

Minutes

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

Thursday, May 16, 2013

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Hearing Room B

Legislative Services Building

Call to Order (*Kathleen McGuire*) 10:00 am

Introductions and Welcomes

April 18, 2013 minutes were approved.

Update on Study Group: Further Discussion of Three Topics for Study (*Michele Manchester*)

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

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

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

Various approaches to tackling the topics were discussed:

- Selecting a low hanging goal with a deliverable outcome (develop legislation, apply for grant funding, education, policy change, practice change, white paper, reduce silos)
- Convening efforts on all these areas
- Convene one meeting to discuss the barriers to solving these problems and report back to this Task Force.
- If we address housing and medication consistency issues it might help with staff safety issues
- More action is needed in rural jurisdictions.
- It has been suggested to dedicate June 20 Task Force meeting to housing and August 15 to medication issues
- There is nothing consistent around the state regarding safety of staff for commanders of jails.

Action Items:

- Louise Boris will assist with getting a presenter on housing preliminary for June.
- Camille Harding will coordinate a presentation on Medicare with Kathleen McGuire
- Harriett Hall will assist in getting the minutes for the last years on housing, medication and CIT and share with the Task Force

Update on the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee (*Michael Ramirez*)

- Original recommendations from the subcommittee were presented
 - *Evaluation Deadline*
 - *Clarification and Clean-up of Language*
 - *Restoration Structure*
- The subcommittee is prepared to move forward with the recommendations for legislative changes. We have to give the language/ideas to drafter in July and the drafter will give the language back for approval in August.
- The subcommittee wanted this Task Force to be mindful of how the needs of juveniles are going to be surfaced and studied in the future as the subcommittee sunsets.

- What are the juveniles committees that are ongoing currently? There is a subgroup within CCJJ that focuses on juvenile issues. We need to ensure and include juveniles in all three areas of study that include juveniles.
- Caren Leaf clarified what detention can and can't do when juveniles are waiting for competency evaluation.

Action:

- We will email the recommendations to the Task Force members and will have the subcommittee present at June 20th meeting. Task Force members will review the handout and have an educated discussion at June 20th meeting.

Colorado Office of Behavioral Health Jail-Based Restoration Project (Michele Manchester)

- There was a discussion if this Task Force is able to and should take an official position, voice concerns and make recommendations (lack of space for the programs, bunk beds, etc.). For various reasons this Task Force is unable to take a position on this, individual members can contact Ken Cole to share their concerns and recommendations individually.
- Ken Cole is willing to come back and give another presentation to this group.

Update on the Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting held on March 22, 2013 (Kathleen McGuire)

- Legislative oversight committee meeting was held on March 22. All presenters did an outstanding job.
- Legislative Oversight Committee was interested in finding out the following:
 - Copy of the strategic plan
 - What is the percentage of DOC population with both serious mental illness and substance abuse?
 - What treatment is there for women in DOC with serious mental illness?
 - Data on the incidents of mental illness in juveniles who are in detention and in NYC
 - How many jurisdictions and police agencies offer CIT training to law enforcement and which don't?
 - Commented on an ongoing issue of continuity of care and medication
- Kathleen McGuire will formulate a letter in response to the questions and share with the Task Force before sending it off to the Legislative Oversight Committee.

Additional discussion regarding juvenile mental health

- Caren Leaf shared the juvenile mental health data. The number of youth committed went slightly down in the last year; however the concentration of higher mental needs went up.
- What is the service delivery and supervision delivery for high level offender with severe mental health needs? What do child care organizations need?
- There are challenges on both ends- services in the community in the front end and on the back end in NYC.
- Right service delivery at the right time is the key in preventing kids from entering human services system.
- Service delivery in child welfare system has improved significantly in the last 20 years.
- Aligning different methodology to standardize methodology for the state

Task Force membership changes:

- Thank you Dr. Kellermeyer for your work on this Task Force. Dr. Richard Martinez is replacing Dr. Kellemeier on this Task Force.
- Caren Leaf is retiring from NYC. Thank you for your work on this Task Force. Ashley Tunstall is a new NYC representative on this Task Force.

Election of the Chair

- Kathleen McGuire is leaving the position with Public Defender's office in the end of June. She no longer will be a chair of this committee. Michelle Manchester would like to remain a co-chair.
- Jeanne Smith proposed a nomination of Bruce Langer for the new Chair, Janet Drake seconded. There were no additional nominations. Harriett Hall moved we vote in support. Janet Drake seconded. Bruce Langer was elected a new Task Force chair by a unanimous vote.
- Kathleen McGuire is hoping her replacement will be designated by the end of June.

What's going on at your agency?

- Task Force members shared the updates from their agencies.

Adjourned at 12:03 pm