

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

**January 2, 2014**  
**9:00 – 11:00 am**  
**(Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conf Rm, CVH)**

Minutes

**In attendance:** Michael Norko, Craig Burns, Loel Meckel, Louise Pyers, Monte Radler, Sally Zanger, Judy Dowd, Daniela Giordano, Magdalena Lekarczyk, Erin Leavitt-Smith,

1. Introductions – new attendees: Daniela Giordano, NAMI Public Policy Director; Magdalena Lekarczyk, OPM.
2. Review minutes of October 3, 2013; approved with changes
3. Additions to agenda: none
4. BH program updates
  - A. Forensic funds initiatives: Michael Norko reported that DMHAS is investigating options to expand the number of supervised transitional housing beds for use by clients discharging from the CVH Dutcher units.
  - B. SOAR Initiative - none
  - C. Other
    - a. Alternative to incarceration for high cost inmates - none
    - b. 17a-693 Order for examination for alcohol or drug dependency – DSM 5 update – Michael Norko reported that PA 13-208 Section 22 which, effective 10/1/13, changed the definition of “dependant person” to be “moderate or severe” substance use disorder as used in the new DSM 5 has run into complications. There is no official start date for the DSM 5 and insurance companies and many providers have not yet started to use it. There is also a concern with regard to impact on the criminal justice system because recent research on addiction calls into question some assumptions that allow a diagnosable substance use disorder to be used as a mitigating factor in criminal cases. The DMHAS Office of Forensic Services which provides substance dependence reports to the court will be tracking the effect of the definition change on eligibility for diversion via this statute.
    - c. Consideration of MAT/methadone in jails for short term prisoners – Craig Burns reported that DOC would like to expand this to the Bridgeport jail next.
    - d. Request from Chief State’s Attorney’s office for guidance with people whose hoarding leads to unsafe living conditions – none
    - e. Michael Norko reported that DMHAS convened a multi agency workgroup to review the Competency to Stand Trial statute regarding defendants found to be Not Competent Not Restorable under 54-56d(m).
    - f. Loel Meckel reported that a workgroup met to improve coordination between CSSD, the Office of Forensic Evaluations, and CVH Addiction Services Division to improve utilization of residential substance abuse treatment beds.
5. DOC BH updates
  - A. General – Judy Dowd reported that CHN, a Medicaid Administrative Service Organization for DSS, will manage all medical and mental health services for DOC; the state is reviewing statutes regarding early release and their impact on Medicaid eligibility; a National Institute of Correction technical assistance to the state revealed that the state is already doing much of the work that needs to be done to enroll justice involved individuals in health care.
    - Craig Burns reported that Debbie Hennault, Deputy Warden for Addiction Services, will convene a workgroup to review substance abuse services for inmates and for discharging inmates. Monte Radler, Erin Leavitt-Smith, and Loel Meckel will also attend the workgroup.

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B. Discharge planning – Craig Burns reported that the DOC high risk discharge advisory group is limiting its focus to the most risky inmates and will coordinate their meeting with the monthly DMHAS interagency meeting.

6. CJPAC – James Dzurenda was named the new Commissioner of DOC

7. Interest Area updates

A. BH Services/system barriers –

1) Updates re ROI: No recent activity so this item will be discontinued

2) Rx for d/c'd inmates/detainees: Judy Dowd will reconvene this workgroup to review progress

B. Raise the Age – Juvenile court changes: Michael Norko reported that DCF and DMHAS agreed to accept Competency Restoration cases as appropriate to their respective inpatient age limitations.

8. Other agency updates – Louise Pyers inquired about resuming plans for CIT in DOC and Craig Burns will arrange a meeting with DOC leadership.

9. Other Items –

10. Quarterly Meetings:

Thursday, April 3, 2014 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus

Thursday, July DATE TO BE DETERMINED, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus

Thursday, October 2, 2014 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus