

**Connecticut Workforce Collaborative on Behavioral Health**

**Minutes of: Executive Council**

**Date: October 18, 2010 Time: 2:00 –4:00 p.m. Location: Room 212, Page Hall, CVH**

**Members Present:** M. Hoge (co-chair), J. Stoneman (co-chair), R. Plant, M. Peloso, C. Thatcher, K. Flaherty, J. Giard

**Others Present:** J. Wolf, Tim Marshall

**Members Absent:** C. Foley Geib, P. Susen, E. Farnsworth, J. Walter

TOPIC	REPORT / DISCUSSION	CONCLUSIONS / NEXT STEPS
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	The minutes from 7/12/10 were reviewed and approved by members who attended that meeting.	N/A
1. FAQs for Employees & Employers	K. Flaherty presented a set of FAQs designed for persons in recovery in the workforce and their employers. These documents are designed to educate both workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities. They were developed in response to concerns that persons in recovery were losing positions due to a lack of reasonable accommodation on the part of employers and, among workers, a lack of awareness of their rights and mechanisms of appeal. Executive Council members offered positive comments and a few minor suggestions, which Kathy will incorporate. Distribution of the final documents was also discussed.	K. Flaherty to make final revisions. Collaborative to disseminate the documents.
2. DPH Practice Act	R. Plant reported that DPH is considering a practice act that would specify the qualifications required, such as licensure or license eligibility, for many clinical tasks/jobs. At least one professional association is strongly supporting such requirements. A series of meetings is planned, involving DPH, DSS, and DMHAS, to sort through the implications. Public testimony may be needed in the future. A recent change has established a licensure category for master level social workers immediately post-graduation.	R. Plant to participate in state agency planning meetings.
3. 2010-11 Work Plan	M. Hoge presented a draft 2010-11 Work Plan for the Collaborative. The theme of this plan is “consolidating gains and sustaining momentum”. It captures a broad range of activities that encompass the following initiatives: supervision; higher education curriculum reform; leadership development; parent leadership; youth advocacy; career pathways mapping; consumer employment; infant mental health competency development; and sustaining the Collaborative at a much reduced level of activity. Members discussed the uncertainties that exist due to the pending election and suggested considering a plan to educate the new administration and the legislature about behavioral health workforce issues.	Work plan implementation is underway.
4. Collaborative Restructuring	In light of the upcoming termination of the T-SIG grant, the Council members discussed reconfiguration of the Collaborative’s structure. It was agreed that all Councils other than the Executive Council would be disbanded and that we would recruit selected members of these Councils onto the Executive Council.	Collaborative members to be identified for possible inclusion in the Executive Council.
5. Family Advocacy Report	Members had a broad ranging discussion about family related issues, stimulated by the Family Advocacy Report prepared by consultants Cliff Davis and Lisa Conlan. State agency activities on this topic were identified, including the release by DMHAS of its updated policy on families and its effort to engage families through specific clinical initiatives such as ACT teams and co-occurring disorders programs. DCF has a family engagement initiative with outpatient clinics. Confusion surrounding the term “family advocacy” was discussed and concerns were expressed that family programs/initiatives are particularly vulnerable as budgets are cut in state and community agencies. On a practical level, there was a discussion of incorporating requirements around family involvement and oversight into the contracts of state grantees. There was strong support for coordination among relevant state agencies to strengthen family involvement and oversight of services.	Next steps under consideration.

<b>Next Executive Council Meeting</b>	February 14, 2011, 2:00 – 4:00 pm at CVH.	