

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

**Minutes**

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

**In attendance:** Dan Bannish, Martha Brown, Edward Mattison, Loel Meckel, Michael Norko, Louise Pyers, Monte Radler, David Rentler

- 1. Introductions:** no new attendees
- 2. Review of minutes of January 5, 2012 -** Approved without amendment
- 3. Additions to agenda:** Monte Radler asked about the status of the sentence modification bill that removes the 3 year limit for a re-sentencing hearing. [Subsequently information obtained that RB 279 was not voted out of the Judiciary Committee]
- 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, ASIST case manager, and Jail Diversion for Vets program.

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

B. Rapid Treatment Option – Michael Norko reported that there have been no new cases recently, but that the program has now expanded to New Britain in addition to New Haven.

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: Loel Meckel reported 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. A multiagency workgroup developed a document, Myth Busters, to clarify misconceptions about how federal disability income and insurance is and is not affected by employment.

E. Other: Loel and a CSSD supervisor are continuing to meet with LMHA supervisors and local probation staff to review collaboration on shared clients. The DMHAS Division of Forensic Services has been educating DOC and UConn mental health staff about ASIST and how it can be offered as a requirement for early release from DOC.

- 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 – Dan Bannish identified a group of frequent users of DOC with serious mental illness (SMI) who might be assisted by an early parole system that would allow transition to services in the community, with return to DOC if needed for brief periods of time. This would likely require some statutory amendment.
    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 Maine 4/6/12 (last state on site visit schedule) to review their system which includes lifetime special parole, and civil commitment. After this last visit, the goal is to develop a strategic plan.
    4. CJ-DATS research – no report
  - C. Discharge planning – Ed Mattison raised the issue of individuals in jail only for care of serious medical problems. He recently had a meeting with a local health clinic, the housing authority and Dan Bannish to discuss creating a small boarding house from which people could be taken to dialysis (for example) in the community, at a cost of about \$1,000 per month, which is far cheaper than DOC. Suggestion was made to raise this idea with Mike Lawlor and the Prison-Jail Overcrowding/Reentry Workgroup of the CJPAC.

Dan Bannish also reported that the ASIST HOME federal grant ends in August 2012. This is a program for individuals with SMI, who are homeless and incarcerated on low-bonds, who need transition into permanent housing. Under the existing criteria for this program, DOC no longer is able to identify enough candidates to refer to the program – which seems to be an indicator of success in diverting people with SMI from the criminal justice system.

**D. Other –**

DOC has identified a significant number of low bond pre-trial detainees awaiting competency to stand trial evaluations. An extensive discussion was held about whether it makes sense to hold these people for expensive competency evaluations and competency restoration treatment when they seem to simply need referral to care since there is not a significant criminal justice issue.

**6. CJPAC – next meeting April 26.** There was continued discussion from last meeting about the status of recent lawsuits and other actions of municipalities to block the movement of insanity acquittees under the PSRB into the community. The subcommittee's report about these issues was presented to the CJPAC on January 26, 2012. The proposal for PSRB-DMHAS merger and the bill related to making insanity acquittees financially liable for the costs of their care were also discussed.

**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 – no report**

**9. Other Items – no report**

**10. Behavioral Health Subcommittee Quarterly Meetings**

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

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

C. TBD

**11. CJPAC mtgs** scheduled for 4/26, 5/31, 6/28, 9/27, 10/25, 11/29, 12/27.