

**Meeting Minutes of  
The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health  
1:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, 2009**

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, in Barry Hall's Conference Room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Richard Leclerc, Chair; Leo Cronan; Stephanie Culhane; Karen Kanatzar; Joseph Le; Anne Mulready; Neil Corkery, Elizabeth Earls and Reed Cosper, Office of the Mental Health Advocate

Ex-Officio Members Present: Craig Stenning, Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals (MHRH); Sandy Woods, Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), Denise Achin, Department of Education (DOE); Fredrick Friedman, Department of Corrections (DOC)

Guests: Bruce Long, Ian Knowles

Staff: Charles Williams, Corinna Roy, Tom Martin and Lisa Stevens.

Once a quorum was established, the Chair, Richard Leclerc, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. After introductions were conducted, Richard entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of February 12, 2009. Denise Achin asked for clarification of the CNOMS mentioned in the minutes of February 12<sup>th</sup>. Craig Stenning changed the language of the fourth sentence under the MHRH Updates to "RI is taking the position with CMS that there individuals that are not Medicaid eligible who are at risk for being placed in [rather than that "who need"] costlier settings than are currently receiving. Craig also changed the sixth and seventh sentences references to dollar mounts to "This will reduce the state expenditure under the cap by \$18 million [rather than "\$25 million]. MHRH has been approved for \$18 million [rather than \$15 million] of these funds for each of the next five years." Richard Leclerc called for a vote to approve the minutes all were in favor and the minutes were approved as amended.

**Annual Report Process:** Corinna Roy reviewed the changes made reflected in the March 6<sup>th</sup> version of the annual report. It was recommended that Gary Alexander be carbon copied on any action of this report. Karen Kanatzar volunteered to be on the subcommittee on the transition from youth to the adult system described in the annual report and asked when it would be created. Corinna stated that she would send out an e-mail request for membership before the next meeting. Craig indicated that several statements on this report are not factual for example "admissions are rare and discharges are rare to the community." Using the word rare is subjective. In addition, the statement that "The hospital no longer permits "provisional" admission of patients held in emergency rooms" is wrong since the hospital has never had an emergency room. Provisional admissions were never allowed. Richard suggested that any reference to "rare" should be taken out of the report. The role of the Eleanor Slater Hospital system of care must be redrafted as it shouldn't be written as a hospital of last resort. Richard would like to table this and that the time between today's meeting and next is the deadline for comment on this report. It should be stated that some data in this report is from calendar year 2007.

**Rhode Island Consumer System of Care:** Tom O'Hare could not attend this meeting but should be put on next month's agenda. A special meeting may be needed to be scheduled since Tom's teaching schedule may interfere with this meeting.

**Updates from MHRH:** Craig Stenning reported that this past week we had the graduation of 12 officers that participated in an extensive Train the Trainer program to certify Law Enforcement officers as trainers in Crisis Response that was put together by the Training Advisory Committee. This began last September and after completing training they were required to log a certain amount of hours to be certified as Crisis Response Trainers. These officers were picked because of their previous work with crisis intervention. The intent of this training is to reduce the likelihood of a dangerous or difficult outcome with the police officers and the individual experiencing a behavioral healthcare crisis. Many scenarios were played out in this training to prepare officers for any type of situation. This was so successful that MHRH has committed to continue this and the RI Council of Community Mental Health Organizations has agreed to make this part of their ongoing curriculum. This train the trainers approach gives the opportunity to have officers trained in all parts of the state instead of one centralized location.

The 2009/2010 revised budget is being released today. There are no significant changes with the exception of restitution of funding for DD which has allowed us to eliminate most of the reductions that were in the DD corrective plan of action as well as a few in BH in the amount of approximately \$10 million not including the hospital. There is a shift in general revenue dollars and federal dollars because of the stimulus package. MHRH receives in '09 an increase of \$27 million and in 2010 an increase of approximately \$35 million.

National Press Conference Report – “Grading the States,” written by NAMI: This report is based on a written survey completed by the state’s mental health authority along with personal interviews with people they select. RI’s score was the same as 3 years ago; we came in 20<sup>th</sup> out of the country. These scores are subjective and many of our efforts to address the criticisms are in place but not noted in this report. This report will be available at the next meeting. Craig made a suggestion that the council establish a subcommittee inviting people from the community and NAMI to be proactive to create an action plan to address the concerns identified in this report.

Craig announced that the Surgeon General will be in Rhode Island on March 26<sup>th</sup> to address underage drinking and March 27<sup>th</sup> addressing obesity.

Reed mentioned that House bill 5641 has been introduced. This bill is essentially trying to abolish the position of Director for all State departments. He hopes this Council will join him in opposition of this bill.

Craig mentioned House Judiciary bill 5171 - This Act would provide for a psychological evaluation review not to exceed 10 days upon the order of a judge of competent jurisdiction with regard to the accused rights to release pending trial. The only facility able to accommodate this would be one of the locked wards of the Eleanor Slater Hospital or the Forensic Unit at Pinel which is an issue.

**Updates from DCYF:** Sandy Woods asked to postpone the budget issues until the next meeting because of conflict with the presenter. Sandy announced that March 22 is the opening date of the new Training School facility of 96 beds.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

New Business: Corinna asked if the Council would agree if the minutes and agenda be sent out via email. Richard said he would get a list of members who do not have email but the Council agreed that receiving via email would be fine.

### **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

There was no further business. Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday, April 16, at 8:30 a.m. in the first floor Conference Room 126 at the Barry Hall Building.**

Minutes respectfully recorded and written by:

Lisa Stevens  
Secretary, Governor's Council on Behavioral Health