those restored after finding of not competent but restorable.

C. Outpatient restoration – Michael Norko reported work continues on procedures for communication/collaboration between inpatient and outpatient treatment teams to permit transfers as allowed in PA 11-15.

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. DMHAS Forensic Services is funding a statewide expansion of the DMHAS SOAR New Haven pilot starting with Waterbury, Norwich, and Middlesex County. The first two SSI applications from the New Haven pilot were approved by SSA in 12 and 22 days, compared with the usual 1 year or longer.

E. Other: none

**5. DOC BH updates:** Dr. Bannish reported the following

A. DOC MH – general: no report

B. Other DOC f/u reports:

1. Early release for inmates w/ SMI – no report

2. TBI prevalence – no report

3. SO community beds RFP – DOC received Technical Assistance grant from National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to look at the sex offender system; will be visiting Colorado to review their model system. 3,200 inmates now have sex needs scores (out of 17,000 total). They will also be examining Vermont, Maine and Indiana systems.

Mike Aiello noted that the Montville program should be open by the end of January, with 24 beds that are expected to be filled by the end of February. Reports on its progress will be part of the quarterly Corrigan-Radgowski safety meetings.

4. CJ-DATS research – no report

C. Discharge planning –

DOC and DMHAS will release a Request for Proposals in mid-January for responses from providers for a nursing home for inmates and persons in psychiatric hospitals with significant medical needs. A bidders conference is planned

for 1/24/12. The plan calls for 90 beds at a Skilled Nursing Facility level of care. They will also explore assisted living level of care in future.

D. Other –

DOC continues to develop its integrated care model to include medical needs and co-occurring disorders needs. Data show that discharged inmates with a medical home and a place to live have much lower recidivism rates.

DOC will also be starting medically assisted therapy for substance abuse disorders. Dr. Ducate is leading this effort and working with Lauren Siembab of DMHAS.

DOC needs to have a way to evaluate special needs of individuals about to enter DOC (e.g., dialysis, oncology). Monte Radler suggested this could be part of the Pre-Sentence Investigation report. Loel Meckel said he would work on a written concept description and circulate it. Others ideas raised were having a registered nurse hired in the court to help with these up-front determinations. Monte Radler noted that the current system of reviewing needs through the public defender offices takes several weeks for staff to get to know clients' needs, and so they often enter DOC on bond in the interim.

**6. CJPAC – next Meeting Jan 26.** There was substantial discussion about the recent lawsuits and other actions of municipalities to block the movement of insanity acquittees under the PSRB into the community. The subcommittee decided to submit a report to the CJPAC at the next meeting regarding its concerns. Michael Noroko volunteered to draft a report and circulate it for comments.

**7. Interest Area updates**

A. Housing/employment – no report

B. BH Services/system barriers – The release of information group will be meeting January 25, 2012 to discuss updates to the memorandum of agreement, including adding DCF to the group.

C. Raise the Age – Juvenile court changes – no report

**8. Other agency updates –**

A. Sentence modification and Risk Reduction Earned Credit. Monte Radler reported that attention to individuals with SMI would be easier if worked into parole system rather than sentence modification. More is required than what exists in Sec 22 of PA 11-51. David Rentler noted that this will require more properly trained parole officers; he also noted that a legislative amendment related specifically to persons with psychiatric disabilities would be very helpful. Monte Radler will draft amendment regarding parole of individuals with psychiatric disabilities. Mike Aiello noted that it would also be helpful to have fewer arrests on substance abuse charges in order to decrease the pretrial population.

B. Keys to Success program – no report

**9. Other Items – CIT:** Louise Pyers reported that CIT & DOC staff visited Colorado with the NIC to review CIT programs for DOC. The CT state police are also hoping to send more troopers to CIT in the near future. There are currently 5 trainings per year with 35-40 officers at a time ideally, but 50 have been scheduled lately. Will look into possibility of adding 1 training each year.

**10. Behavioral Health Subcommittee Quarterly Meetings**

A. April 5, 2012 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]

B. July 5, 2012 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]

C. October 4, 2012 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus]

**11. CJPAC mtgs** scheduled for 1/26, 2/23, 3/29, 4/26, 5/31, 6/28, 7/26, 8/30, 9/27, 10/25, 11/29, 12/27.