

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

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2009, in Barry Hall's Conference Room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Richard Leclerc, Chair; Leo Cronan; Scotti DiDonato, Sandra DelSesto; Mark Fields; Chaz Gross; Karen Kanatzar; Anne Mulready; Neil Corkery.

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

Guests: Vivian Weisman, Ian Knowles, Richard Antonelli; Bruce Long; Debra Florio, Department of Human Services (DHS), Alice Woods, Department of Education (DOE).

Staff: Charles Williams, Corinna Roy and Lisa Stevens

Once a quorum was established, the Chair, Rich Leclerc, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. After introductions were conducted, Richard Leclerc entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of July 14, 2009. Scotti DiDonato motioned to approve and Mark Fields seconded the motion. Ian Knowles asked that under Subcommittees the wording should be changed from Peer Oriented Services to Recovery-Oriented System of Care. Rich Leclerc called for a vote to approve the minutes, all were in favor and the minutes were approved as amended.

Subcommittees:

Transitional Youth: Chair, Denise Achin presented. This subcommittee had their first meeting on August 18th. Cathy Ciano a member of this committee will be working on getting youth/young adult membership on this subcommittee. They are striving to gain their focus to be mainly an issue of behavioral health. The Youth Partnership Report, due out in October, can be used as a springboard to focus on where they need to look without duplicating the efforts of other committees. The next meeting of this subcommittee is October 27th, 1-3 PM in this conference room.

Recovery-Oriented System of Care: Co-Chair, Sandra DelSesto presented. The Co-Chairs and staff of this subcommittee have met three times. They have identified a date of October 5 for an information-gathering meeting. All key players in the behavioral health system of care will be invited. The goal is to identify concrete steps that can be taken as a State to move the system toward a recovery-oriented system of care (ROSC). This agenda will include a presentation on "what is recovery." It will be a working meeting on various topics related to creating a ROSC. Ian emphasized that they are looking to implement concrete, doable, incremental steps. This information-gathering meeting will help determine the need for smaller subcommittees. On 10/5 the meeting is from 8:30 AM to 12 PM with registration starting at 8:00 AM at Rhode Island College at the Student Unit Ballroom. There will be an invitation sent out with directions.

Updates from MHRH: Craig Stenning presented. Craig thanked the committee in taking charge in developing a concrete plan to move toward a more recovery based system of care. It is an important initiative.

A few weeks ago we held the “Gateway to Recovery” event. Craig thanked all who were involved. This year’s event has had more recognition from elected officials, significantly more attendance, informational booths and speakers. This was an incredible success and the committee did a great job putting this together and pictures will be posted.

Last week was the kick off of the display of the 2009 quilt at The Providence Center. The National Spokesman for Recovery Month spoke at Rhode Island’s kick off for the first time. Each year a different agency assumes the responsibility of putting together the quilt.

NAMI had their kick off luncheon for their walk on October 4th in Roger Williams Park. Registration can be done many ways including online.

We will shortly be unveiling a new committee that will be looking at employment services for the various populations that we serve. Housing and meaningful permanent employment are two areas that we need to do a better job in to help people whether they are in recovery from substance abuse, mental health or developmental disabilities. A job and a safe place to live are essential. This committee will identify the best that the three different areas have to offer and develop a new, more consistent and comprehensive approach to housing and employment.

Craig attended a meeting regarding the Global Waiver and our work with DHS and OHHS and people working with the assisted living community. It is important to have the various OHHS departments to be in the same room so we can look at the kinds of services that we currently fund that perhaps overlap, duplicate or compliment systems where people are living in the community and living in the least restricted environment possible.

The 2011 budget directions are out but are embargoed. As the numbers continue to look quite bleak in regard to state revenue, the looming fiscal crisis in 2011 is only exaggerated by the fact that the stimulus money runs out in the second half of the fiscal year.

On a positive note, we are in final three months of the piloting of the Rhode Island Consumer Care Compact. We started with 4 agencies and have added several more hopefully by the end of the year we will have everyone under the pilot. Craig said he is optimistic about this program meeting the needs of our clients even in this fiscal environment.

New/Old Business: Corinna Roy handed out a flyer for a conference on November 9th related to ending homelessness. MHRH contributed to this conference with funds from our PATH grant.

Sandra DelSesto announced that on 10/23 at the college there will be a statewide conference on college-aged drinking. The keynote speakers in the morning are Francis Harding, the Director of the Center of Substance Abuse Prevention, and another speaker is from the University of Maine. 6 CEU's provided.

On 11/19 from 9-12 there will be a forum on Veteran's and Addiction Recovery. Robert Swift, a national speaker will be the keynote speaker.

There are four task forces at the Institute for Addiction Recovery around four special populations:

1. Women and addiction recovery
2. Persons with disabilities focusing on persons with developmental disabilities
3. Gay, lesbian, transgender and transsexual substance abuse
4. Elderly

If you are interested in participating in any of these task forces contact Sandra Delsesto at: sdelsesto@ric.edu or 456-9809.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Tuesday October 12, 2009, at 1:00 p.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