

State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



CVH WHITING TASK FORCE

MEETING SUMMARY  
Friday, December 13, 2019

Co-chairwoman Linda Schwartz convened the meeting at 1:07pm.

Ms. Schwartz asked members to introduce themselves.

Members present were Mr. Acker, Ms. Alisberg, Ms. Beuregard, Ms. Hauser, Mr. Lawlor, Dr. Rodis and Ms. Schwartz.

Others present were Kathy Flaherty and Kirk Lowry, Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Inc.; Mary Ann Hanley, Deborah Moore and Mary Kate Mason, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); and Dr. Tobias Wasser, Whiting Forensic Hospital.

Ms. Schwartz explained the process for the Task Force to go into Executive Session.

**Presentation:**

Ms. Kimberly Beuregard provided an overview of the documents submitted for posting on the web page. She stated that in an effort to expand her knowledge, she commissioned Marlene Kurban, MS, MBA, Kurban Consulting to gather additional information that would allow the group to better understand what was going on at the national level. Through this research it was discovered that an enormous amount of work was already done by Dr. Robert Trestman, Professor of Medicine, Psychiatry and Nursing at UConn Health. The study also showed other states with similar facilities to Whiting Forensic Hospital.

Ms. Alisberg asked for the intent of the research.

Ms. Beuregard stated that the inquiry was to determine best practices.

Ms. Alisberg asked what would be considered best practices.

Ms. Beuregard explained that it's not only clinical, it should be about clinical and recovery. It should not just be about treatment, it must encompass a lot more. This could be a roadmap to see what goes on in other states.

Dr Rodis asked if the ultimate goal of the task force is to make recommendation or is there a list of things?

Ms. Beuregard stated that after two years of work the task force should not just say here are the recommendations, it should also include, here is a list of things we found.

Ms. Alisberg expressed her concerns regarding the civil rights of patients and stated that the task force should not be making clinical recommendations. She suggested establishing a smaller work group to come up with clinical recommendations.

Ms. Schwartz explained that the formation of the task force was given due consideration to include clinicians, civil rights advocates, practitioners and patient representative. There are some good components for the task force to review, and there is also the recent Disabilities Rights CT report which brought to light some issues of concern.

Ms. Hauser stated that it is a good idea to review different reports to see what other states do regarding PSRB.

Ms. Schwartz announced that the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Disabilities Rights CT will be presenting at the next task force meeting. She asked members if they were willing to set aside three hours for each meeting to facilitate the two presentations and discussion.

Mr. Acker suggested that the DPH present on 1/9/2020 at the LOB, and Disabilities Right CT present at the 2/28/2020 meeting at Saint Francis Hospital.

The following are the dates and time for the next four meetings:

1/9/2020	DPH	1:00pm	4:00pm LOB
1/27/2020	Disabilities Rights CT	10:30am	2:00pm LOB
2/28/2020	Monte Adler and Kevin Lawlor	12:30pm	Saint Francis Hospital
3/20/2020	1199 NE	12:30pm	Saint Francis Hospital

Ms. Schwartz reminded members that the preliminary report is due on January 1, 2021.

Ms. Hauser suggested that the task force schedule public hearings at Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) to accommodate CVH and Whiting Forensic Hospital staff.

Mary Kate Mason was asked to check the availability of a venue to host the public hearing.

Ms. Schwartz suggested the possibility of one Public Hearing to accommodate staff.

Ms. Hauser reminded members to consider shift change when finalizing plans for the public hearing at CVH.

Mr. Acker suggested that the task force invite the DMHAS Commissioner to make a presentation.

Ms. Schwartz added that the leadership at CVH should also be invited to another meeting.

Ms. Hauser suggested that the task force meeting with patients during the months of February and March of 2020.

Ms. Schwartz suggested that the task force ask the DMHAS Commissioner if there are anything that she would like the task force to do to help DMHAS.

Ms. Alisberg suggested that the group meet to decide on the questions for the commissioner of DMHAS.

Ms. Hauser and Dr. Rodis agreed with Ms. Alisberg.

Mr. Lawlor reminded members that if they met as a group it would constitute a public meeting.

Ms. Schwartz suggested that they go into executive session to formulate the questions for the commissioner and discuss the report.

A decision was made to send the question to the Legislative Commissioners Office for legal advice.

Ms. Schwartz asked for a motion to recess the meeting to go into Executive Session to visit with the Dutcher Patient Steering Committee.

Motion offered by Ms. Alisberg and seconded by Dr. Rodis.

A Roll Call was taken:

**Total Voting= 7: Yea=7; Nay=0; Absent and not Voting=0; Abstain=0**

Ms. Schwartz announced that the regular meeting was in recess and that it will adjourn at the conclusion of the Executive Session.