### **EDITORIAL: Time for change at CVH, Whiting**

The Whiting Forensic Division maximum-security psychiatric hospital in Middletown, Conn., is seen on Friday, Sept. 15, 2017. Thirty-one staff members have been suspended and nine have been arrested in connection with the alleged abuse of a patient. A state lawmaker says more allegations of staff misconduct are emerging after the suspensions and arrests. (AP Photo/Dave Collins)

December 09, 2019 06:04PM



Two years after a scandal over the abuse of a patient at Whiting Forensic Institute, a disability rights group has published a report on what it calls "pervasive" problems with the treatment of patients at both Whiting and Connecticut Valley Hospital. The stated object of the report was "not to rehash the abuse scandals but to investigate what happened in the wake of the abuse." This approach stands a good chance of revealing what changes have been made since the 2017 abuse scandal and, it is to be hoped, what more needs to be done.

The events revealed two years ago at Whiting – which accommodates patients involved in the criminal justice system, some of them on a maximum-security basis, on the grounds of CVH in Middletown - were both shocking and intolerable. The Associated Press has reported that 10 staff members were arrested and 35 others were fired related to the abuse of a 62-year-old patient. The abuse led to the creation of a separate task force that is considering deeper reforms, including shutting down the state-run facility.

A shut-down would be a drastic response to the problem, but the state seems to be responding positively to the findings of the independent Disability Rights Connecticut, the successor to the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. We trust that the state will take serious action, even in this time of fiscal uncertainty.

Other problems detailed in the report include patients being denied visitors; inadequate investigations of deaths; and inadequate reporting of abuse and neglect. It may come as a surprise - maybe even a shock - to many state residents to learn that Connecticut Valley Hospital is exempt from licensing by the state Department of Health, meaning that the hospital is not necessarily held to the same standards as other psychiatric hospitals in Connecticut.

That should certainly change, and probably much more as well. So far, it appears that the state is taking this situation with the seriousness it deserves. If so, it will assure patients and their families that it is living up to the CVH mission statement: "To promote recovery through collaborative, compassionate, and culturally competent treatment in a safe and caring environment."

High goals, for sure. But attainable? That remains to be seen.

Advertisement

**View Comments 0** 

Like this story? Sign up to get emails or alerts about follow up articles in this storyline.

### **#FACTSARENTFREE**

Local. Community. News. By real journalists.



### **More From This Section**



### EDITORIAL: Making the old new again in Wallingford

Posted Dec 09 2019

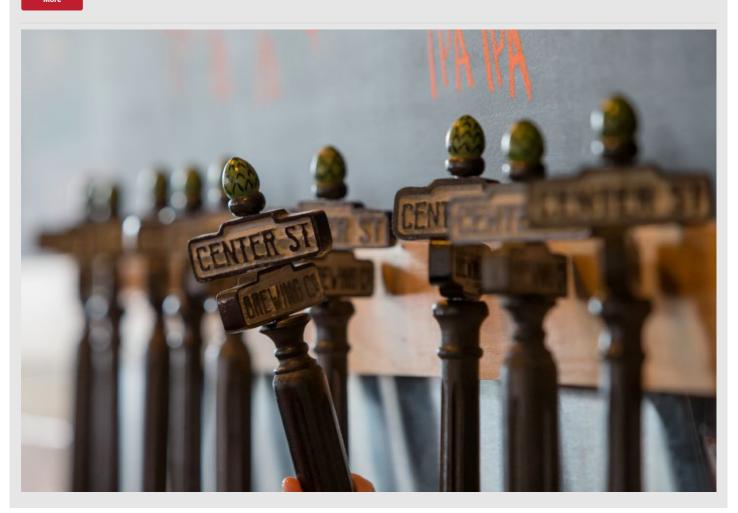
Taking an old building whose purpose has long since come and gone and turning it into something valu...





EDITORIAL: 11 things we liked this week, 2 we didn't Posted Dec 05 2019

We liked this week With an elf, a guitarist and a singer in tow, Santa disembarked the CT Rail train...



# EDITORIAL: Meriden City Council takes steps to encourage brewpubs Posted Dec 05 2019 For the casual observer, or even the frequent taster, the terminology can seem difficult to distingu... Read More



## ariama

## Suicide & Mental Health

"It's usually a problem that's not really talked about a lot in school ... but it's something that's...



### **Latest Videos**

### **Latest News**

DEEP investigating after incident at Southington business on Monday

Southington council Democrat wants state probe into Republican campaign donations

Wallingford Town Councilor Vin Testa guest on 'Citizen Mike'

Warehouse renovation plan in Wallingford leads to dispute over drainage, soil quality

Funeral service announced for longtime Meriden councilor Walter Shamock

Meriden resident gives damaged, old dolls new life for underprivileged girls

More snow in forecast for late Tuesday into Wednesday

4th person sentenced in immigrant extortion scheme

Wallingford woman charged with using racial slur during assaults in Meriden

Man charged with attempting to break into North Haven business

VIEW MORE



### Trending Stories

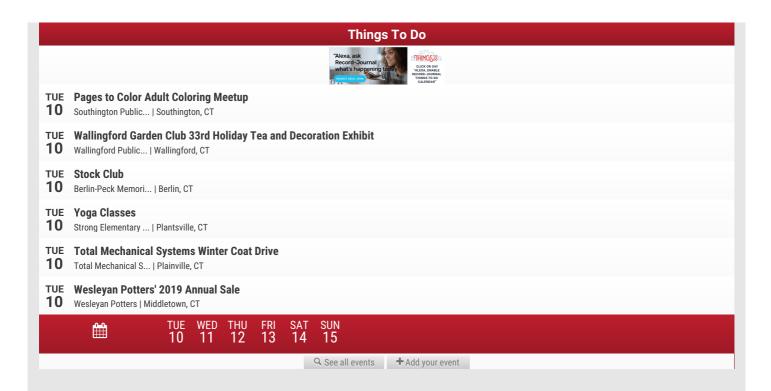
Wallingford woman charged with using racial slur during assaults in Meriden

Longtime WFSB anchor dies unexpectedly

New holiday event in Meriden's Hubbard Park

Cheshire faces potential fine over fish kill

CIAC FOOTBALL: Sheehan holds off Ansonia, heading to first state final in 34 years! Darien extends mastery of Southington; Hand finishes off Maloney on pick-six & fumble returns





Home - Sports - Obituaries - Contact Us

Sign Up for our Newsletters

Work With Us

500 South Broad St, 2nd Floor, Meriden, CT 06450

+1-203-235-1661

circulation@record-journal.com

advertising@record-journal.com

newsroom@record-journal.com

Advertise with us

Copyright 2019