

**Meeting Minutes of
The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health
1:00 PM – September 13, 2011**

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at Barry Hall's conference room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston RI 02920.

Members Present: Rich Leclerc, Chair, Richard Antonelli, Linda Bryan, Stephanie Culhane Sandra DelSesto Joseph Le, Bruce Long, Fred Trapassi, Neil Corkery, Reed Cospers and Elizabeth Earls

Ex-Officio Members Present: Janice DeFrances, Director, Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF); Michelle Branch, Department of Corrections (DOC), Denise Achin, Department of Education (DOE), Dr. Michael Fine, Director (via telephone) and Colleen Polselli, Department of Health (DOH); Sharon Kernan, Department of Human Services (DHS), and Charles Williams, Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH)

Guests: Michelle Brophy, Lee Dalphonse, Sarah Dinklage, Karen Kanaztar, Mary Jo Mather, Jessica Mowry, Marie Waldek, Vivian Weisman, Alice Woods and Terri Wray

Staff: James Dealy and Lisa Stevens

Once a quorum was established, and introductions were made, the Chair, Richard Leclerc, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Richard entertained a motion to accept the minutes of July 12, 2011. Liz Earls motioned to accept the minutes. Linda Bryan did not think that the minutes reflected the full discussion around DHS' program to continue benefits for parents of children in DCYF custody while they were in substance abuse treatment. One issue left unclear was whether parents who lost custody prior to May would qualify for benefits reinstatement. There were also questions about the 90 day review process and about when benefits might "time out." Sharon Kernan pointed out the difficulty of changing the program guidelines, since this involves a lengthy review by CMS. Rich suggested that these questions and concerns could be addressed in a report. Liz Earles suggested that the Council monitor the program as it goes forward. Sharon asked that the word "pilot" not be used to describe this program. Stephanie Culhane asked that the minutes reflect her attendance at the September meeting. Richard called for a vote to approve the minutes with these corrections. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved as amended.

RI Chemical Dependency Certification: Lee Dalphonse announced that the RI Board for the Certification of Chemical Dependency Professionals has entered into an administration contract with the Pennsylvania Certification Board. As of six weeks ago, the PCB has become the Administrative Office of the RI BCCDP. Lee introduced Mary Jo Mather, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Certification Board and Terri Wray, its Associate Director. Mary Jo explained that RIBCCDP's executive functions, like those of a number of other states, will now be performed in Pennsylvania. The credentialing requirements are already standardized through the IC&RC (see attachment), which governs reciprocal chemical dependency credentialing between many states and a number of different countries. Mary Jo said that this "outsourcing" of administrative functions will not change the experience of becoming credentialed for Rhode Island professionals. Reed Cospers questioned whether having an out-of-state administrator would impact the due process of those whose credentials are under review. Mary Jo answered that the PCB has an Ethics Committee that will be actively involved in any such matter. Lee emphasized that all that is being outsourced are the administrative tasks and that the RI board is still in place. .

Updates on the Block Grant Application: All Council members were mailed a web link to review the application prior to this meeting. Charles Williams presented on the development of the Block

Grant Application/plan. This year, SAMHSA gave states the option of submitting either two separate plans for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant and the Substance Abuse Block Grant or doing a single combined Block Grant. Rhode Island chose to submit a combined Behavioral Health Services application. The application's structure and the planning process were dictated by SAMHSA. BHDDH and DCYF worked with a subcommittee of the council chaired by Vivian Weisman. Charles thanked Director DeFrances of DCYF for the work her staff did in putting the application together. The plan that was submitted covers the period from October 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013. For the first time in many years, SAMHSA allowed states to establish new priority services populations in addition to those populations historically mandated to receive services. The two departments identified the following new priority populations: servicemen and women, severely mentally ill (SMI)/Homeless, SMI/SA consumers with co-morbid physical conditions, children at risk for SED and adolescents and young adults requiring marijuana and other drug prevention services. See page 59 of the application for the complete list of mandated and new priority populations. There will be four state project officers for this grant, one on the MH side and three on the SA side. On December 1st we will have to submit a standard MH Block Grant Report along with the pieces of the SA report that have to do with compliance and progress.

