

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

Thursday, April 18
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Hearing Room B
Legislative Services Building

Call to Order (*Michele Manchester*) 10:05 am

Introductions and Welcomes
March 21, 2013 minutes were approved.

Update on Study Group - Identification of Issues to be Studied (*Michele Manchester*)

The sub-committee reviewed the raw data specific to each topic. There was strong evidence of three critical issues that crossed into each of the five topic areas: medication, safety of staff working with mental illness and housing

1. Medication

Long Term Goal: Study medication issues for constituents who are at **high risk to re-offend**.

Recommended Study Topics

- Formularies across systems – use of high cost psychotropic medications that get changed from one system to another.
- Mediation without interruption – what systems provide at discharge before they see another provider.
- Medication for individuals who do not have benefits – how this impacts an individual who has high potential for re-offending

Discussion:

- Medication cost effectiveness
- Behavioral Health Transformation Council work
- Availability of medication samples in jails
- Navigator, benefit liaison importance

Recommended Sub-group representatives:

- Division of Behavioral Health
- Community Behavioral Health (MHC)
- Legal System – DOC, Jail
- CMHIP
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- DYC

2. Safety of Staff Who Works with the Individuals with Mental Illness (Education and training requests from rural communities).

Goal: Increase awareness and educational opportunities to rural communities on: 1) How to assess an individual demonstrating symptoms of mental illness. 2) Provide education and training on the use and type of de-escalation techniques to increase safety to staff and the individual

Recommended Topics for Study (as identified in raw data)

- Identify rural communities who may have requests for education on mental illness and management of the individual when encountered in the community;
- What methodology can training occur: Webinar, Video Conferencing; take training to communities, etc.
- What are specific training needs – raw data suggests: forensic training for providers; education concerning effect of diagnosis on criminal behaviors

- Law enforcement needs training on how to de-escalate and take to programs rather than jails.
- Training for clerks and Judges concerning both safety and appropriate interactions

Discussion:

- Mental Aid First Aid, Child/Adolescent Mental Aid First Aid
- Tiered training, team approach for training
- Reaching out to Sheriffs of police across Colorado for needs assessment for training
- Looking at different models of training to meet the needs of rural and agencies with one-two staff
- Regional training involving local communities
- Tapping into existing local resources
- Law Enforcement Academies and Colleges adopted CIT

3. Housing– (This issue was identified under every topic area).

Goal: Determine if the Task Force should study any portion of the Housing issues not being addressed by other statewide committees.

Recommended Study

- Identify all statewide committees currently address housing issues relative to Mentally Ill involved in the Criminal Justice system.
- Review all the raw data to determine if other committees are addressing those identified in the survey

Discussion:

- How can we support what is already going on?

Membership:

- Division of Housing, Pat Coyle or his designee
- PATH Grant Manager, CDPHE
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
- CMHIP
- Sober Living Homes, Oxford Houses of Colorado
- The Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI)

Prioritization/Next Steps Discussion:

- Need to concentrate on one
- Staff safety issues to address Legislative Oversight Committee requests
- Which ones of these require legislation or amendable to be addressed through legislature? If it is not feasible to have legislation address it, it will be a lower priority
- Housing- most overwhelming, far reaching goal
- System is very fragmented; children have a bigger chance of being successful. May be we can provide some leadership in connecting the dots and take the housing on
- Rural areas are better equipped dealing with housing issues; Denver area has a great deal of homeless initiatives.
- Rural parts of Arapahoe, Douglas, Jefferson counties are the ones that need help
- Some study results on metro area and state data will be coming out soon.

ACTION:

- Need to think this discussion over for the May meeting, as well as get some more directions from the Legislative Oversight Committee
- Think about the membership on any of these study areas
- Task Force member to chair the groups

- Getting the information requested by the Legislative Oversight Committee on youth systems, gender discrepancies, what the mental health state for women is, crisis intervention training for law enforcement and what we are currently doing around the state and what works

Update on Collaboration Group - White Paper and Networking (*Jeanne Smith*)

- The group hasn't met due to legislative session.
- Smart Act legislature creating a number of standing committees, DCJ is one of them. In three weeks we will know if the bill passes.
- There might be changes in collaboration if it passes

Report on HB13-1296 (*Terri Hurst-Greene*)

- Changes definition "danger to self or others", "gravely disabled", effective July 1, 2014.
- The bill establishes a 24 member task force that would study the terms

Report on Question from March meeting: 18-21 year olds receiving restoration services at CMHIP (*Michele Manchester*)

- No significant change in the population

What's going on at your agency?

- Task force members shared the updates from their agencies
- Kathy McGuire has resigned from her position with the State Public Defender effective June 30, 2013. She will be stepping down as a chair of the MICJS Task Force.

Adjourned at 12:25 pm