

**Meeting Minutes of
The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health
1:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2009**

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in Barry Hall's Conference Room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Richard Leclerc, Chair; Sandra DelSesto; Mark Fields; James Gillen; Richard Hill; Joseph Le; Peter Mendoza; Anne Mulready; Neil Corkery; Reed Cosper and Elizabeth Earls.

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

Guests: Vivian Weisman, Kevin Wignal, Frank Spicola and John Brett, and Dr. Steven Buka

Staff: Charles Williams, Corinna Roy and Lisa Stevens

Once a quorum was established, the Chair, Richard Leclerc, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. After introductions were conducted, Richard entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of April 16, 2009. Elizabeth Earls motioned to approve and Peter Mendoza seconded the motion. Richard Leclerc called for a vote to approve the minutes, all were in favor and the minutes were approved as written.

Subcommittees: Prior to this meeting, an email was sent to this committee regarding the three subcommittees the Governor's Council on Behavioral Health would like volunteers: Children Services and Transition, NAMI Report Card Response, and the Block Grant. It was requested that anyone interested to please sign up by tomorrow.

PATH Application: Rhode Island's annual grant amount is \$300,000. *Attachment I* The PATH Program serve homeless clients with serious mental health illnesses. These clients may also have co-occurring issues with substance abuse. The candidate selected for this grant from the RFP posted was based on outcome data from their Housing First program. The bulk of this has been awarded to Riverwood Mental Health Services. The other entity to receive some of this funding is the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless who provide training for direct service staff and, are the agency who houses the Homeless Management Information System. The application is due at the end of this month.

Updates from MHRH: Craig Stenning presented the Committee with the good news that the State Properties Committee gave final approval on a substantial housing project in Pawtucket to turn property over to a private provider who will build housing units and two additional building for a total of 60 housing unit with a mix of low income, elderly, shared living, units for individuals with disabilities, families and some staff. Two group homes will transfer individuals to this development. This will give a better quality of life

to people that we serve. This will save the state around \$200,000 in repair costs, totaling approximately \$2 million with the cost of the group homes etc.

In the process of closing out FY'09, we have a deficit that is decreasing but still not at zero. This is under the assumption that we will accomplish all of the CNOM's. By the end of this week an agreement should be reached on how to implement the CNOM's for 2009. The 2010 budget if approved as presented there are no major reductions.

Updates from DCYF: Sandy Woods presented some preliminary numbers from the first three months from the FCCP's; 235 families have been served. To date the DCYF families referred to the FCCP's of them, only 6 cases had to be reopened and of those, only 2 needed court involvement. These numbers show that the FCCP's are doing what they were meant to do.

CAITS Update: Alison Croke – CIS transitioned into a new benefit called CAITS effective April 1st. Readiness reviews were conducted with the three major healthcare providers, looking at policies and procedures, their network adequacy etc. A decision was made to implement CAITS based on these reviews and data. Utilization review will be determined by DHS until June 30th then directly to the individual health plan procedures.

Partnerships for Success: Linda Barovier and Steven Buka presented updates for the SPF SIG *attachment II*. The focus in the coming year is sustainability of the SPF SIG. Linda mentioned that they are looking into ways of sustaining this interagency combined dataset beyond the lifetime of the SPF SIG. Partnerships for Success is a successor grant from SAMHSA to SPF SIG states funding opportunity for Cohort I and Cohort II. An advisory council is required with this grant and if awarded, Linda is asking if the Governor's Council on Behavioral Health would be willing to serve as this advisory council and if yes, if they would convene with evidence based strategies workgroup with the purpose of outlining the community conditions that are leading to the problems as to implement strategies to combat these problems appropriately for these communities. Dr. Buka presented some state epidemiology data as it pertains to the SPF SIG award. This data represents drug abuse in Rhode Island and with this data we can decide how money will be distributed based on which services will be provided in the community based the risk.

Richard asked the Council if it would like to endorse the state level priority and process of what was just reviewed. Sandra DelSesto moved to endorse and Jim Gillen seconded the motion. Richard called for a vote, all were in favor and the motion carried. A letter of support will be written and given to Linda to send with the application.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: A flyer was passed out for a conference at RI C on June 8th: The Elderly and Addiction Recovery – Beginning the Conversation. *Attachment III*

Jim Gillen handed out a flyer: RI's 10th Annual Recovery Legislative Day at the State House, Tuesday, May 26th. *Attachment IV*

Mark Fields will be representing the Council at the Block Grant Conference in July.

Reminder May is Mental Health Month

Old Business: The letter to the Governor has been sent.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday June 11, 2009, 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