

**Meeting Minutes of
The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health
1:00 P.M., Tuesday, November 14, 2006**

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 1:05 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, in Barry Hall's Conference Room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Richard Leclerc, Chair; Carrie Blake; Scotti DiDanato; Richard Hill; Peter Mendoza; and Noreen Shawcross.

Ex-Officio Craig Stenning and Gene Nadeau, MHRH; Jeanne Smith and Sandy Woods, DCYF;
Members Present: Fred Friedman, DOC; and Colleen Polselli, Department of Health.

Staff: Charles Williams, Corinna Roy; Kristen Quinlan, and Mary Ann Nassa.

Once a quorum was established, the Chair, Richard Leclerc, called the meeting to order at 1:05PM. After introductions were conducted, Richard entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of October 12, 2006. Neil Corkery motioned to accept the minutes and Scotti DiDanato seconded the motion. Jeanne Smith requested a clarification of her statement be added regarding Page 5, Paragraph 4. Jeanne stated that in terms of the coordination, the DCYF liaison, Linda O'Mally of Children's Behavioral Health, will connect with the regional lead agencies, and the lead agencies will be responsible to partner with the community resources to develop a community resource team.

All were in favor, and the minutes were approved as amended.

OUTPATIENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE UTILIZATION REVIEW

Craig Stenning requested that the formal presentation be tabled to the next meeting. Craig stated that he has met with each of the five lead agencies that subcontract with a number of other agencies. Based upon the concerns that were raised at the last Council meeting, Craig reported that data is being collected to compare the number of clients that were in the state data system with those of each of the agencies and their subcontractors. Craig stated that some discrepancies were discovered, and there is now a process in place to correct them. Craig also reported that with regards to the issue around the waiting list for outpatient treatment, it was discovered that in at least four of the five regions the system has exceeded the number of treatment slots that were estimated to be needed, meaning that the system is busy and full with the exception of one region. Craig stated that when he questioned the agencies regarding the waiting periods and DCYF, they stated that in some regions there was the ability to see a client within a week and in most of the cases they stated that there was a two-to-three-week wait period and in one particular region they stated that there was a six-week wait period. Craig stated that the agencies have been asked to submit a review in writing; and once he has received their written reports, a site visit will be conducted with each of the providers. Finally, Craig suggested that a meeting be arranged between DCYF and the five lead providers. Craig stated that the issue needs to be explored and suggested that a formal presentation with the five lead agencies in attendance be convened at the next Council meeting. Craig also stated that after investigation there were a substantial number of individuals that were served through the Substance Abuse system over the past 12 months that were referred by DCYF. The five lead agencies are Tri Hab, part of Gateway; The Providence Center; Kent Center; CODAC; and Phoenix House.

Richard Leclerc clarified that the specific purpose of this review was to determine how utilized the system is and to determine if there is a way of getting more of DCYF's needs met. Some of the

information leads one to think that the system is very busy and full and raises questions if it is a regional issue.

UPDATES FROM MHRH

Craig Stenning reported that proposals in response to the RFP for the combined purchase of psychiatric inpatient services and substance abuse detoxification services have been received, and the review committee is in the process of reviewing those proposals.

Craig reported that the Department is concluding implementation of the 2007 budget initiatives, and the 2008 budget has not been submitted yet and predicts that it may go in this week.

Craig reported the formation of a legislative package and suggested that if the Governor's Council has any issues that are attached to specific pieces of legislation that they submit them to him. Craig has suggested to Director Dr. Nelson that a legislative advocacy group be formed.

Gene Nadeau reported that a meeting would be held that afternoon to share with the Department Directors of MHRH and DOC, and the Governor the progress that has been made around the table of Tier 2, which is the Associate level representatives from each of the Departments, regarding prisoner re-entry. Gene stated that the meeting will focus on points of intersection among the various agencies, both programmatic and operational, and the information will be used as a planning document determining where they are right now and where they want to go within each Department. Each department will be submitting an outlook portion of the presentation as what needs to continue with regards to collaboration and strengthening the collaboration within new initiatives.