Vivian gave the background for the decision to do a combined Block Grant. Three important factors were the knowledge that SAMHSA will mandate combined applications in the future, the fact that BHDDH has combined its substance abuse and mental health services into one division of behavioral health, and the decision to make the Governor's Council a planning body for both mental health and substance abuse. We felt that combining our application now would give us time to incorporate SAMHSA's feedback on how to develop an integrated system of behavioral health before that combination becomes mandatory.

The subcommittee will reconvene to discuss adjustments to the applications. Charles said that the application will be linked to the website, where the public will have the opportunity to post comments/concerns. Sandra asked that the Council add a discussion of the adjustments that are discussed at the subcommittee meeting to its full meeting agenda.

Liz motioned to approve the Block Grant application, and Neil seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Updates from DCYF: Rich introduced the new Director of DCYF, Janice DeFrances, and thanked her for being present at this meeting. Janice said that, after reading through the Block Grant application, she was very interested in the high rate of emotionally disturbance and mental illness in RI, especially among children. She was encouraged that the Block Grant may help with prevention and especially intervention in these areas. The FCCP Phase 1 initiative has been dealing with the issue of trying to intervene using wraparound services so as to avoid more restrictive placements. The FCCPs have noted the need for enough providers credentialed to provide services for domestic violence as well as substance abuse, which aligns with the discussion about credentialing.

Updates from BHDDH: Charles Williams presented. Saturday was the 9th annual Rally for Recovery. This year's was the biggest ever, with over 4,000 participants, including Senator Whitehouse, Congressman Cicilline and Mayor Tavares. Charles thanked the Council on behalf of the Department for their help making the Rally such a successful event. Craig Stenning stopped in for a moment to announce that he has just returned from the first ever Recovery Rally inside the prison and that he would give more information on this at next month's meeting.

The Department's proposed budget is due 10/1/11. It will be a status quo budget. Recently, SAMHSA held a three-day site review of RI's SA prevention and Synar systems. Overall, they were pleased with our progress. Sandra said that she wanted to make the Council aware that BHDDH's prevention unit is understaffed. Rich thought that this was something the Department should take it into consideration. Stephanie felt that the Council should be lobbying to explain the importance of prevention. Sandra said that underage drinking has gone down in RI because of prevention actions, which demonstrates their importance and effectiveness.

Updates from DHS: Sharon Kernan reported on behalf of Medicaid, to which she has been assigned since it has moved from DHS to EOHHS. Medicaid is continuing its Communities of Care and dual eligible initiatives. Bruce asked how the Global Waiver is working. Sharon mentioned the Shared Living program, where there are now 54 individuals. Sharon will give a fuller report on initiatives within the Global Waiver at the next meeting. The data and analysis of the outcomes for the Communities of Care initiative will not be available until next July.

Old/New Business: Sandra announced that there was a meeting on the ROSC committee, which she has asked Vivian to co-chair. Sandra will report on that meeting next month. Rich asked that a report from the Youth in Transition be presented at the next meeting.

Liz reminded the Council that Director Stenning reported back in Jan/Feb that the Department received a grant from the National Association of State and Mental Health Program Directors to assist it in implementing and develop a peer specialists program. An initial, all-day training with the consultants from Yale has been held, and there will be meeting with the CMHOs by the end of September.

Liz also mentioned a major budget initiative addition for FY'12, which involves the submission to CMS of a proposal to have the CMHOs designated as Medicaid Health Homes. CMS has not yet approved this proposal. She asked that this issue be revisited at a later meeting.

Karen questioned whether there was a state policy for the care of kids 18-21 with MH issues. Charles answered that a subcommittee of the EOHHS was working issues related to the transition between children and adult services, but he did not think that any policy has been made yet. He does know that this Department and DCYF have discussed this issue. Denise thought that there is some planning within an interagency workgroup working on this. Rich requested that DCYF, BHDDH or another state agency be asked to see who is responsible for services to these children with MH issues between the ages of 18-21, what the scope of that responsibility is and what the gaps are in those services. Richard Antonelli announced that MHA has been doing an extensive study of children's services, including transitional services for youth, for the past few months. The MHA expects to have a report done within a few months. Karen asked if she could be added to that committee. Rich said he'd work with Jim to see if they can get someone to report on this issue.

Upon motion being made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **8:30 a.m. Thursday, October 13, 2011 at Barry Hall in room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston RI 02920.**

Minutes respectfully recorded and written by:

Lisa Stevens
Secretary, Governor's Council on Behavioral Health

/attachments