

# AGENDA

## Task Force for the Continuing Study of the Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness who are Involved in the Justice System

Thursday, March 16, 2006  
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Legislative Services Building  
Room B

### MINUTES FOLLOW AGENDA

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#### *Call to Order*

- I. Introductions and Welcome
  - *Harriet Hall, CEO, Jefferson Center for Mental Health*
  - *Jeanne Smith, Colorado Attorney General's Office*
- II. Update on Task Force Legislation
  - *Harriet Hall*
- III. Update on Competency Bills and Sub-Committee
  - *Jeanne Smith*
  - *Deb Kupfer*
- IV. Update on Continuity/Systems of Care Sub-Committee
  - *Michelle Manchester, Chair*
  - *Deb Kupfer*
- V. Update on Jail Intake Survey Sub-Committee
  - *George Epp, County Sheriffs of Colorado*
- VI. Update on State Resources/Budget Issues
- VII. Juvenile Pilot Project Evaluation
  - *Diane Pasini-Hill*

#### *Lunch*

- VIII. Update on Juvenile Justice Sub-Committee
  - *Judge Karen Asbhy, Chair*
  - *Pilar Ingargiola, CSI*
  - *Jewlya Lynn, CSI*
- IX. What's Happening at Your Agency?
- X. Other Projects and Business
- XI. Approval of December, January, and February Meeting Minutes
- XII. Other Business

M I N U T E S  
Task Force on the Continuing Examination  
**of the Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness**  
**who are Involved in the Criminal Justice System (MICJS)**  
**March 16, 2006, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**  
*Legislative Services Building , Room B*

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

Introductions were made around the table and room .

### **Changes to the Agenda**

As per the email sent to the task force, the changes to the timing of the agenda were briefly discussed.

### **Update on Task Force Legislation**

Harriet Hall, Chair

Harriet gave an update on the legislation sponsored by the Legislative Oversight Committee and Task Force. As of the third reading last Friday, Senate Bill 05 was approved in both houses, which means that the only remaining piece is to have the Bill signed. Harriet extended her appreciation to the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee, as they played an important role in the testimony.

HB1070 still sits in of the House Appropriations Committee. It is scheduled today, but may be more difficult to pass, as it has a fiscal note attached to it.

### **Update on Competency**

Jeanne Smith, Vice-Chair

Deb Kupfer, Division of Mental Health

Harriet prefaced the update by explaining this as a new subcommittee, formed as a result of ongoing discussion following presentations on competency at our January and February meetings. It was decided that because this issue is so complicated, a subcommittee tasked with exploring the broader problems and identifying needs would be necessary. Several people, including Dave Thomas of the District Attorney's Council showed an interest in participating in this group. Deb Kupfer provided information on the members who have agreed to be part of the committee.

Carrie Merscham added that House Bill 1080, "Concerning Authorizing Forensically Trained Doctoral Level Mental Health Professionals to Conduct Competency Examinations for Adults Charged with Crimes", was passed

following its third reading today, and will be sent to the Governor.

Harriet mentioned the status of HB1353, “Concerning the Development of Standards for the Performance of Competency Evaluations in Criminal Cases” as having passed the third reading in the House and being introduced to the Senate. It goes before the Senate Judiciary next Wednesday.

### **Update on Continuity / Systems of Care**

Deb Kupfer, Division of Mental Health

A meeting was held a couple of weeks ago with people from the state hospital and DOC (Department of Corrections). The purpose of the meeting was to look at people coming out of DOC with serious mental illnesses, in an attempt to get them tied into mental health services, and targeting those with mandatory release dates. Deb added that they are looking at doing evaluations as they are leaving DOC, as well as looking at taking care of transition and discharge issues ahead of time so as not to interrupt the process.

Additionally the Division of Mental Health ongoing continuity of care agreement needs to be updated.

### **Update on Jail Intake**

George Epp, County Sheriffs of Colorado, Inc.  
Diane Pasini–Hill, Division of Criminal Justice

Harriet welcomed George back, following an absence due to medical leave. George gave a report on the findings of the subcommittee, and provided information regarding the Kentucky jail mental health project. As mentioned in last month’s update, a survey was submitted to the Sheriffs in Colorado . There were questions relating to a variety of mental health issues and screenings. At this time, there have been 25 responses.

The next focus of the subcommittee was to determine protocol for crisis care for those needing immediate mental health services. All counties have an established procedure, and local mental health centers are the most likely resources used. Other resources would include in-house staff, and some contracted mental health services. Each county has responsibility to provide mental health services.

The subcommittee discovered that for a couple of the jails, and not necessarily the smallest, mental health services are only available for emergencies. If there was a routine mental health need, nothing would be available. The time to get a clinician to an inmate in a crisis varied. Some took as long as a day, some as quickly as 2 hours.

