

**CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL
WHITING FORENSIC DIVISION**

ADVISORY & REVIEW BOARD MEETING

March 16, 2017

PRESENT:

Joseph E. Milardo, Esq. (Chairman); **Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.**, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; **Leslie Lothstein, Ph.D., ABPP**, (Secretary); **Velandy Manohar, M.D.**; **Michael A. Norko, M.D.**, Director of Forensic Services, D.M.H.A.S.; **Helene M. Vartelas, MSN**, Chief Executive Officer, Connecticut Valley Hospital; and **Thomas Ward-McKinlay, Ph.D.**, Acting WFD Division Director

EXCUSED /

Eugene P. Hickey, LCSW; **Arthur V. McDowell, M.D.**, **FACC, FACP**; **Jeffrey Shelton, M.D.**; and **William B. Wynne, Esq.**

ABSENT:

GUEST: **Peter Harding** (Business Manager candidate)

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order	Chairman Milardo convened the meeting at approximately 4:40 p.m. in the Norko Conference Room in the Whiting Forensic Service.	
Approval of Minutes	The minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting were reviewed.	The minutes were approved as submitted.
DMHAS Commissioner's Report	Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon gave a brief summary on items that have been proposed and are in the Governor's budget which may impact CVH; the relocation of 21 detox beds from Blue Hills Hospital to CVH, the privatization of 21 Rehab beds, and the relocation of 16 mental health beds from Capitol Region to CVH. All three of these are no layoff options, and staff will be redeployed into existing funded vacancies. It is proposed to privatize the services associated with the Danbury and Torrington sites, with the Waterbury site remaining the local mental health authority (LMHA) in that area. It was also proposed to privatize the Young Adult Residential Services in three areas; Torrington, Hartford, and Portland. The final budget may look very different from what's been proposed. There have been discussions with staff to answer questions, and discussions will start with clients regarding what some of these changes will mean.	

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	A grant was recently submitted to SAMSHA for \$5.5 million a year for two years for a range of projects and initiatives which address prevention areas, treatment, and recovery related to the opiate crisis such as increasing access to medication assisted treatment, hiring recovery coaches, emergency departments that help connect people to services once they have overdosed, and a number of other areas. There are some partnerships with CSSD and DOC around increasing medication assisted treatment. All states are allotted a certain amount, and this would help to offset some reductions in the overall budget. Discussion followed regarding the RFP process for service providers and the culture shift.	
CVH CEO's Report	Helene Vartelas reported that there has been a full survey by CMS and the Department of Health. Nine surveyors were here for a week, and a Plan of Correction is in the process of being written. The major focus areas included medication administration, patient identification, performance improvement activities, and active treatment. With regard to the psychiatrists, focus areas included assessment of memory, and strengths and assets. There were some small environmental findings. Once the Plan of Correction is submitted, another survey is expected three weeks later. The additional mental health and substance abuse beds that Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon mentioned would be located in Merritt Hall. Blue Hills Hospital has the reputation as the first free-standing hospital devoted to substance abuse in the United States and has a long tradition. The staff are very dedicated to this population and have concerns that their needs will still be met. The remediation process for the legionella possibility continues. Wards are being moved to other buildings one at a time and cleaned while vacant. The Governor started the NORESO project which includes energy upgrades for the CVH campus. These upgrades will be self-sustaining after ten years and will pay for themselves with energy savings. There will be upgrades to the power plant and steam	

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	lines, which are from the civil war era, and new lighting and windows in some of the buildings which will save a lot of costs. This was one of the first prototype projects involving DEEP, DAS, DMHAS, and the Commissioner was here for the kick off. The money will come back to the agency rather than to the general fund during the next generation of these projects. Lakisha Hyatt was chosen as Chief Operating Officer replacing John D'Eramo. Lisa Zurolo, manager from Young Adult Statewide Services, replaced Lakisha as Division Director for General Psychiatry Division. Julie DeFalco is the new Chief Financial Officer. Recruitment continues for the Forensic Division Medical Director position. There is still some difficulty with the hiring of psychiatrists, and managers are covering three positions in the General Psychiatry and Forensic Divisions. Several African American history programs were held recently with patients presenting a program as a citizenship project. The citizenship and valued role projects recently held a graduation, and the graduates will be asked to speak at the upcoming Doctor's Day celebration about the projects they have been working on. Plans are underway for CVH's 150th anniversary. Curio cabinets were purchased from Correctional Industries and will be placed on the second floor in Page Hall and will contain artifacts arranged by decade. A seminar series is planned with speakers, and patients and staff will be involved. The cornerstone for CVH was laid on 6/20/1867, and the first patients were admitted in 1868. An application is being filed with the federal registry of historic sites to register CVH and its cemetery as historic landmarks.	
WFD Director's Report	- Whiting Service: 92 Patients - Dutcher Service: 131 Patients Dr. Thomas Ward-McKinlay reported that in January 2016 there were 36 competency restoration admissions setting an all-time record, whereas this year there were 15.	

