



**Middlesex County Restoration Center
Wednesday, July 14, 2021
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Zoom**

MINUTES

Attendees: Sheriff Peter Koutoujian from Middlesex Sheriff's Office, Danna Mauch from the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Senator Cindy Friedman, Representative Ken Gordon, Scott Taberner from the Executive Office for Health and Human Services, Lydia Conley from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Judge Rosemary Minehan, Chief Robert Bongiorno from Bedford Police Department, Deidre Calvert from the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Catia Sharp from Commonwealth Medicine, Katharine London from Commonwealth Medicine, David Swanson from the office of Senator Cindy Friedman, Marisa Hebble from the Office of the Trial Court, Donna Frates from Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (member of the public), Rebecca Elliott from Commonwealth Medicine.

12:00 PM: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Danna Mauch asked members of the public to introduce themselves.

12:05 PM: LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATE

Senator Friedman mentioned that there is \$60 million available in SAMSA money, and made a motion to pursue funding opportunity from American Rescue Plan.

The vote was unanimous in favor of pursuing funding through the American Rescue Plan.

Deidre Calvert from the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services mentioned \$37 million in supplemental block grants. This money will be used for workforce

crisis and ensuring racial equity, sober home models, MLUD access, Narcan access, restoration center, and ARPA funds.

12:20 AM: APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian accepted a motion from Senior Friedman to approve minutes from the last meeting.

The vote was unanimous in favor of approving the minutes from the last meeting.

12:25 PM: MACARTHUR IMPACT NETWORK

Catia Sharp briefed the Commission on its inclusion in the MacArthur IMPACT Network and the kickoff meeting for the IMPACT Network cohort. The Commission will be part of a learning community of jurisdictions doing work on behavioral health diversion from criminal justice settings, and will receive technical assistance from PRA.

12:40 PM: YEAR 4/SFY22 WORK PLAN PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

The Commonwealth Medicine point of contact was announced to be Katherine London (of Commonwealth Medicine).

Catia Sharp presented a high-level work plan for SFY22 which includes procurement of a provider to pilot a restoration center, as well as convening a subcommittee to explore external sources of financing.

1:40PM: UPDATE ON EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES

Sheriff Koutoujian updated the Commission on his work to include earmark funding in the federal budget for the restoration center. Congresswoman Trahan has successfully advocated for a \$1.65 million earmark in the House budget. Sheriff Koutoujian is also working with Senator Markey's office to do the same on the Senate side.

1:55 PM: NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING

Sheriff Koutoujian accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.