



Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Virtual via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees:

Danna Mauch from Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Scott Taberner from Executive Office for Health and Human Services, Representative Ken Gordon from Office of Representative Ken Gordon, Chief Robert Bongiorno from Bedford Police Department, Lydia Conley from Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Senator Cindy Friedman from Office of Senator Cindy Friedman, Chief Justice Paula Carey from the Trial Court in Massachusetts, Timothy Burton from National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts, David Swanson from the Office of Senator Cindy Friedman, Marisa Hebble from the Trial Court in Massachusetts, Kevin Maccioli from Middlesex Sheriff's Office, Brian Kiwanuka from Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Katharine London from Commonwealth Medicine, Tamika Jeune from Commonwealth Medicine, Debra Williams from Commonwealth Medicine, Catia Sharp from Commonwealth Medicine.

12:30 PM: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Danna Mauch welcomed attendees and opened the meeting.

Dr. Mauch welcomed Chief Justice Carey and invited her to open the meeting. Chief Justice Carey commended the Commission for doing the groundwork to develop a diversion program through the Middlesex County Restoration Center. Senator Friedman expressed gratitude for Chief Justice Carey's leadership on behavioral health issues.

12:45 PM: LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATE

Senator Friedman stated that there is nothing new to report regarding legislative initiatives. She noted the ARPA funding has been made available to the Middlesex County Restoration Center.

12:50 PM: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Dr. Mauch accepted a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting held virtually on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, via Zoom. Dr. Mauch, Scott Taberner, Chief Bongiorno, Senator Friedman, and Tim Burton voted in favor of approving the minutes from the last meeting. Ken Gordon, Chief Justice Carey, and Lydia Conley abstained from the vote. The minutes were approved.

12:55 PM: WORK PLAN UPDATE

Catia Sharp shared the Middlesex County Restoration Center service model graphic. She reviewed key components of the service model.

Senator Cindy Friedman raised a question regarding the emergency service program (ESP). She asked how the ESP fits into the Middlesex County Restoration Center service model. Dr. Mauch explained how an ESP assessment is currently performed in the community. She also noted the proposed Middlesex County Restoration Center linkage to the Community Behavioral Health Center provider network.

Scott Taberner added that the Middlesex County Restoration Center service model will maximize the resources that have been put forth by the Commonwealth. Dr. Mauch explained a goal of the Community Behavioral Health Center linkage is to maximize revenue for the Middlesex County Restoration Center.

Chief Bongiorno raised whether all of the ESP crisis assessments in the area will occur at the Middlesex County Restoration Center. Catia Sharp explained that the mobile component of the ESP will not cease. ESP crisis assessments will continue to occur in the community, in addition to the site-based location.

Marisa Hebble raised whether methadone will be provided at the Middlesex County Restoration Center. Additionally, whether the Behavioral Health for Justice Involved Community Support Program relates to the service model. Catia Sharp explained that the model graphic includes the term “Behavioral Health for Justice Involved Community Support Program” as a stand-in for case worker staffing to provide case management at the Restoration Center for individuals who do not already have a case manager and are not otherwise eligible for a case manager through an existing program.

Catia Sharp provided an update on the timeline for the release of the procurement document and executing a contract with a vendor.

1:20 PM: FINANCING UPDATE

Dr. Mauch shared that conversations with foundations are underway to secure additional funding for the Restoration Center. She noted the role that Dave Ryan is playing in those communications.

1:25 PM: NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING

Senator Friedman noted that she would like to work with others from the Commission to continue to consider potential statutory changes to clarify the role of the Commission going forward. Dr. Mauch, Scott Taberner, and Senator Friedman agreed to begin this work and bring a proposal back to the Commission.

Dr. Mauch suggested and there was general agreement to draft a letter to the new Chief Justice of the Trial Court in Massachusetts requesting continued participation and/or representation by Judge Minehan and Chief Justice Carey.

Senator Friedman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Scott Taberner. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The next Commission meeting will be held in February 2022 as a virtual meeting via zoom.