



Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Virtual via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Sheriff Peter Koutoujian from Middlesex Sheriff's Office, Danna Mauch from Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Scott Taberner from Executive Office for Health and Human Services, Chief Robert Bongiorno from Bedford Police Department, Deidre Calvert from Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Eliza Williamson from Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Nancy Connolly from Association for Behavioral Health, David Swanson from the Office of Senator Cindy Friedman, Abby Kim from Association for Behavioral Health, Timothy Burton from Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Marisa Hebble from Massachusetts Trial Court, Brian Kiwanuka from Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Catia Sharp from Commonwealth Medicine, Katharine London from Commonwealth Medicine, Tamika Jeune from Commonwealth Medicine, Debra Williams from Commonwealth Medicine.

12:30 PM: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Sheriff Koutoujian welcomed attendees and opened the meeting.

A quorum was present with seven commission members.

12:35 PM: LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATE

Senator Friedman and Representative Gordon were absent from this meeting. Sheriff Koutoujian provided an update that Senator Friedman had confirmed prior to the meeting that the General Court passed a spending bill utilizing some of the state's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) revenue and that bill includes \$5 million allocated to a Restoration Center in Middlesex County.

12:40 PM: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Sheriff Koutoujian accepted a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting held virtually on Monday, November 8, 2021, via Zoom. Unanimous vote in favor of approving the minutes from the last meeting.

12:45 PM: FOLLOW UP ON LEGAL FRAMEWORK: DISCUSSION

Sheriff Koutoujian posed the question whether there needs to be an expansion of the authority granted to the Commission. He added that this is a future consideration in light of the pending change in the administration for state governance in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Dr. Mauch elaborated on the role of the Commission vis-à-vis the contracted Restoration Center. She urged Commission members to consider whether the Commission should take steps to define the role of the Commission broader than what is in the current enabling statute. She suggested that an oversight function over the Restoration Center can be a path forward.

VOTE: “The Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission requests that Commonwealth Medicine be the procuring entity for the Middlesex County Restoration Center pilot.”

Scott Taberner made a motion to vote to request that Commonwealth Medicine be the procuring entity for the pilot Restoration Center. Chief Bongiorno seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote in favor of requesting that Commonwealth Medicine act as the procuring entity for the Middlesex County Restoration Center pilot.

1:00 PM: UPDATE ON WORK PLAN AND DISCUSSION

Catia Sharp shared the work plan update. She shared that Commonwealth Medicine is currently writing the procurement document. She indicated that Commonwealth Medicine is working through remaining policy questions, including updating the budget for the pilot Restoration Center, with the procurement subcommittee. The procurement subcommittee meets biweekly. Additionally, Catia shared that Commonwealth Medicine, at the request of the Commission co-chairs, has added creation of a page for the Commission on the mass.gov website to the work plan and is currently in the process of creating the page.

Catia Sharp discussed briefly the licensure and billing options for the Restoration Center. The goal is to maximize billable revenue.

Katharine London further elaborated on the different methods to maximize billable revenue.

Dr. Mauch mentioned considering other sources of funding. Dr. Mauch discussed philanthropy as an avenue to close the budget gap with the Restoration Center.

1:10 PM: FINANCING UPDATE

Sheriff Koutoujian mentioned that funding may be available through SAMHSA. He suggested that funding may be available through DPH as matching grant funds. He noted there are additional funding sources that may be available for the Restoration Center.

Deirdre Calvert explained that BSAS received supplemental funding which may be available for the Restoration Center. She noted that the supplemental funding is COVID-19 related. She said that pre-arrest diversion funding may be available for the Restoration Center.

1:15 PM: COMMUNICATIONS DISCUSSION

Sheriff Koutoujian suggested that the Commission consider creating their own website and logo to create a brand. He also shared that a MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge blog post was authored by the Commission co-chairs. He noted that external partner meetings are being scheduled.

1:25 PM: NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING

The meeting adjourned before 2:00 pm.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2022 as a virtual meeting via Zoom.