George discussed additional findings from the survey, including discharge planning, forwarding of records to institutions or probation when released or transferred, and gaps in services.

George went on to say that he had received some additional input accompanying the survey. One letter stressed the importance of proper training for deputy detainees to monitor changes in inmate’s behaviors in an effort to avoid suicides in the jails. A jail expressed a concern that they don’t have funds to adequately train for suicide intervention, and there are no state standards for officers. Colorado is one of approximately 12 states in the country that don’t have standards. The issue is not one of intake evaluation as is the focus of the Kentucky jail project, but longer term, as many suicides occur following an adverse court appearance or relationship issue.

The following recommendations were made by the subcommittee:

1. Get every jail to do a standardized screening assessment

2. Address concern that in some communities there are no routine mental health services available. George suggested that this might be an issue that the Task Force might want to explore in more detail
3. Improve the area of discharge planning, which should be looked at on a local level, as there are weaknesses and strengths in every community. George asked if the Task Force would be interested in collaborating on this effort
4. Continuity of care and the problem of transferring medical records needs to be addressed
5. There should be training regarding dealing with individuals with mental illness for all jail officers in this state. The larger counties have some training in place, but the smaller counties are “spotty”. This would include earlier training for officers on the basic operations of jail. Currently, no training or certification is required for jail officers
6. Jails can deliver the kind of training needed in a variety of ways, including through technology
7. The lack of funding must be addressed

George then opened the floor for questions.

Harriet mentioned that the jail in Jefferson County is working with the CIT trainers to develop training to use with detention officers.

Input to the various methods for exploring the issues at hand were discussed by members of the task force.

Barry Pardus suggested that the task force might want to consider looking at the issue of transferring mental health records as well as medical records. Harriet responded that confidentiality of records has gotten more complicated because of HIPPA, and that any jurisdiction looking at that is going to have to spend a good amount of time before seeing results.

Harriet asked the task force members to consider whether in the work done so far there has been any thought to the legislation needed to implement the work that needs to be done. It is time to begin to think seriously about what legislation we might suggest for next year’s legislative session, as it needs to be ready by summer.

## **Update on State Resources**

Harriet Hall, Chair

Because things have changed with Ref. C., Harriet suggested that now is a time that the task force should look at resource issues. At that point, she opened the floor for state departments to report on budget updates.

## **Update on Juvenile Justice Sub-committee**

Judge Ashby, Pilar Ingargiola, Jewlya Lynn

Judge Ashby began with an introductory statement. The subcommittee continues to work with Pilar and Jewlya to conduct interviews and meetings, and gather information, and will be prioritizing the tasks.

Pilar read from the legislative mandate as a reminder. She then gave an update on the process thus far, where it’s going, what has been found, and the following analysis.

Over the last 3 months, CSI has been making calls for phone interviews and meetings in an effort to get information on “what’s happening in your community”; the system, treatment, and court perspectives. Jewlya and Pilar then provided an update on the outcomes of the interviews being done and the meetings attended.

The goals and expectations are to be met by a list of strategies coming out of the communities. A sample of this is the collaborative cross-decision making. In defining the strategies, the key barriers and challenges, and whether or not the strategy is innovative and successful is taken into consideration.

Pilar then reviewed the list of strategies, as provided in the handout at the task force meeting.

Following the update, Pilar and Jewlya requested feedback. Discussion and questions ensued.

The question of prevention as a part of this project was raised, and it was decided that it is outside the scope of work that this project entails. It was mentioned that there is a prevention leadership council doing work on this issue currently, and Harriet suggested that it might be helpful for them to make a presentation to the task force on their progress.

## **What's Happening at Your Agency**

Harriet Hall reported that Jefferson Center for Mental Health has received a grant in the amount of \$270,000 from Health One Alliance. This will allow the Center to hire 2 case managers and a peer specialist, assisting individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice system in Jefferson County .

As a board member for NAMI, Steve White said that the results of a state-by-state survey have been disseminated. Colorado has been given a "U" for uncooperative because of an inability to respond to the request for data. There have only been 2 in the country given that rating – Colorado and New York . The bad news is that the entire country's mental health services are considered ineffective and insufficient. NAMI has recently appointed several new people to the board of directors, including former legislators.

Carol Poole with the Department of Criminal Justice stated that they have received general justice funds to expand CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) to school resource officers, and it is being well received and has been very successful. Additionally, they are close to receiving a discretionary grant for the expansion of CIT.

George Epp, County Sheriffs of Colorado shared two items: 1) he is currently working with Heather Cameron from the Division of Criminal Justice and George Del Grosso with Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council about the possibility of applying for a grant to do CIT in the Colorado West Mental Health Center area, to get jail officers into part of that program. 2) The sheriff's association is currently developing minimal statewide jail standards. The hope is to get a report in the June meeting which will have a draft of the basic standards.

