

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

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

Minutes

**In attendance:** Craig Burns, Loel Meckel, Louise Pyers, Sally Zanger, Martha Brown, David Rentler, Fred Morton, Ed Mattison, Michael Norko, Monte Radler

1. Introductions - No new attendees
2. Review of minutes of July 17, 2014 meeting - approved with one date change
3. Additions to agenda - none
4. BH program updates
  - A. Forensic funds initiatives
    - a. DMHAS received \$1.75 mil additional funds for SFY15 to fund: in additions to initiatives announced on 7/17/14, DMHAS released an RFP for a transitional residential program for civilly committed patients of Dutcher Hall and inmates with SMI discharging from DOC.
    - b. DMHAS submitted a budget option for \$3.25 mil for SFY15.
  - B. SOAR Initiative – no announcement
  - C. Other
    - a. DMHAS, DOC, CSSD, Court Operations are finalizing a process for pretrial prisoners who are approved by the court for diversion to Merritt Hall substance abuse treatment beds to be transported from DOC to Merritt as soon as a bed becomes available; start date 11/1/14
    - b. Will review utilization rate of Merritt beds at next meeting to determine if there is additional capacity to allow admissions from the community
5. DOC BH updates
  - A. General – DOC is working with the VA to identify vets earlier in the criminal justice process to facilitate: discharge planning; identifying veterans with less than honorable discharge statute who can be referred to attorneys to help them gain full status; assistance with anxiety regarding return to community; and decreased recidivism.

The development of a classroom setting is being explored at Northern for individuals in Phase I of Administrative Segregation.

Commissioner Dzurenda has taken position as Deputy Commissioner for New York City. Scott Semple is the interim commissioner.
  - B. Discharge planning – there were no responses to an initial RFP for a Mental Health 4 Halfway House. A new RFP was released in last two weeks with increased funding available.
  - C. BHSC workgroup to review substance abuse services for inmates and for discharging inmates - SA services for inmates pre- and post-discharge – BHSC members have been working with the Recidivism Reduction Committee (RRC) of the CT Sentencing Commission on this subject. Once the RRC submits its report the BHSC will continue to review needs and develop recommendations.
6. CJPAC
  - A. Carleton Giles was appointed Chairperson and Richard Sparaco was appointed Executive Director of the Board of Pardons and Paroles
  - B. CJPAC subcommittee is focusing on services for domestic violence victims and offenders

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- 7. Interest Area updates
  - A. BH Services/system barriers
    - 1. Rx for d/c'd inmates/detainees: – Martha Brown reported that some pharmacies refuse to fill orders if a person's Medicaid has not been activated even though they can bill for these clients.
  - B. Raise the Age – Expanding juvenile court to include 16 and 17 year olds has not increased the number of juveniles in the CJ system as some expected
- 8. Other agency updates
  - A. The town of Newington is working to organize a statewide taskforce to address major problems caused by hoarding. An organizing meeting on Sep 12 attracted about 75 people, mostly local officials. The next meeting is Nov 5 and a DMHAS rep will attend.
- 9. Other Items – none
- 10. Quarterly Meetings:
  - January 8, 2015 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus
  - April 2, 2015 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus
  - July 9, 2015 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus
  - October 1, 2015 9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, CVH Campus