MEETING MINUTES FOR THE GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016

Location of Meeting: The Arnold Conference Center, located in the Regan Building, Eleanor Slater Hospital, 111 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI

Person presiding: Richard Leclerc

Members present: Richard Antonelli, Linda Bryan, Sandra Del Sesto, Ruth Feder, Mark Fields, Wendy Looker, Anne Mulready, George O’Toole, Esther Picon, Brian Sullivan

Appointed members present: David Spencer, Megan Clingham

Ex-officio members present: Michelle Brophy (BHDDH), Ruth Anne Dougherty (DCYF), Elizabeth Farrar (BHDDH), Sharon Kernan (EOHHS), Chris Strnad (DCYF)

Guests: Edward Curtis (NHPRI), Ines Garcia (CPRS—EBCAP), Kathy Kushnir (BHDDH), Sarah Reinstein (BHDDH), Julia Steiny (Youth Restorative Project), Trisha Suggs (BHDDH)

Welcome/Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order at 8:39 am by Rich Leclerc.

Review of Minutes: David Spencer recommended changing ACM to ASAM near the bottom of page two regarding a bill on the utilization of ASAM criteria. Richard Antonelli asked to be added to the list of attendees. Sandra asked to eliminate the first sentence from the Evidence-Based Workgroup update on page two. Ruth Feder wished to clarify in the sixth paragraph on page three that she spoke for the MHA of RI advocacy group regarding supporting the proposed abolition of behavioral health copays. Megan Clingham and David Spencer moved to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried and minutes were approved as amended.

DCYF Questions: Please see the list of youth treatment service questions that were created by four members of the Governor’s Council pertaining to DCYF coverage and benefits regarding behavioral healthcare: Megan Clingham, David Spencer, Ruth Feder, and Jennifer Griffith. Rich is asking for a vote from council members on whether or not the request could come from the council with these four individuals acting as a task force. Chris Strnad recommended a small group meeting with a follow-up presentation to the larger council meeting. Several council members agreed, and will be suggested to the task force. Rich appointed Meg Clingham to chair this meeting. Rich asked for a motion, and motion carried. A report will be expected in the next three months.

Olmstead Committee: The council reviewed the draft of the letter to the Governor’s office and the draft of the letter of support to community partners. Ruth summarized the contents of the letter, including the need for a plan, the pros and cons of implementation and the implications of not having an Olmstead plan. The subcommittee has approached the proposal as an executive order, and felt it an appropriate mechanism coming from a Governor’s advisory body. The letter also draws from the results of the September 2015 Truven study and lists prospective partners
and stakeholders (see also community partner letter of support). The letters of support would be added to a package that would be presented to the Inter-Agency Unit at EOHHS for consideration for Senator Roberts and bringing it to the Governor. Ruth said the subcommittee is looking for a vote on the substance of the letter from the council. Sandra asked for clarification on the inconsistency between the statement that RI spends more money on direct and indirect behavioral healthcare than most other states (p.2, para. 1), and the statement that public financing for behavioral healthcare for adults and adolescents has dropped (p.2, para. 2). There was a request to clarify in the letter that the state spends more money but funding has decreased due to increased spending via Medicaid but a lack of investment into the system for the full range of supports. Brian suggested that Operation Stand Down should be added to the list of community partners and stakeholders. Linda noted that starting in January 2017, RIDE will start charging the DD population for their transportation and underscores the need for an Olmstead Plan, which includes support services that affect quality of life.

Ruth made a motion for the council to vote to approve the letter for transmission to the Governor’s office upon completion, for the purpose of creating and appointing a commission to develop an Olmstead Plan in RI. Rich called for a vote. The motion carried and was approved. Rich thanked Ruth and the members of the Olmstead subcommittee. Ruth acknowledged and thanked the efforts of the other committee member. A meeting is scheduled directly after this meeting. Lisa requested that if there are organizations or stakeholders that are not represented in this letter, please forward that information to Ruth for inclusion.

Youth/Young Adult Presentation to Children’s Cabinet: Please see the rubric and stories handouts. Anne acknowledged the council’s approval at a previous meeting to present these documents to the Children’s Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet found this information useful as a tool to continue to work on children’s behavioral health needs. Anne thanked the committee’s expedient turnaround in order to get the information to the Cabinet.

