

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Mental Health Subcommittee

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Vernon Oliver (Subcommittee Co-chair), Jennifer Zito (Subcommittee Co-chair), Robin Pavia (Commission Chair), John Santa, Angel Quiros, Gary Roberge, Jan Walker, Tom Canny, Kevin Lawlor, William O'Connor

Staff: Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), Patricia O'Rourke

Also in Attendance: Benjamin Howell, Reena Kapoor, Marc Pelka, Viviana Alvarez-Toro, Diane Sierpina

I. MEETING CONVENED

Atty. Zito convened the meeting at 1:05 PM.

II. FEBRUARY 9, 2023, MEETING MINUTES APPROVED

III. INVITED SPEAKER: THOMAS BURR, PUBLIC POLICY AND AFFILIATE RELATIONS MANAGER, CONNECTICUT CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI CONNECTICUT, INC.)

Thomas Burr shared with the Subcommittee about NAMI's mission, "Dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental illness and their families through support, education, and advocacy," and current priorities in Connecticut related to mental health and incarceration.

IV. 2023 PROJECT UPDATE: EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION TREATMENT USE IN INDIVIDUALS FOLLOWING RELEASE FROM INCARCERATION OR ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Dr. Benjamin Howell, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Yale School of Medicine, representing a team of researchers, provided an update on the project and addressed questions from Commission members about data gathering.

V. DIVERSION

- Dr. Mike Norko, DMHAS Director of Forensic Services Division provided updates on CJPAC Behavioral Health Subcommittee gathering and organizing information on diversion programs and usage.
- Atty Zito informed the Subcommittee of the upcoming trip for a delegation from the Mental Health Subcommittee to the *Decriminalizing Mental Illness – The Miami Model* workshop on May 7-9.

VI. NEXT STEPS

- Next meeting of the subcommittee, Tuesday, June 6th, 1:00-2:30 (virtual)
- Next full Commission meeting, Thursday, May 25th, 2:00-3:30 (virtual)

VII. ADJOURNED

Atty Zito adjourned the meeting at 2:10 P.M.