

**CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL
WHITING FORENSIC DIVISION**

ADVISORY & REVIEW BOARD MEETING

September 21, 2017

PRESENT:

William B. Wynne, Esq. (Chairman); **Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.**, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; **Peter Harding; Lakisha Hyatt, MSN, RN**, CVH Chief Operating Officer and WFD Acting Division Director; **Eugene P. Hickey, LCSW; Leslie Lothstein, Ph.D., ABPP**, (Secretary); **Velandy Manohar, M.D.; Arthur V. McDowell, M.D.**, FACC, FACP; **Michael A. Norko, M.D.**, Director of Forensic Services, D.M.H.A.S.; **Jeffrey Shelton, M.D.**; and **Helene M. Vartelas, MSN**, CVH Chief Executive Officer

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order	Chairman Wynne convened the meeting at approximately 4:35 p.m. in the Norko Conference Room in the Whiting Forensic Service.	
Approval of Minutes	The minutes of the June 15, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Chairman Wynne stated that due to the ongoing situation regarding the abuse allegations at Whiting, he didn't believe it would be appropriate for discussions at this point about what may happen in the future; however, it would be fair to the Board to at least be updated. Chairman Wynne was able to obtain a copy of the lengthy Department of Public Health report from its Commissioner, and encouraged Board members to contact him so that he can forward the report to them for review and further discussion prior to the next meeting. Chairman Wynne explained that he was hired as the first CLRP attorney for Whiting in the late 80's and knows many of the patients here and finds the report very disturbing.	The minutes were approved as submitted.
DMHAS Commissioner's Report	Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon reported that nine individuals have been arrested and a total of 31 individuals have been put out on administrative leave, including the Acting Director of Whiting and the Chief of Patient Care Services. Daily meetings have been held to develop strategies to ensure that this never happens again. There has been a great deal of time spent in working to evolve recovery oriented and person centered patient care, and to have something like this happen in our system is horrific and	

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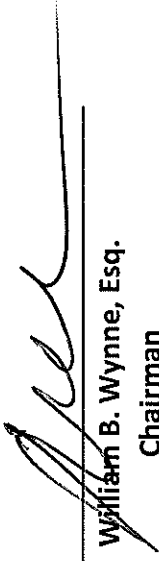
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	unthinkable. A number of different things have been put in place such as improving the cameras in Whiting and in other places on campus. An outside security company has been hired to review the videos both live and retrospective, and DMHAS police are overseeing the security company to make sure that these reviews are happening. A viewing room has been set up for increased video surveillance for all over campus. More staff has been hired to fill in some of the gaps to increase staffing. There has been an increased managerial presence on site including more rounds, and Lakisha Hyatt has an office inside Whiting. Office hours for the Client Rights officers have been increased so that they are more accessible. The mandatory reporting procedures have been re-reviewed so that staff knows who to speak to and how to make reports if they witness anything. Dr. Norko has been doing training on trauma and other areas to help staff be able to recognize trauma when it comes to their own experiences. There have been a series of 17 staff discussion groups across all shifts to hear directly from staff, and a task force to include the Commissioner will be formed to develop a strategic plan to oversee the implementation. Consultants from Toivo will conduct stress management training with staff, on site EAP services have been made available, and access to the health club in Russell Hall is now free of charge. Focus groups with patients have also been conducted to hear their experiences and what they recommend. The Commissioner emphasized that this is not reflective of the care that is provided system-wide. The HR investigation is now ongoing following the Police investigation.	
Board Business	Chairman Wynne reported that there is a plaque to honor former Chairman Joseph Milardo. It was suggested that something could be done for Attorney Milardo in January if he isn't currently available. Chairman Wynne stated that Attorney Milardo served on the Advisory & Review Board from 1988-2017. Chairman Wynne inquired if members received their packages for appointment/re-appointment and have submitted them. The applications were submitted and word is awaited from the Governor's office.	

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Next Meeting	The next Advisory and Review Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018.	
Adjournment	The formal meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m. Dr. Norko then presented a documentary film, NCR: Not Criminally Responsible, by John Kastner, a four-time Emmy award winning Canadian filmmaker on the topic of people who are found NGRI.	
Approved By	 William B. Wynne, Esq. Chairman	1/18/18 Date

Recording Secretary: Denise Goldstein