

October 3, 2013
9:00 – 11:00 am
(Russell Hall, 2nd Floor Conf Rm, CVH)

Minutes

In attendance: Michael Aiello, Craig Burns, Martha Brown, Jessica Cabanillas, Tara Dean, Ed Mattison, Loel Meckel, Louise Pyers, Monte Radler, Sally Zanger

1. Introductions – new attendee, Tara Dean, Social Work intern with UConn CMHC

2. Review of minutes of April 4, 2013 meeting: approved as is

3. Additions to agenda: none

4. BH program updates

A. Forensic funds initiatives: Loel Meckel had no updates.

B. SOAR Initiative: no updates

C. Other

a. Alternative to incarceration for high cost inmates: Martha Brown reported that low bond inmates with expensive care costs are being flagged for possible diversion. Craig Burns reported having attended a FUSE meeting to learn about the initiative and this stimulated a discussion of the desirability of a similar program of permanent supportive housing services with a rental subsidy for inmates with expensive care who are discharging.

b. 17a-693 Order for examination for alcohol or drug dependency: Loel Meckel reported that PA 13-208 Section 22, signed by the Governor, changed the definition of “dependant person” to be “moderate or severe” substance use disorder as used in the new DSM.

c. Consideration of MAT/methadone in jails for short term prisoners: DOC is implementing methadone provision for accused prisoners who are expected to remain incarcerated for a short time to reduce the risk of relapse on opiates following release from custody. The program has started in the New Haven Correctional Center and will expand to other facilities.

d. Request from Chief State’s Attorney’s office for guidance with people whose hoarding leads to unsafe living conditions: nothing new to report

e. Monte Radler reported that substance abuse treatment beds in Merritt Hall, CVH are not being filled because they are reserved for criminal justice clients and in some cases the court is not releasing them. Loel Meckel will schedule a meeting with Merritt Hall administrators and CSSD to determine how this can be resolved.

5. DOC BH updates:

A. General

Craig Burns, MD, is the new Chief of Psychiatric Services for DOC and will be representing DOC on the Behavioral Health Subcommittee and will also be the

subcommittee co-chair. Martha Brown reported that DOC initiated a High Risk Discharge Advisory committee to review plans prior to release.

B. Discharge planning

Craig Burns reported that DOC discharged 7 inmates to the 60 West nursing home in Rocky Hill. The nursing home also has patients who were discharged from CVH.

Monte Radler raised the issue of limited availability of substance abuse treatment services in DOC (waitlists in prisons and absence of programming in jails). The group also discussed the need for transitional services for inmates with addictions who are discharging. The subcommittee voted unanimously to investigate this issue and asked Craig Burns to seek feedback from DOC.

6. CJPAC: Next meeting October 31

7. Interest Area updates

A. BH Services/system barriers –

1) Updates re ROI – no updates

2) Rx for d/c'd inmates/detainees: Mike Aiello reported that Rx vouchers are implemented statewide for discharging sentenced inmates and in about half of the state for unplanned discharges of unsentenced inmates.

B. Raise the Age – no updates

8. Other agency updates –

Louise Pyers reported that the 2013 International CIT Conference, co-sponsored by CABLE, Inc. is occurring October 14-16 at the Hartford Convention Center. Over 600 attendees have registered from all 50 states and other countries.

Mike Aiello reported that the ASIST emergency housing funds have been very useful in placing and stabilizing high need clients, and CSSD issued an RFP and will implement new ASIST programs in 4 sites in April 2014.

9. Other Items

Loel Meckel reported that the Legislative/OPM Results First initiative is using research and program outcome data for 15 adult criminal justice programs and 3 juvenile programs from CSSD, DOC, and DMHAS to develop cost-benefit information to inform policy and budgeting in the 2014 legislative session.

Contact Information

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10. Quarterly Behavioral Health Subcommittee Meetings:

Next Meetings

January 2, 2014 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2nd floor, CVH Campus

April 3, 2014 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2nd floor, CVH Campus