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	Dr. Ward-McKinlay presented the Whiting Forensic Division Quarterly Performance Improvement Report for the second quarter of FY 2016-2017 October-December. There were a total of 315 incidents which is an increase from 282 in the previous quarter. The trend line is increasing, and aggressive act physical is the most significant incident report category. There was one critical incident in October which involved a patient to patient assault with the victim suffering multiple facial fractures. There were two sentinel events; a medication error in November which resulted in severe temporary harm to a Dutcher patient, and an unexpected Whiting patient death in December. Both events received a thorough review and root cause analysis with corrective action plans. There were 79 restraint events which is in keeping with 77 the previous quarter, and 141 restraint hours which is a slight increase from 132. The Whiting competency restoration units 1, 2, and 3 had the most restraint events, and Whiting units 3, 2, and 1 had the most restraint hours. There were 36 unduplicated patients utilizing restraints this quarter, and 10 patients utilized more than 4 restraint hours. Eight patients were presented to the Division Review Committee with subsequent interventions and/or referrals to the Behavioral Intervention Service. Four patients have since been discharged. Probate commitments utilize the highest number of restraint hours. There were 18 seclusion events which is an increase from 13, and 22 seclusion hours which is an increase from 13 the previous quarter. This represents a concerted effort to try to utilize seclusion rather than restraint. Whiting Unit 6 had the most seclusion events. There were no elopements during the quarter. There is a continued downward trend in elopement events. Elopements include patients who leave the unit without permission but remain within the building.	

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	There were 129 physically aggressive acts to others which is in keeping with 126 the previous quarter; 38 incidents in October, 56 in November, and 35 in December. One incident in October met the critical incident criteria for serious injury. Probate commitments account for the highest number of aggressive acts. There were 19 aggressive acts to self which is an increase from 14 the previous quarter. Six units experienced aggressive acts to self, none of which met the critical incident criteria. There were 10 unduplicated patients, 5 patients had multiple self-injurious acts, and 4 patients were presented to the Division Review Committee. One patient was transferred from Dutcher to Whiting for safety. There were 23 patient falls during the quarter which is a decrease from 28 the previous quarter. Fourteen falls occurred in Dutcher, 8 in Whiting, and 1 on Battell 4 South which has since moved to the Dutcher building. Eleven falls had no resulting injury, 9 required minor first aid, and 3 required no treatment. Three patients experienced 2 falls, and 1 patient experienced more than two falls. All patients who met threshold for falls received a fall risk assessment and were presented to the Division Review Committee with consultation provided by Ambulatory Care Services. Whiting Unit 1 and Dutcher 3 South had the highest number of falls.	
DMHAS Division of Forensic Services Report	Dr. Michael Norko reported that there have already been 16 competency restoration admissions in March. Data on competency restoration admissions has been kept since 2004. The number of admissions was as low as 174 and 186 in the 2009-2011 range, and now they are back up to where we were in 2004-2005. It was felt that the reduction in 2009-2010 was the result of the jail diversion and re-entry programs. We are still trying to collect data regarding the number of low bond, low charge admissions which anecdotally seems to have increased. There is presently no data system that provides this information and everything has to be done manually.	

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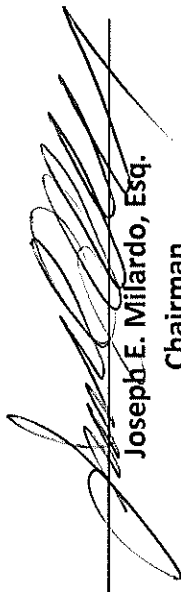
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	Dr. Norko distributed copies of Raised Bill No. 7090, An Act Concerning the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' Recommendations Regarding Transfer of a Patient Under the Jurisdiction of the Psychiatric Security Review Board for Treatment or Recovery. This Bill was proposed last year, but not raised, and would allow PSRB patients to be moved to Dutcher for medical reasons without having to go to the PSRB. The Commissioner testified about it this year, and there were no questions asked in the Public Health Committee. Dr. Norko also distributed copies of a chart he created for the Public Health Committee which explains what the Bill would actually do. The Bill has been voted out of committee, and it is hoped that it will be voted upon. There are concerns regarding another part of the Governor's Raise the Age Bill. People who are now 18-20 and have admitted here for competency restoration through the adult courts would then come through the juvenile courts. The juvenile court competency restoration system is very different from the adult system. If the age is raised, those people would be admitted here instead of to the Solnit Center. There are also a number of issues that are not clearly articulated in the juvenile competency restoration statute such as what happens to people who are found not competent and not restorable. We are waiting for our legislative liaison to set up a meeting with people from the Governor's Office to discuss our concerns. Dr. Norko reported on a recent Probate Court hearing regarding the request for a special limited conservator. The CLRP had written a motion, and the attorney who was assigned filed it. This motion argues that the treating psychiatrist was not entitled to testify about the patient because it was a violation of the privilege that was not covered by the exception to confidentiality dealing with conservators. They argued that a special limited conservator is not the same as a conservator. The Attorney General's Office filed a response arguing that nothing in the exception statute puts any limitation on what a conservator is, and we shouldn't read into the law by creating exceptions and distinctions. Judge Marino refused to hear similar motions until he releases his written decision.	Board members can email any questions they may have to Dr. Norko.

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	This may prompt a number of changes to the Commissioner's Policy and to some current practices. The law may need to be clarified next year to include an explicit statement regarding this issue.	
Board Business	Chairman Milardo introduced Peter Harding as candidate for the vacant Business Manager position. Mr. Harding will forward his CV which will be submitted to the Governor for appointment. Five year reappointments are also in the process of being requested for Eugene Hickey, Leslie Lothstein, Velandy Manohar, Arthur McDowell, William Wynne, and Joseph Milardo. These appointments currently expire on 9/30/17.	
Next Meeting	The election of officers will be held at the next meeting on June 15 th .	
Adjournment	The next Advisory and Review Board meeting will be held on Thursday June 15, 2017.	
Approved By	The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.	
	 Joseph E. Milardo, Esq. Chairman	 Date

Recording Secretary: Denise Goldstein