



**Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission**  
**Monday, July 28, 2025**  
**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**Virtual**

**Minutes**

Attending Commission Members:

Danna Mauch, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Co-Chair  
Roy Frost, Chief of Police, Billerica Police Department  
Deirdre Calvert, DPH Bureau of Substance Addiction Services  
Paula Carey, former Chief Justice of the Trial Court  
Lydia Conley, Association for Behavioral Healthcare  
Lee Robinson, MassHealth Office of Accountable Care & Behavioral Health Services  
Matthew Broderick, Department of Mental Health

Staff:

Scott Taberner, Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Kevin Maccioli, Middlesex Sheriff's Office  
Liz Berman, Senator Friedman's Office  
Michael Kane, ForHealth Consulting at UMass Chan Medical School  
Chelsea Thomson, ForHealth Consulting at UMass Chan Medical School  
Jacqueline Richards, ForHealth Consulting at UMass Chan Medical School  
Elizabeth Ganz, Association for Behavioral Healthcare

Invited Attendees:

Jean Yang, Vinfen  
Kim Shellenberger, Vinfen  
Joshua Nye, Vinfen  
Sophie Hansen, Vinfen  
David Brown, Vinfen  
Jonathan Chines, Vinfen  
Annette Kovamees, Vinfen

## **Welcome and Roll Call**

- Co-Chair Danna Mauch welcomed attendees and opened the meeting. Chelsea Thomson completed a roll call of Commission members.
- Danna Mauch introduced the newest members of the Commission:
  - Matthew Broderick, the Manager of Forensic Operations and Policy at the Department of Mental Health. Matthew manages the Justice Diversion Program, which works directly with municipalities and police departments on their CIT training and co-responder grants. Matthew will step into Nancy Connolly's seat as she retired in June.
  - Lee Robinson, the Associate Chief for Behavioral Health at the MassHealth Office of Accountable Care & Behavioral Health. Lee is trained as a physician and deeply experienced in integrated care and behavioral health. Lee will step into the MassHealth seat that Scott Taberner held.
- Danna recommended that Scott and Chelsea share the Commission contact list, charter, and other project materials with Matthew and Lee. Scott confirmed that Matthew and Lee attended a Restoration Center "101" call in June and will circulate these materials.

## **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

- Chelsea Thomson accepted a motion made by Danna Mauch and seconded by Matthew Broderick to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting held on February 13, 2025. Chelsea Thomson conducted a vote of the yeas and nays. All those present and voting voted in the affirmative. The Commission approved the meeting minutes.

## **Introduction of Revised Center Name**

- Following the last Commission meeting where the Commission discussed the branding of the Center, conversations on a revised name continued and the *Restoration Center of Greater Lowell* was selected. The goal and the mission of the Center remain the same but the new name more appropriately reflects the geographic focus of the Center.
- Danna Mauch and Paula Carey echoed this revision. Danna noted that it also allows for the future replication of Centers within Middlesex County that focus on the hubs of need identified in the original planning, such as the Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford area.

## **Vinfen Implementation Updates**

- *Contract extension update*
  - Scott Taberner updated the group on the amendment to Vinfen's contract with EOHHS that extends the end date from June 30, 2027 to June 30, 2028. This change reflects the delayed start date and associated spending while also providing ample time for service provision and the evaluation.
  - The amendment increases the amount allocated to Vinfen by \$250,000.
- *Organizational update*
  - Jean Yang provided an update on Vinfen's organizational development and hiring, including:
    - Jonathan Chines, the new Chief Operating Officer, who will oversee both the Restoration Center and Community Behavioral Health Center.
    - A Vice President of Behavioral Health who will start August 18<sup>th</sup>.

- A Director of Service, Clinical Program Director for the Respite program, and Director of Program Development, all of whom start within the next six weeks.
- *Facility update*
  - Kim Shellenberger shared that Vinfen selected a General Contractor, AmCon, which is a family owned, women's business enterprise. AmCon is the same general contractor that Spectrum will use to renovate the top floor for the Acute Treatment Services (ATS) and Clinical Stabilization Services (CSS) beds.
  - Vinfen issued a letter of intent so that AmCon can order materials and mobilize subcontractors. Project construction is expected to start in September.
- *Service development and timeline*
  - Josh Nye highlighted Vinfen's August 1<sup>st</sup> launch of the mobile respite service. Prior to the start of the program, Vinfen established an electronic health record process, developed the referral process, and connected with community providers to increase awareness of the program.
  - For the Restoration Center at large, Vinfen is recruiting a nurse manager.

### **Working Group Updates and Next Steps**

- *Sober Support Services and Sustainability Working Group*
  - Chelsea Thomson shared that this working group has met several times to discuss the Sober Support Services and reviewed the program description, admission criteria, and patient flow that Vinfen developed. Throughout these discussions, the topic of licensing and sustainability arose and the working group evolved to focus on these pieces.
  - The most recent working group meeting discussed potential pathways for licensing and ambulance drop-off and shared the work done to date to identify options. The group will continue to explore possible licensing frameworks.
  - Chelsea noted that the [National Sobering Collaborative](#) worked with the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) to develop accreditation standards for sobering centers. CARF accreditation could give credence to the model, as it is newer in Massachusetts, and potentially inform licensing conversations.
  - Danna Mauch offered the support of the Commission, if helpful, as licensing conversations continue and engagement with the Department of Public Health moves forward.
- *Evaluation Working Group*
  - Chelsea Thomson shared that the working group first met last week to discuss the evaluation plan that ForHealth Consulting developed.
  - The evaluation will include:
    - An implementation study to understand participant characteristics, Center services provided, caseload dynamics, and what worked well or not.
    - An outcome study to measure emergency department and arrest diversions, MassHealth utilization, criminal justice interaction such as bookings, charges, and jail days, and non-fatal and fatal overdoses.

- ForHealth Consulting and Vinfen met for the past year to finalize the plan. ForHealth Consulting is engaged in conversations with various justice entities to discuss data availability and sharing.

### **Funding and Budget Update**

- Scott Taberner shared that Senator Friedman was successful in securing \$1.5M for the Restoration Center in the FY26 budget that was signed by the Governor in July. In the signing of the budget, Governor Healey held earmarks in abeyance and delayed payments until the fall when the revenue outlook for the Commonwealth is more clear.
- Given that EOHHS has a contractual obligation to Vinfen through FY28, the Commission is of the opinion that this funding should not be considered a traditional “earmark” and subject to the review process.
- Danna Mauch suggested that the Commission consider sending a letter to Governor Healey outlining the history of project and highlighting the importance of retaining the funding as a contractual obligation.
  - Paula Carey agrees with this plan. Matthew Broderick clarified if a vote is needed on the letter and Danna suggested that she and Sheriff Koutoujian write the letter on behalf of the Commission. Those present agreed on that plan. Danna, Sheriff Koutoujian, Scott, and Chelsea will coordinate on next steps.
- The Commission, EOHHS, and Vinfen continue to contemplate other resources, such as DMH funding for the Living Room and third-party reimbursement from MassHealth or commercial insurers.

### **Next Steps**

- Danna Mauch and Sheriff Koutoujian will write a letter to Governor Healey, on behalf of the Commission, to discuss the importance of the Restoration Center funding and highlight that it is not a traditional “earmark”.
- Chelsea Thomson will send the Commission contact list, project charter, and project overview materials to new commission members, Lee Robinson and Matthew Broderick.

### **Adjournment**

- Co-chair Danna Mauch accepted motion made by Lydia Conley and seconded by Dee Calvert to adjourn the meeting. Danna Mauch conducted a vote of the yeas and nays. All those present and voting voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned.