

**Meeting Minutes of
The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health
8:30 a.m., Thursday, November 12, 2009**

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2009, in Barry Hall's Conference Room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Neil Corkery, Acting Chair, Chair; Linda Bryan, Stephanie Culhane, Sandra DelSesto; James Gillen, Karen Kanatzar, Joseph Le, Peter Mendoza, Anne Mulready; and Reed Cosper

Ex-Officio Members Present: Denise Achin, Department of Education, Sandy Woods, Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), Fredric Friedman, Department of Corrections (DOC), Deb Florio, Department of Human Services (DOH) and Craig Stenning, Director, Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals

Guests: Vivian Weisman, Sharon Kernan, Stephanie Geller, Jesmina Andreas, and Steven Buka (SEOW)

Staff: Charles Williams and Corinna Roy

Once a quorum was established, the Chair, Neil Corkery, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. After introductions were conducted, Neil Corkery entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of October 13, 2009. Jim Gillen motioned to approve and Peter Mendoza seconded the motion. There was one correction noted: Denise Achin was not present at last month's meeting. Neil Corkery called for a vote to approve the minutes, all were in favor and the minutes were approved as amended.

Statewide Epidemiological Workgroup (SEOW) Report: Steven Buka and Jesmina Andreas presented. Help generate data regarding substance use in RI. Workgroup brings together data from RI agencies regarding substance abuse/violence to create consolidated data set from 2000-2008. Make data set "user friendly" and easy to understand and interpret. Directory for all 29 municipalities, 4 counties and entire state. Data for "Anytown" given to each location in order to allow each town to compare their rankings. All admissions to any licensed substance abuse treatment facility in RI regardless of funding resource from a certain zip code included. Self-report data about substance abuse (SALT) from high school students included. There is a concern about the elimination of the survey from schools in the future. Behavior Risk Factor survey data not available at the municipal level for this study. Study also cannot account for reclusive users at the municipal level.

Motion: S. DelSesto – draft a letter to Department of Education, Department of Health, House Finance Committee, Speaker of the House, etc. expressing concern about the elimination of funding for the SALT survey and the importance of the information to do our work. Seconded by: R. Cosper. Motion held till next month (January).

Subcommittee reports: Denise Achin --Youth Transition met in October 2009, concerned about duplicating efforts within global waiver or focus groups within MHRH. Trying to focus on residential, out-of-state children with severe emotional disturbance (SED). S. DelSeto -- Recovery Oriented Systems of Care: framework of a proposal made. Announcement: Women in Recovery event at Rhode Island College on November 13, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Updates from DCYF: Sandy Woods presented: Sandy reminded everyone Phase II System of Care is now on the DCYF web page and to urge interested parties to attend to get feedback from the community. Sandy handed out a letter sent to community providers regarding the above.

Updates from MHRH: Craig Stenning presented. Transition from the child to adult mental health system continues to be discussed within OHHS. A new step-down unit has opened for individuals who have Medicaid in order to add a level of care that has not existed previously. It opened in North Kingston with a capacity of 16 beds for clients with co-occurring or psychiatric issues. Unit is 24-hours, non-hospital level with medical and psychiatric care available.

New/Old Business: Reed Cospers gave an update from the Mental Health Advocate. He talked about the loss of legal counsel at MHRH and offered his opinion that the farther we go with the Global Medicaid Waiver, the more at risk our mental health centers are.

C. Stenning responded that MHRH continues to have legal counsel available and pointed out that South Shore Mental Health Center (the example cited by R. Cospers) was purchased and not put out of business by the Global Medicaid Waiver.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in Barry Hall room 126.**

Minutes respectfully recorded and written by:

Lisa Stevens
Secretary, Governor's Council on Behavioral Health