Chris Highnam with the Department of Human Services shared that the state wide housing authority provides Section 8 vouchers for individuals who have disabilities, more than one half of which are mentally ill. Last summer they opened a waiting list and received 1200 people, and that list might last for one and a half to two years. They are starting to send notices that they are eligible for that voucher. Additionally, the Governor's inter-agency taskforce on homelessness is going to do a survey of housing authorities across the state on public housing with sex offender & methamphetamine policies.

Diane Pasini-Hill indicated that the DCJ research unit is pursuing a JAG grant. There are three projects included in the grant; CIC (Children in Crisis), CIT (Crisis Intervention Training), and JERP (John Eachon Re-entry Program). She then passed out information on CIT and CIC.

Dr. Charles Smith, Department of Corrections, provided a report on behalf of Jeaneene Miller. The initiatives include ongoing attention between agencies regarding people leaving prison who are put on 72 hour mental health hold and then placed into a state hospital. The hope is to continue to expand communication, and to create an appropriate plan for the mentally ill. The intention is to have parole officer's help coordinate those transitioning from

one community to the next.

Mike Cugini provided an update on the John Eachon Re-entry Program. They continue to accept referrals, and currently have 11. They will be close to capacity within the next month. The goal of the project is to have 15 residents. One of the challenges continues to be the provision and resources for medical care.

Susan Colling with the Colorado Judicial Department indicated that there is a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council appropriation from the federal government in process. They received \$50K more than requested, and it will be put into mental health services grants, The JBAG (Juvenile Accountability Block Grant) funds have been allocated towards diversion, substance abuse and co-occurring, in the amount of \$670,000.

Michael Ramirez with the Department of Education spoke about the restoration of funds and the pending school reform. There are 178 local school districts. Across the state they are using a multi-tiered approach in addressing student needs in the area of behavior, such as the “at risk”. The department is hosting a summer conference with several thousand people, and is looking at doing break-out sessions, targeting three tiers. They are looking for good speakers in the area of mental health.

Judge Ashby mentioned that there is a Juvenile Justice conference in Denver on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at the new Hyatt hotel. There are many good sessions involving mental health issues, and it usually draws approximately 1,000 people.

Jewlya Lynn mentioned that she is involved with the Links project, an inter-agency planning structure. Senator Groff is working with stakeholders, putting together a mental health disparities seminar, which could potentially address the issue of prevention, a topic discussed earlier in the task force meeting.

Jeanne Smith with the Attorney General’s office announced that they are in the planning stages for a conference in February of next year with the safe schools committee. The concept is “Safe to tell”, encouraging kids to report incidents. The majority of reports are on bullying, suicide intentions, and generic fights. They are trying to get law enforcement to cooperate with inner-agency support teams to deal with kids at risk. They will identify problems with kids; talk with a disciplinary group about the issue of isolation, and suicide. They may be asking for input and help from members of the task force.

## **Juvenile Pilot Project Evaluation**

Diane Pasini-Hill, Diane Fox

Diane Pasini-Hill and Diane Fox presented the findings from the four year study on the community-based management pilot program. The results of the findings are listed below.

### **Findings:**

- The mental health indicators show that improvements result from the pilot programs, and those who complete the program have much better outcomes than those who do not
- There has been a cost decrease
- Youth enrolled in traditional mental health services who completed treatment had equal improvements to youth enrolled in the pilot program

Following the findings report, several tables with comparison information were presented.

A recommendation resulting from the report was to target money to other mental health centers that are not involved in the pilot project, ensuring that youth in the communities have access to these services.

The following evaluation plan for next year is to shift the focus from outcomes to service delivery. The utilization of findings are threefold:

1. Inform existing programs regarding critical service delivery to maximize the program
2. Inform the decision makers for future strategic planning
3. Generalize successful program components for this target population to the larger provider community

As the project is scheduled to sunset in July '07, Harriet suggested that if the task force wished to recommend that the project must continue, researchers need to complete some of the above described analysis soon so as to provide input into the discussion.

### **Other Projects and Business**

Harriet stressed the importance of deciding on the legislation focus for the task force in the upcoming year. The focus of the task force must be presented to the Oversight Committee by July or August, and as such, it was decided that this issue would be discussed at the next two meetings.

### **Minutes**

George Epp moved that the December meeting minutes be approved, and Susan Colling seconded. All approved.

Jeanne Smith moved that the January minutes be approved, Carrie Highnam seconded. All approved.

Susan Colling moved that the February minutes be approved, and Mike Cugini seconded. All approved.

### **Other Business**

The following issues were decided on for the future meetings: 1) presentation on the RTC issue, (Melinda Fox) 2) a presentation on the use of medication in Forensic work by a physician from Astra Zeneca, 3) Brainstorming for new legislation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 P.M.