

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Mental Health Subcommittee

Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 1:00-2:30pm

MINUTES

Members Present: Gerald Harmon (Subcommittee Co-chair), Jennifer Zito (Subcommittee Co-chair), Gary Roberge, Kevin Lawlor, Robin Pavia, John Santa, Janet Walker, Thomas Canny, Daniel Karpowitz, Angel Quiros, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan

Staff: Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), Patricia O'Rourke, Josephine Burke, Matthew Hono, Christian Isodoro, Marisol Garcia, Tommy Dowd

Guest Speakers: Annie Harper, PhD, Recovery Finance Co-PI, Assistant Professor Yale Department of Psychiatry; Chyrell Bellamy, PhD, Recovery Finance Co-PI, Professor Yale Department of Psychiatry, Director Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health; Kayla Collins, LMSW, Recovery Finance Project Coordinator; Kimberly Blackman, LMSW, Director of Operations, Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health; Elizabeth Flanagan, PhD, Recovery Finance Co-Investigator, Research Scientist Yale Department of Psychiatry; Tino Negrón, Recovery Finance Peer Supporter, Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health

Also in Attendance: Thomas Burr, Benjamin Howell, Denise Paley, Sen. Catherine Osten, Michael Whilby, Kathy Flaherty, Deborah Dorfman, Kirk Lowry, Kathryn Thomas

- **Meeting convened** – Atty Zito convened the meeting at 1:04 PM
- **March 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes Approved**
- **Mental Health Study Research Updates – Focus on Reentry**
 - **SAMHSA 2023 Best Practices for Successful Reentry From Criminal Justice Settings for People Living With Mental Health Conditions and/or Substance Use Disorders.** Patricia O'Rourke, PhD, Research Associate, introduced Josephine Burke, Commission Intern, who provided an overview of this recent report and connections to the Commission's mental health study.
 - **Yale SEICHE Center Study Update - Evaluation of community mental health and addiction treatment use in individuals following release from incarceration or on community supervision, Connecticut, 2018-2022.** Dr. Benjamin Howell, MD, and Dr. Katherine Thomas provided an update on the status of the qualitative study

component and attempts to obtain the necessary data for the quantitative component.

- **Guest Speakers: Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health: Recovery Finance Project.** Members of the Recovery Finance Project team provided an overview of their work and potential connections with the Commission's mental health study.
- **Other Updates**
 - **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder.** **Deborah Dorfman, Executive Director, Disability Rights Connecticut.** Attorney Dorfman provided an update on the status of the study.
 - **Memo on SB1 and potential impact for incarcerated individuals experiencing mental health and substance use disorder treatment needs.** Patricia O'Rourke provided an update on our activity to date in response to Sen. Osten's request.
 - **Forthcoming 2024 Reports: Competency to Stand Trial in Connecticut and Mental Health Diversionary Programs.** Patricia O'Rourke provided an update on the status of these reports.
 - **Enhanced Forensic Respite Bed (EFRB) Program** – Attorney Zito provided a brief update on the recent expansion of the EFRB program and upcoming information session provided by DHMAS.
- **Meeting Adjourned 2:15 pm**