Anne talked about the Safe Harbor legislation around youth sex trafficking that had come up last year that DCYF spearheaded. Anne had met with Chris to talk about the agency’s efforts. The Youth Transitions Committee supports Safe Harbor legislation, and is asking DCYF to consider the issue of immunity from prosecution ending at age 16, and extending Safe Harbor legislation until age 26. There is a draft letter to DCYF that Anne is asking the council to review and approve, and endorse sending to DCYF and other key officials, including the Governor. Sandra noted that “influence” is missing from the second sentence in paragraph two. Rich proposed a motion to move forward. George seconded. There was a question about offering counseling and support as part of the legislation. Chris noted that DCYF works with Day One and other providers to refer victims of commercial sexual exploitation to counseling. Recommended adding this information to the legislation. Rich recommended adding a sentence clarifying the counseling protocol Chris described DCYF using. A recommendation was made to change the name to reflect that immunity from prosecution extends to age 26. Rich made a motion to send to the Governor’s office for consideration. Motion carried with approval. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13th.
Prevention Committee: The next meeting is on Tuesday, December 13th from 2:00-4:00 in Barry Hall. Sandra reported that the group is finalizing a fact sheet for decision makers (legislators) regarding funding for prevention. There is a Marijuana Policy Subcommittee to take a proactive approach to future legalization in RI based on MA’s recent legalization, and lessons learned from other states that have already legalized marijuana. The group is also looking at drug-free policies in the workplace regarding testing and hiring, and examining how it is being addressed in the workplace. Sandra asked about the legislation to move youth marijuana citations from traffic court to family court. Dave Spencer clarified that the age cutoff is 16, with citations for youth age 17 and older continuing to go to traffic court. Sandra asked for an update on the prevention delivery system. The Evidence-Based Workgroup will be ready for a presentation in January or February. Sandra will talk to Bette about adding the presentation to the agenda for a future meeting.

State Youth Treatment Planning Grant: Trisha Suggs talked about the upcoming deadline for the implementation application. There are eight required deliverables, not all of which are due at the time of submission. The grant is part of the State Youth Treatment Planning two-year grant BHDDH received that focuses on substance abuse and co-occurring treatments among 12-17 year-olds and 18-25 year-olds. Trisha handed out a chart outlining a three-tier approach. Directors from each tier were asked to supply staff to comprise finance and strategic planning committees.

A subcommittee of the Youth and Young Adults in Transition Subcommittee, The Advisory for State Youth Treatment, was created. Trisha described the ongoing creation of a matrix of statewide resources for substance abuse and co-occurring treatment, with the intent of distributing to schools and community agencies. A Youth and Young Adult Provider Collaborative is in progress. Trisha will provide more information on meetings if anyone is interested. The grant would support a range of activities, including workforce mapping, training initiatives, peer recovery specialist training resources, collaborations with other community stakeholders, social marketing efforts, and outreach efforts. Trisha talked about collaborating with organizations that work with homeless people to use CABHI (Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals) funding to perform field assessments, with special attention to creating a separate program to meet the needs of young adults who are homeless with substance abuse issues. Michelle acknowledged Trisha’s efforts and the work of other people at the meeting on the programs BHDDH is involved with.

BHDDH Update: BHDDH is in the final stages of negotiation on prevention contracts. Michelle proposed adding an update to the January agenda. SAMHSA is still reviewing the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) planning grant, which would provide an enhanced Medicaid match for two years. SAMHSA is expected to provide an update to BHDDH by December 31st. Four participating community mental health centers have been identified as part of the grant application: Gateway, Newport County Community Mental Health, The Kent Center, and CCA. The block grant has been submitted as of December 1st. Michelle will talk to Bette about sending a revised version of questions to the council. An RFI for a crisis center is in progress, and Michelle is asking for input from the council. There is an RFI for recovery centers
as well. A master price agreement for evaluation and data collection is up for review. There will be an RFP for the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) grant. The 21st Century Cures Act grant, a $5.5 billion grant for opioid treatment and prevention, will come out next week, with the goal of having awards made and contracts signed before the new administration.

EOHHS Update: Jason reported EOHHS was awarded $130 million over the next five years for health systems transitions, with a focus on performance-based payments and physical and behavioral health integration. The award will provide opportunities for provider and advocate engagement and potential for significant and sustainable change.

DCYF Update: Ranny reported that DCYF continues to work on re-procurement. DCYF is in the process of expanding work with families and team meetings regarding transitioning kids in and out of care. More information to come. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement processes are in progress to improve placement, adoption, and invoicing services.

Old/New Business:

• Rich proposed adding a legislative update as a standing item on meeting agendas.
• Morning meeting times have been changed from 8:30 to 9:00 am. An updated calendar will be sent to the council.
• The meeting length will remain at 90 minutes.
• Starting in January, the meeting location will be the HP Center at 301 Metro Center Blvd in Warwick.
• Sam Marullo will remain the Governor’s office liaison.
• The statute changes for the Governor’s Council have gone through the Governor’s office and are moving forward. More information to come.
• A new member, Anatole Burke, has been appointed to the council. A second member has been identified and will be added.
• Proposed changes to 42 CFR Part 2 were issued for comment earlier in the year and are at the Office of Management and Budget, with the goal of being issued before the end of the year.
• Rich asked for authorization to send recommendations from the Governor’s Council on language addressing parity and provider appeal issues, provider access to plan documentation with the patient, and access to care criteria to the Medicaid Office at EOHHS. David motioned to approve. Motion carried. Jason advised that these recommendations can be sent to Deb Florio.

Next Meeting
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10th at 1:00 pm at the HP Center (301 Metro Center Drive, Warwick RI).
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.