

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

October 4, 2012
9:00 – 11:00 am
(Russell Hall, 2nd Floor Conf Rm, CVH)

Minutes

In attendance: Michael Aiello, Brian Austin, Dan Bannish, Martha Brown, Sara Frankel, Ed Mattison, Loel Meckel, Michael Norko, Louise Pyers, Monte Radler, Sally Zanger

1. Introductions

2. Review of minutes of July 5, 2012 meeting: approved, with edits offered by Dan Bannish

3. Additions to agenda: Several items that are no longer current were deleted from the agenda

4. BH program updates

A. Forensic funds initiatives: Loel Meckel reported that SFY13 budget for community forensic programs is the same as SFY12. We recently completed a detailed analysis of a recent 6 month period of the Jail Diversion programs. The JD program is evaluating 3700 (2400 with SMI) defendants/yr; this is 9.5% of all arraignments. Of those, 1600 (1200 with SMI) are diverted/yr. In 65-75% of cases where diversion does not occur (), JD clients are not diverted due to criminal justice reasons.

Mike Aiello reported that the ASIST program is now operating in 9 locations. Middletown and New London programs are consistently over census and could use additional staff. The Oversight Committee hopes to expand availability of transitional housing for ASIST clients to support success in the community.

B. Rapid Treatment Option – deleted

C. Outpatient restoration - deleted

D. SOAR Initiative: Loel Meckel reported that statewide expansion continues

E. Other

a. Alternative to incarceration for high cost inmates: No report

b. 17a-693 Order for examination for alcohol or drug dependency: Loel Meckel reported that DMHAS conducts evaluations and produces detailed reports to the court for these cases and some defendants are also referred to JRI for substance abuse treatment beds. DMHAS, CSSD, State's Attorney, and Public Defender staff met to review these processes and determined that duplicative efforts via both routes can be avoided by improving communication; a change to the statute is not needed.

c. Request from Chief State's Attorney's office for guidance with people whose hoarding leads to unsafe living conditions: Loel Meckel reported that he met with staff of the Office of the Chief State's Attorney and the Department of Public Health and they discussed a plan to create a task force. Loel Meckel noted that only a small percentage of those with hoarding behaviors have SMI.

5. DOC BH updates provided by Dan Bannish:

The new DUI system has been implemented and is going well. The population at Northern Correctional Institute has been reduced; now there are only 2 pods remaining, and programs have been moved out to other facilities. Of those inmates remaining, many are very dangerous; some have existing mental illness and their situations will be discussed with Dr. Burns, the new DOC Medical Director. Progress continues to be made on the nursing home for debilitated inmates requiring chronic nursing home level of care. The target date for opening is Spring 2013. Work continues on the sex offender strategic plan. Medication-Assisted Therapies (MAT) for inmates with opiate and other addictions is also moving forward. Work continues on a web-based housing tool to help staff determine housing needs and locate appropriate resources for individuals.

Dan Bannish spoke to Judge Carroll re keeping defendants who are acutely ill in the community where they can be better managed when possible/appropriate. He also noted a continued focus on medically-compromised individuals and efforts to seek sentence modification, hoping to connect such individuals to medical homes and housing if possible.

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It appears that the increase in census of unsentenced inmates despite fewer arrests is due to these individuals remaining in jail for a longer period of time than in the past. DOC and BOPP plan to use SCORES, a validated risk assessment to guide release decisions. Brian Austin noted that GA court cases are decreased, but Part A cases remain at the usual volume. Also, 17 year-olds are now not coming into the adult system.

Mike Aiello suggested the possibility of intensive pre-trial probation, if housing and supports were available. Martha Brown added that discharge planners could set up treatment services for such individuals. One advantage of such efforts would be that if individuals are incarcerated less than 1 month, they will not lose entitlements. Mike said he would discuss this with Bill Carbone; one thing they would have to estimate is the number of such individuals who might be appropriate for pre-trial probation. Dan Bannish thought there might be 25 people in this category at any one time.

Ed Mattison noted that there has been significant progress with SMI individuals in relation to the criminal justice system. He proposed that further developments now need to be sought with the primary substance abuse population.

A. & B. - deleted

C. Discharge planning: DOC use of Medication Assisted Therapy for inmates is continuing. Following the success of the Assist Home federal grant project, DOC has purchased a web-based housing tool to identify housing options for discharging inmates.

6. CJPAC: Next mtg October 25, 2012

7. Interest Area updates

A. Housing/employment – deleted

B. BH Services/system barriers –

Rx for d/c'd inmates/detainees: Mike Aiello reported that in collaboration with DSS, probationers will begin using a single page application for Medicaid LIA to permit access to treatment services and prescription medication. The committee that is implementing access to prescription medications for incarcerated defendants who are released from custody by court is planning for expansion of the initiative to additional courts, including for unexpected discharges.

C. Raise the Age – Juvenile court changes: Loel Meckel reported that since 7/1/12, 17 year olds who are arrested will be processed in Juvenile court except for the most serious charges. The work of the JJPOCC is completed and a final report is pending approval of committee members. These changes have not to date overwhelmed the juvenile justice system.

8. Other agency updates – no report

9. Other Items – no report

10. Quarterly Behavioral Health Subcommittee Meetings:

January 3, 2013	9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2 nd floor, CVH Campus
April 4, 2013	9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2 nd floor, CVH Campus
July 11, 2013	9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2 nd floor, CVH Campus