



Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission
Monday, June 5, 2023
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Virtual

Minutes

Attending Commission Members:

Peter Koutoujian, Sheriff, Middlesex Sheriff's Office, Co-Chair
Danna Mauch, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Co-Chair
Cindy Friedman, Senator – 4th District
Lester Baker, Framingham Police Chief
Deirdre Calvert, DPH Bureau of Substance Addiction Services
Paula M. Carey, former Chief Justice of the Trial Court
Lydia Conley, Association for Behavioral Healthcare
Audrey Shelto, Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation
Scott Taberner, Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Kenneth Gordon, Representative – 21st Middlesex District

Staff:

Michael Kane, ForHealth Consulting at UMass Chan Medical School
Katharine London, ForHealth Consulting at UMass Chan Medical School
David Ryan, Middlesex Sheriff's Office
Liz Berman, Senator Friedman's Office
Timothy Burton, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts
Carol Gyurina, ForHealth Consulting at UMass Chan Medical School
Chelsea Thomson, ForHealth Consulting at UMass Chan Medical School

Members of the public:

Kim Shellenberger, Vinfen
Jean Yang, Vinfen
Myra Sessions, Vinfen

12:00PM – 12:10PM

Open Session

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chairs, Sheriff Koutoujian and Danna Mauch

- Co-Chair Koutoujian welcomed attendees and opened the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Co-Chair, Sheriff Koutoujian

- Co-Chair Koutoujian accepted a motion made by Audrey Shelto and seconded by Chief Carey to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting held on May 8, 2023. Co-Chair Koutoujian conducted a vote of the yeas and nays. All those present and voting voted in the affirmative, except Representative Kenneth Gordon who abstained as they did not attend the last meeting. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

12:10PM – 12:55PM

Funding Updates

Co-Chairs, Sheriff Koutoujian and Danna Mauch

- Deirdre Calvert provided an update on the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) and noted the first meeting of the ORRF Advisory Council for 2023 will occur on June 14. The advisory council members were recently reappointed.
- Senator Friedman provided a legislative funding update detailing the \$1.25 million request for the Restoration Center in the Senate's budget. Senator Friedman indicated all ARPA funding has been allocated.

Administrative Updates

Scott Taberner and Katharine London

- ForHealth has paused conversations with Pew to evaluate the model until the Center opens. Danna remains in contact with Pew staff and indicated continued interest in Pew supporting the evaluation.
- The Mass.gov website is posted in a draft version. ForHealth staff have provided feedback and comments. Several of the files will need to be updated to meet 508 compliance standards and will be added to the site on a rolling basis.
- Katharine London will provide a more detailed financial update after the fiscal year ends but ForHealth is working with EOHHS to realign contracts after the legal entity transfer is completed. ForHealth is currently underspending its funds, but unspent funds will be carried over.
- Scott Taberner provided information on the consultant procurement request for quotes (RFQ) process and answered Commission members' questions. EOHHS received two responses. Both responded to all four tasks in the RFQ and met the RFQ requirements. The review team and EOHHS determined HMA to be the best value to EOHHS. EOHHS

notified the bidders of the outcomes and Scott is in contact with HMA to discuss the scope of work and contract.

- Scott shared an overview of the financial resources EOHHS will offer to key behavioral health providers to rapidly initiate the activities of the SAMHSA grant. Following conversations with SAMHSA in preparation for the no cost extension request, EOHHS felt it would be advantageous to offer resources to providers to prepare the community for the soon to be launched Center. The key behavioral health service providers play an important role in ensuring the Center is aligned and appropriately weaved into the local continuum of care. EOHHS will work with the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership to offer up to \$50,000 to each provider, with a maximum of \$200,000 across all providers, to initiate work that advances the objectives of the SAMHSA grant. Funds will be available through the end of September 2023.
 - Scott and Senator Friedman discussed the goals and purpose of the resources. Scott shared that the resources would be used to jumpstart activities, prepare community members and stakeholders across Middlesex County for the Center, and build relationships with law enforcement, first responders, hospitals, and other key stakeholders.
 - Sheriff Koutoujian and Danna expressed support of the plan as an opportunity to incorporate the Center into the local behavioral health system of care and ensure continuity of care wherever a community member seeks help.
 - EOHHS will coordinate the work HMA and awarded behavioral health providers undertake to ensure consistency.
- On June 1, EOHHS posted a Notice of Upcoming Procurement stating that EOHHS intends to post a Request for Responses (RFR) to procure a vendor to implement the Restoration Center Pilot Program via [COMMBUYS](#). Scott thanked all of those who reviewed and provided feedback on the RFR. EOHHS anticipates issuing a contract to the selected vendor during Summer 2023. Next steps include:
 - EOHHS will post the RFR within the next few weeks.
 - EOHHS will host a bidder's conference.
 - Audrey, Chief Carey, and Scott will review any responses received during the review meetings that will be scheduled for early August.

12:55 PM – 1:00PM

Next Steps

- Co-chairs will be in touch about scheduling the next meetings, which will be virtual over the summer.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Sheriff Koutoujian

- Sheriff Koutoujian accepted a motion made by Scott Taberner and seconded by Kenneth Gordon to adjourn the meeting. Sheriff Koutoujian conducted a vote of the yeas and nays. All those present and voting voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned.