

**CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL
WHITING FORENSIC DIVISION**

ADVISORY & REVIEW BOARD MEETING

June 15, 2017

PRESENT:

Joseph E. Milardo, Esq. (Chairman); Eugene P. Hickey, LCSW; Leslie Lothstein, Ph.D., ABPP, (Secretary); Velandy Manohar, M.D.; Michael Michaud, DMHAS Chief of Staff (for Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon); Michael A. Norko, M.D., DMHAS Director of Forensic Services; Helene M. Vartelas, MSN, CVH Chief Executive Officer; Carol Wiediger, APRN, DNP, CCHP-MH, WFD Assistant Division Director (for Lakisha Hyatt); and William B. Wynne, Esq.

EXCUSED /

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D., Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;

ABSENT:

Lakisha Hyatt, MSN, RN, CVH Chief Operating Officer and WFD Acting Division Director; Arthur V. McDowell, M.D., FACC, FACP; and Jeffrey Shelton, M.D.

GUEST:

Natasha Pillai

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order	Chairman Milardo convened the meeting at approximately 4:30 p.m. in the Norko Conference Room in the Whiting Forensic Service.	
Approval of Minutes	The minutes of the March 16, 2017 meeting were reviewed.	The minutes were approved as submitted.
DMHAS Commissioner's Report	In Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon's absence, Michael Michaud, reported that the legislative session ended on 6/7 without passing a budget. The legislation is back in session and meeting in individual caucuses. The House and Senate Republican budgets call for the privatization of all the State operated Local Mental Health Authorities. The Democratic budget is very similar to the draft Appropriation budget that never passed and similar to the Governor's budget. The impact of the Governor's budget on DMHAS would be to transfer 21 detox beds from Blue Hills to the CVH Addiction Services Division and to privatize the remaining 21 rehab beds. The 16 inpatient psychiatric beds in the Capitol Region would move to the CVH General Psychiatry Division. The Danbury and Torrington sites within the Western Connecticut Mental Health Network would be privatized. Three Young Adult Service programs in Middletown, Torrington and Danbury	

WHITING FORENSIC DIVISION

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	would be privatized. Upon ratification of the SEBAC agreement, all staff displaced due to the privatization would be absorbed elsewhere within the DMHAS system. There would be no loss in the number of treatment beds and no loss in the service slots. A tentative SEBAC agreement would save \$1.5 million over the next two year budget cycle, and the rank and file will vote in July. If the budget is not passed, emergency appropriations would be made on a weekly basis, and private, non-profit services would also be impacted. Two bills that were recommended by DMHAS were passed. The first bill regards revisions to the Professional Assistance Program for Regulating Professionals. The Department of Public Health requires that every licensed healthcare worker report if they are diagnosed with any type of mental health, behavioral, or emotional disorder; and if so to seek intervention through the Health Assistance Intervention Education Network. When this bill takes effect on October 1, this process will end. Dr. Norko reported that this was put in the 2015 budget implementer bill and was only discovered last year. The second bill allows for the transfer of individuals who are NGRI and committed to the PSRB out of the maximum security setting into EDs or hospital settings, when needed treatment can't be provided in maximum security. Written notice is provided to the PSRB upon the transfer. Once the treatment is provided, the individuals are returned to the maximum security environment. In response to the alleged abuse and resulting investigations at Whiting, the Commissioner has authored a strong letter that was sent to all 3500 DMHAS staff on 5/30 outlining the Commissioner's Policy Statement on Reporting Alleged Violations of DMHAS Policies, Procedures, Regulations or Work Rules. A statement was also given to a reporter from the Hartford Courant on 6/5 and a copy of which is included in the meeting packets. Investigations are pending which limits information that can be discussed. Helene Vartelas reiterated that all staff are mandatory reporters. The State police are taking the lead, and once approval is received from them, administrative	

