

**Meeting Minutes of  
The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health  
1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2011**

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, in Barry Hall's Conference Room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Rich Leclerc, Chair; Richard Antonelli, Sandra DelSesto, Elizabeth Earles, James Gillen, Joseph Le, Bruce Long, and Anne Mulready;

Ex-Officio Members Present: Janet Anderson and Cris Strnad, Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF); Denise Achin, Department of Education; Colleen Polselli, Department of Health; Debra Florio, Department of Human Services and Elena Nicollela (DHS); Elizabeth Gilheeny, Department of Justice; and Craig Stenning, Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH)

Guests: Laurie Sullivan, Ed Congdon, Joyce Cushman, Kathy Champagne, Jill Beckwith and Kathy Karty

Staff: James Dealy 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 Leclerc entertained a motion to accept the minutes of November 9, 2010 (since there was no forum at the December meeting, a vote could not be made at that time), and December 9, 2010. Denise Achin requested that a sentence be rewritten in Old/New Business from the November minutes to read "The Department of Education has coordinated a school health website, [www.thriveri.org](http://www.thriveri.org), which is updated regularly. RIDE does have a comprehensive anti-bullying policy for schools but there have been questions about how this policy is being implemented in schools." Elizabeth Earles motioned to accept the November and December minutes. One correction was requested to remove Anne Mulready from the December attendees. The motion was seconded. Richard Leclerc called for a vote to approve both minutes, all were in favor and the minutes were approved as amended.

**ROSC (roles and functions):** At the request of Craig, The ROSC will be a permanent advisory committee to the Governor's Council on Behavioral Health. Rich requested a motion. Liz motioned and Anne seconded it. All were in favor and the motion is approved.

**Governor's Council Membership:** Five Council members will be replaced, due to their inability to attend, and a letter to the Governor will be sent requesting appointment of new members who could fill the various required openings.

**Updates from DCYF:** Janet Anderson presented. Patricia Martinez has stepped down as Director of DCYF, and the interim Director is Kevin Aucoin. Even with this change, she said, the Department is moving forward in the same direction. A report for Phase I of the implementation of the System of Care for the child and family system in RI will be presented to this Council in April. The second year, which is the full implementation, includes wraparound services, integration of services and inclusion of natural supports within the system. These are the prevention services for the system of care. Chris Strnad is heading the Medicaid team within DCYF.

The staff is continuing to prepare an RFP for the System of Care which should be finished in the coming months.

Janet said that the budget deficit is most challenging, with the potential of a 15% cut in FY12. It is important to recognize all the positive changes that have happened, yet DCYF is still looking at more cuts to come. The work of the Department has been and will continue to be to promote best practices by looking at the best type of fostering and services for children.

**DHS Program Developments:** Elena Nicollela presented on three initiatives. The first is the “Money Follows the Person” Grant, a federal grant which DHS and BHDDH are working on collaboratively. This grant allows for people leaving an institution (hospitals and nursing homes) after a stay of at least ninety days to have extended resources.

The second initiative is Health Homes, which is a CMS opportunity for federal funding at a 90% federal match for two years under the Health Care Reform Act. It is focused on individuals with a need for intensive behavioral health services. The funding level allows states to start implementing some models of care without additional state money investment. This should be included in the FY12 budget.

The third initiative, part of the HCRA, will give childless adults up to 133% of the federal poverty level eligibility for Medicaid. This plan must be implemented by July of 2013 for a start date of January 2014.

Elena informed the Council that Sandra Powell has been named the new DHS Director.

**Updates from BHDDH:** Craig Stenning presented. BHDDH had previously submitted a “current level of service” budget as well as a “constrained budget” to the Governor’s office. Subsequently, a 5% and a 15% reduction budget have been submitted. He thanked Elena for her report and the opportunity to work with her as it pertains to DHS program developments.

BHDDH is currently working on two major RFP’s. The re-procurement of the outpatient substance abuse system will go out in the fall, with minor changes expected. The second, which runs out late in this calendar year, is the re-procurement of the SSTAR contract, which provides state support for inpatient psychiatric care as well as substance abuse detoxification.

A grant award has been received for the Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI). This will provide money to train, certify and place specialists for employment. The first stakeholders’ meeting was well attended.

Craig said that the appointment of Secretary Costantino is an exciting opportunity for the Departments to work in an efficient and effective manner. There was a retreat of all the cabinet members who had been named at that point with the Governor’s new staff. It was a positive and open discussion about where there are opportunities for the departments to move in a collegial manner to tackle some of the challenges that we all face. An interim team has been established within the Eleanor Slater hospital, since John Young will be transferring to OHHS, although he will be completing some of the hospital projects he had been working on.

Craig feels it would be an excellent idea to invite the Governor to attend a meeting of the Council in the near future. In addition he would like to invite the new Secretary to attend as well.

**Old/New Business:** Jim Gillen passed out a brochure as well as a referral form for Anchor Recovery Community Center. Rich stated that a Governor's Council meeting will be held at Anchor in April or May.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday, February 10, 2011 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

Attachment I – Anchor Referral Form & Brochure