Craig spoke briefly about the Department taking licensing action against one of the opioid treatment programs. Craig stated that in an agreement signed by lawyers from both the Department and that agency, the agency voluntarily agreed to freeze admissions and to relinquish and curtail their ability to provide take-home medications to clients they serve. He reported that members of the Division staff have been on-site at the two clinics operated by this agency. Craig commended the staff for putting in 12-hour days. Craig stated that the process continues to be an ongoing one with that agency. One hundred and fifty patients were assisted in transferring to other licensed agencies which is also an ongoing process. Craig reported that the Division has met with all of the opioid treatment centers in regards to concerns about the treatment of individuals that are considered high-risk patients. Craig reported that a workgroup will be formed in conjunction with the providers to strengthen the current approach by identifying, reacting and treating and providing services for individuals who are high risk within the whole system of care.

UPDATES ON CO-OCCURRING ACTION PLAN

Kristen Quinlan reported that the meeting was held on September 28, 2006, to receive technical assistance from the Center for Co-Occurring Excellence on developing a State Plan for enhancing the system's ability to work with individuals with co-occurring disorders. At the end of that meeting, four different workgroups were developed to work on different parts of the plan; and since then, there have been revisions from each of the four workgroups. Kristen has compiled those revisions and will be sending them out for review.

Kristen reports that she will have an updated report for the December meeting of the Governor's Council.

COUNCIL CALENDAR FOR 2007

A proposed schedule of meetings for 2007 was included with the Minutes of October 12. After review of the schedule, it was accepted. Corinna Roy stated that in addition to being posted on the Secretary of State's website, the schedule will be available on the new MHRH website.

UPDATES FROM DCYF

Jeanne Smith reported that Gateway has assumed statewide responsibility for Emergency Services (ES) for Children after 4 p.m. weekdays and all day on weekends at toll free statewide ES number (866) 429-3979 with the exception of Newport and South County. Gateway clinicians will be on site at Hasbro to do the emergency services evaluations that come directly to the Hasbro Emergency Room and also covers the hospital emergency rooms outside of Newport and South County.

Gate way will link any caller up to the appropriate mental health center during day or nighttime. Jeanne stated that if a family member has any questions, complaints or other concerns, Bill Carey, the Gateway Children's ES Manager can be reached at 553-1000, Ext. 1006, in addition to the statewide number listed above.

Jeanne also reported that DCYF will be opening a new 8-bed group home, "Perspectives," located in South County for adolescent males, ages 14 to 21 scheduled to open in January 2007.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Richard Leclerc asked if there was anything to report on the grant from the The Rhode Island Foundation concerning the strategic planning effort. In response, Corinna stated that they requested additional information, which she has been provided to them. Corinna remains hopeful to hear from them within the next couple of weeks and expects to report at the next meeting.

Fred Friedman stated that Correction's census has been running at record numbers. Over the past several years, the average of total admissions for the year has been 16,000 to 17,000, with projections of 20,000 this year. Fred reported that recently the Intake Service Center, which has the capacity of 1,175, reached 1,173. Fred stated that with a daily census of approximately 3,800, it creates a difficult task to treat clients because of all of the processing requirements.

Fred stated that a grant was submitted last year with MHRH under the mentally ill treatment and crime reduction act which did not get funded; however, a new round of funding has come out and the due date is December 12, and they will be reapplying and therefore will be working on that with MHRH.

Fred stated that another application is due November 27th on the residential substance abuse treatment program given through the Justice Commission and shared with DCYF and has been reduced to as shared \$30,000.

Richard Leclerc announced that there is a free mini-conference on December 1, "Women and Addiction" at Rhode Island College.

Corinna Roy reported that the Peer Review of the CMHS Block Grant was passed with no changes. Corinna also reported that the Block Grant Implementation Report, which shows the results from the previous year's plan, is due December 1 and will be submitted on-line.

In addition, Corinna reported that the PATH program, which is the homeless outreach program through a Federal grant, is conducting a Federal site review during the beginning of December.

Corinna stated that everyone will be given an opportunity to review the Implementation Report on line and also hear the results of the PATH site review.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There was no further business. Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday, December 14, at 8:30 a.m. in the first floor Conference Room 126 at the Barry Hall Building.**

Minutes respectfully recorded and written by:

Mary Ann Nassa
Secretary, Governor's Council on Behavioral Health