



**Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission**  
**Thursday, February 24, 2022**  
**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**Virtual via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Danna Mauch from Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Scott Taberner from Executive Office for Health and Human Services, Lydia Conley from Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Senator Cindy Friedman from Office of Senator Cindy Friedman, Deirdre Calvert from Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Timothy Burton from National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts, Abigail Kim from Association for Behavioral Healthcare, David Swanson from the Office of Senator Cindy Friedman, Kevin Maccioli from Middlesex Sheriff's Office, Fiona Bruce-Baiden from Office of Representative Ken Gordon, Brian Kiwanuka from Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Katharine London from Commonwealth Medicine, Tamika Jeune from Commonwealth Medicine, Catia Sharp from Commonwealth Medicine, Debra Williams from Commonwealth Medicine.

**10:30 AM: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Danna Mauch welcomed attendees and opened the meeting.

**10:35 AM: LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATE**

Senator Freidman shared that the Governor's budget has been released, and she will follow up.

**10:40 AM: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Danna Mauch accepted a motion made by Scott Taberner and seconded by Senator Friedman to approve minutes from the last meeting held virtually on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, via Zoom. There was a unanimous vote in favor of approving the minutes from the last meeting.

**10:45 AM: PROCUREMENT AND WORK PLAN UPDATE**

Catia Sharp shared that a plan update. She noted that the draft for Request for Response is nearing finalization.

Danna Mauch shared that the Procurement Subcommittee members may have additional comments to the draft Request for Responses.

Catia Sharp mentioned that she has begun drafting the annual report due in April 2022.

Lydia Conley asked why the procurement must be released this fiscal year and expressed concern about overlap with the Community Behavioral Health Center procurement timeline because it may be challenging for providers to respond to both simultaneously.

Catia Sharp replied by mentioning the Executive Office of Health and Human Services budget line item which dictates the procurement timeline for the Restoration Center. Catia also mentioned that the procurement team is aware of the potential conflict and seeking methods for reducing the burden on providers.

10:50 AM: FINANCING UPDATE

Danna Mauch mentioned that the Department of Mental Health has agreed to provide funding for the respite beds at the Restoration Center. She went on to share that there are conversations with BSAS are ongoing to determine additional funding for substance use disorder services in the Restoration Center.

Catia Sharp shared additional funding includes billing to existing programs, both public and private insurers, funding from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and funding from a Department of Mental Health trust fund.

Danna Mauch mentioned additional ongoing conversations for funding, including some with the Pew Foundation and the pending federal earmark filed by Congressperson Trahan.

11:00 AM: DISCUSSION: STATUTE

Senator Cindy Freidman mentioned that she regrets having a discussion on the Commission's role without the Sheriff. She mentioned that at the next Commission meeting this topic will be discussed in full. She is interested in initial thoughts.

Catia Sharp shared the present legal entities and legal relationships. She also shared the existing roles and responsibilities of the Commission, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and Commonwealth Medicine as it relates to the Restoration Center.

Danna Mauch explained that there may be additional roles going forward that the Commission could play.

Senator Cindy Friedman mentioned her concern that the Commission, as an advisory group, does not have enough authority over the Restoration Center and its future direction. She posed a question for the group to consider whether the Commission's role should evolve beyond an advisory group.

Scott Taberner mentioned that the Commission should not dissolve before the Restoration Center model goes statewide. Scott reflected on the current enabling statute envisioning 4 years of pilot development which is now coming to a close, and posited that perhaps a "statute 2.0" is needed to

describe the Commission's specific role in overseeing the implementation of the pilot program and using the results of the pilot program to inform potential statewide expansion if successful.

Danna Mauch agreed that perhaps the time is ripe for an updated statute reflecting the implementation phase of the pilot program and suggested that membership might also be reconsidered for this new phase.

Lydia Conley expressed concern over potential conflicts of interest for Association for Behavioral Healthcare if the expanded responsibilities include fiduciary responsibility for a Restoration Center or contract management of a contract with a provider entity which is highly likely to be a member of the Association for Behavioral Healthcare.

Senator Cindy Friedman expressed understanding of the conflict of interest problem and simultaneously made clear her opinion that the provider perspective is critically important in both the future work of the Commission and in informing decisions about statutory changes. She agreed that Commission membership may change both due to changes in individual representation of groups named in statute due to administration turnover but also due to the changing needs and roles of the Commission.

Scott Taberner asked whether a subcommittee should take up the issue of next iteration of the roles and responsibilities of the Commission.

Senator Cindy Friedman noted the potential conflict of interest with several members of the Commission. She suggested a brainstorming session for the co-chairs of the Commission before moving forward with this conversation.

11:20 PM: NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING

The next Commission is tentatively scheduled for March 2022.

Danna Mauch accepted a motion from Scott Taberner and a second from Senator Friedman to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.