

SB78 Elder Abuse Task Force

Wednesday, October 10th, 2012

9:00am-1:10pm

Members Present:

David Blake, Co-Chair

Joscelyn Gay, Co-Chair

Vickie Clark, Routt County Dept. of Human Services-represented by Valerie Brooks

Tammy Conover, Attorney at Steenrod, Schwartz, and McMinimee Law Firm

Sterling Harris, Chief Deputy Director of Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance

Dr. Rebecca Paskind, Ph.D. NASW- represented by Renee Riviera

Heidi Prentup, Commander at Boulder County Sheriff's Department

Mary Catherine Rabbitt, Attorney at the Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People

Jerri Schomaker, Owner of Home Instead Senior Care of CO Springs

Nancy Sharpe, Arapahoe County Commissioner

Scott Storey, District Attorney with the Jefferson County DA's Office- also present, Candace Black

Darla Stuart, Executive Director at Arc of Aurora

Amy Nofziger, Director of AARP Foundation

Peggy Rogers, Colorado Department of Human Services

Anne Kerr Meier, Social Worker at Exempla Luthern Hospice-Collier Hospice Center

Absent: Arlene Miles, President and CEO of Colorado Health Care Association

Jenifer Waller, Senior Vice President at the Colorado Banker's Association

Meeting conveyed at 9:00am.

The September 12th AMENDED minutes were moved by ?? and seconded by ??

The September 26th minutes as AMENDED were moved b Mary Catherine and seconded by Sterling.

Please note: All majored changes to the Strategies and Recommendations document can be found in that document, below only captures all major discussion or highlighted points.

Nancy: I suggest that we start the Policy Decisions Document make the opening statement/sentence a little stronger, encompassing the overall goal and strategy of this task force.

- I. *Reporting of Mistreatment and Self-Neglect*: The task force agreed on the following changes
Peg will add language outlining how CPS is specifically funded versus how APS is funded. Specifically, this explanation will include that CPS is strictly funded with federal and state dollars which cannot be transferred to other areas such as APS.
- II. *At Risk Elder- Adults*: A reflection of how the task force arrived at the age of 70+ will be included, citing APS data as well as information from Jefferson County –this information will be discussed more in depth in later sections.
- III. *Mandatory Reporters*:
 - a. The current existing list in statute of mandatory reporters will be added to the list created by the task force.
 - b. Language will be drafted more definitively state who is and isn't a volunteer—specifically paid and unpaid (from the list created by the task force).
 - c. Proposed CRS (18-6.5.XXX) language will be changed to all CAPS to show language changes.
 - d. Language will be added to clarify that self-neglect is not a crime.
 - e. Reports within 24 hours has been stricken and worded to not specify a specific timeframe
- IV. *Investigation: Location in Statute*: This will be moved up to become “B” additionally.
 - a. Minority reports will be found in separate sections
 - b. The language “The estimated \$4.1 million implementation cost, however, is too low for the following reasons” was removed from the report.
- V. *The impact of mandatory reporting on existing caseloads*: The title will be changed to read: No definitive way to determine impact of mandatory reporting in Colorado.
 - a. Language of fiscal impacts will be included
 - b. Table and information outlining other states will be moved to the appendix and an explanation as to why this data is not useful to Colorado will be added.
 - c. Include language suggested by Mary Catherine that will clearly state that CBMS is not intended for case management—Peg will draft language for the report.
- VI. *Unsustainable case load per worker*:
 - a. Language will be added explaining reasoning for the suggested 25:1 ratio for caseloads. Data about national averages will be included, as well as language citing the averages for CPS.
Peg: Currently, the nation average for CPS is about 12:1 for intake of cases and then 17:1 for ongoing cases.
 - i. David: I feel like the 25:1 caseload ratio is a goal but, mandatory reporting shouldn't be contingent on fixing the deficits that already exist.
 - b. Combine specialized staff with unsustainable case load per worker and eliminate
- VII. *Additional Safety Net Resources*: These resources will be condensed into one category of emergency services and lower the priority.
 - a. All projected costs will be removed from any language.
 - b. Language explaining need for securing emergency resources will be included in the master document.
 - c. Language will be included that acknowledges the minimum \$1 Million included in the fiscal note.
- VIII. *Impacts to the local law enforcement/ legal/ criminal justice system*. This recommendation will possibly be moved to the recommended workload study.
 - a. David: This system is probably already in place.
 - b. I'm concerned that law enforcement and the DA's aren't speaking up for the resource they will need once mandatory reporting is implemented.
 - c. Heidi: The two counties currently sitting on this task force area already currently prosecuting, therefore I can't really speak for those who aren't.

- d. David: I will call CDAC and check [to see who is and isn't working with APS] and then this task force can decide what to do.
- IX. *Public Guardianship/ Conservatorship*: Denver is putting together a pilot program that looks at probate issues including public guardianship. Peg: We should be sure to include this information in our report.
- X. *Financial Exploitation*: Jenifer and Scot will continue to work on this recommendation.
- XI. *Background Checks for Caretakers*: Peg: Background checks can become very costly. David: We could also make this part of the best practices and not a recommendation.
 - a. The task force agreed to remove background checks and move to best practices.
- XII. *What is the minimum age an individual should be considered an at-risk adult?* Information provided earlier by Scott.
- XIII. *What is the estimated cost, including workload impacts to be incurred by county departments and law enforcement agencies of the state as a result of mandatory reporting?* Nancy: We need to be as specific as possible in listing what goes into the workload study.
 - a. Nancy and Gini will work together to provide more of a framework for the workload study.
- XIV. *Identify sustainable sources of funding, including but not limited to new revenues that may be used to offset the costs to be incurred by the state department, county departments and law enforcement agencies of the state as a result of mandatory reporting.*
 - a. Remove the two columns of Political Likelihood.
 - b. Add language from Sean about changing penalties from felony to misdemeanor.
 - c. Peg will get more language on Medicaid waiver for long care.
- XV. *Quality Assurance and Program Integrity*: This will be made a recommendation.
 - a. Nancy: I would like to make sure that while the state will not need to mileage, the cost of travel such as a hotel and other associated costs are paid for. It would also be useful to reference CPS and the costs to counties.
 - b. David: I think we should separate this out from mandatory reporting and work on the costs of training and then bring it back to the group.
- XVI. *Community Education and Mandated Reporters*: Language will be added from Sean. This has also been lowered on the prioritization list.

The rest of the recommendations will be discussed at the next meeting-October 24th.

Review of the Report will be at the end of October.

Meeting adjourned: 1:10Pm