WHITING FORENSIC DIVISION

WFD ADVISORY & REVIEW BOARD MEETING

June 15, 2017

PAGE 3

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
CVH CEO's Report	investigations will be done through the Human Resources Department. Helene Vartelas reported that a survey by the Department of Public Health, on behalf of CMS, continues regarding the recent allegations of abuse and neglect. Surveyors are often on site reviewing documents and charts and interviewing patients and staff. This process involves time and many resources to support. The Plan of Correction is to keep staff focused on moving forward and to improve patient care. Examples of recent interventions include having new leadership in place. Lakisha Hyatt, CVH COO, is currently the Acting Division Director, Carol Wiediger is the Assistant Division Director, and Pam Shea is currently the Acting Chief of Patient Care Services. There is 24/7 managerial coverage with a Director of Nursing I on site at all times. In addition, members from the CVH Management Team and extended members make rounds on every shift. There are cameras in the involved patient's room, with conservator consent, along with a number of cameras on every unit. There is a viewing room on site which is monitored by at least two staff 24/7. Carol Wiediger and her staff developed look back criteria, and any issues of concern that are raised in morning report will be reviewed and a log kept. Support is being provided to staff through frequent staff meetings, an open door policy, and the Employee Assistance Program is now on campus. Program enhancements are in process. Carol Wiediger has been working with each unit to review their programming to make sure that patient care needs are being met. More activities are being offered on evenings and weekends; and more recovery oriented activities are being offered such as yoga, meditation, tai chi, crystal bowls, Qi Gong, drumming, and Toivo is coming in from Advocacy Unlimited. The Citizenship Program is being brought into Whiting. One of the peer mentors who has progressed within the Citizenship Program in Dutcher will do a group in Whiting called "What's Up" which will begin in July. The patients are also doing a newsletter. The staff orientation and training program is being revised to make the training more relevant, and new staff has been hired. Dr. Norko has started a Journal Club with topics that are relevant and open to all staff. A Reflection Rounds will be starting soon to help staff develop more	

WHITING FORENSIC DIVISION

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	empathy in their approach. Dr. Norko reported that the George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health, in conjunction with the Templeton Foundation, has developed a program called "Reflection Rounds". Our new Medical Director, Dr. Tobias Wasser, and CVH Chaplain Father Richard Okiria will attend two day training in July and will be able to co-lead groups. Staff from the Yale University PRCH Program will be conducting focused groups on all three shifts. A number of staff went to training programs from the Women's Consortium concerning the environment of care and how to make it less trauma inducing. A customer service approach training, which utilizes the ACES scale, has been done with the Unit Directors. Helene reiterated that a lot of excellent staff are fearful that they are going to be painted with the same broad brush.	
WFD Director's Report	- Whiting Service: 84 Patients - Dutcher Service: 127 Patients In Lakisha Hyatt's absence, Carol Wiediger presented the Whiting Forensic Division Quarterly Performance Improvement Report for the third quarter of FY 2016-2017 January-March. She reported that there were a total of 297 incidents which is a decrease from 315 the previous quarter. There were two critical incidents and one sentinel event. In January, a patient suffered a left orbital fracture as a result of a patient to patient assault. A root cause analysis and corrective action plan were completed. There was an unexpected patient death in March; the patient was found unresponsive in the bathroom and later diagnosed with a mid-cerebral artery aneurysm bleed. There was a thorough review and root cause analysis done. There was a sentinel event in March of alleged patient abuse. There were 87 restraint events which is an increase from 79 the previous quarter, and 123 restraint hours which is a decrease from 141. Whiting units 2, 3, and 1 had the most restraint events, and Whiting units 3, 2, and 6 had the highest number of restraint hours. Twenty-six unduplicated patients utilized restraints, and 10 individuals utilized more than 4 restraint hours. Eight of the 10 individuals were presented to the Division	

WHITING FORENSIC DIVISION

WFD ADVISORY & REVIEW BOARD MEETING

June 15, 2017

PAGE 5

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	Review Committee with interventions or referrals. There has been an increase in the number of referrals to the Behavioral Intervention Service. There were 14 seclusion events which is a decrease from 18 the previous quarter, and 15 seclusion hours which is a decrease from 22. Whiting units 1, 2, and 6 utilized seclusion during this quarter. There were 3 elopements during the quarter; 2 in February, and 1 in March. All three incidents were elopements from the unit with the patients remaining in the building. There were 107 physically aggressive acts to others which is a decrease from 129 with 34 incidents in January, 33 in February, and 40 in March. One aggressive act in January was the critical incident previously mentioned. There were 17 aggressive acts to self which is a decrease from 19. Five units had aggression to self this quarter, and none of these acts met the criteria for a critical incident. Of the 9 unduplicated patients, 2 patients had more than one self-injurious act. Three patients were presented to the Division Review Committee, one was transferred to Dutcher, and one was transferred back to the General Psychiatry Division. There were 24 patient falls which is in keeping with 23 the previous quarter. Seventeen falls occurred in Dutcher and 7 in Whiting. Eleven falls had no injury, 11 required minor first aid, 1 required medical intervention, and 1 refused medical examination with no visible injury. Two patients experienced 2 falls, and only 1 patient experienced more than 2 falls.	
DMHAS Division of Forensic Services Report	Dr. Michael Norko referenced the 54-56d Admission Study graph. The rate of competency admissions has decreased with 16 in March, 12 in April, 15 in May. The trend over the past 15 years decreased from about 20 per month down to 15. There is currently a census crisis and the number of staff is down. Admissions may be higher in June with 12 admissions so far with the month not quite half over.	

WHITING FORENSIC DIVISION

WFD ADVISORY & REVIEW BOARD MEETING

June 15, 2017

PAGE 6

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	The first DMHAS bill that Mr. Michaud referenced regarding staff reporting to DPH is Bill #7091, and the second bill regarding the transfer of PSRB patients is Bill #7090. Dr. Norko followed up on discussion from the last meeting regarding a pending Probate Court hearing. Judge Marino ruled that the treating psychiatrist can testify in those situations but the patient must be given notice of the non-confidential nature of their communications. A new form was created for competency restoration patients as a notice to them of the non-confidential nature of all of their communications should they ever have to go to either Probate or Superior Courts. There are several other DMHAS policies that also have to be amended; the Notice of Privacy Rights that every patient receives, the Commissioner's Policy on Emergency and Involuntary Medication, and also several statutory amendments that would make the probate process work more smoothly. These items have to be completed by September for the Commissioner's review and then be forwarded on to the Governor.	
Board Business	Chairman Joseph Milardo stated that he, Attorney Wynne, and Dr. Lothstein are three longest serving members on the Advisory and Review Board. Chairman Milardo announced that he will be retiring at the end of this year. Due to the statutory requirement that the attorney appointment has to be in active practice in the State of Connecticut, he will be resigning his position on the Board. His term expires in September. He thanked the Board members for their help to the Division and to the people of Connecticut, and said they are owed a debt of gratitude for the time they have devoted for free. On behalf of CVH, Helene Vartelas thanked Chairman Milardo for his years of service and availability whenever necessary. Chairman Milardo entertained a motion for the election of Chairman who will take over immediately. Helene Vartelas made the motion to nominate Attorney William Wynne as Chairman, and the motion was seconded with no other nominations. With the nominations closed, one unanimous ballot was cast for Attorney William Wynne. The motion was made to re-elect Dr. Leslie Lothstein as Secretary. With no other nominations and without any opposition, one unanimous ballot was cast for Dr.	Attorney William Wynne was unanimously elected as Advisory & Review Board Chairman, and Dr. Leslie Lothstein was unanimously elected as Secretary.

WHITING FORENSIC DIVISION

WFD ADVISORY & REVIEW BOARD MEETING

June 15, 2017

PAGE 7

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	Leslie Lothstein as Secretary.	
Next Meeting	Chairman Wynne announced that the next Advisory and Review Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2017.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.	
Approved By	 William B. Wynne, Esq. Chairman for Joseph E. Milardo, Esq.	 Date

Recording Secretary: Denise Goldstein