

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

Thursday, September 19, 2013

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

Hearing Room B

Legislative Services Building

Call to Order (Bruce Langer) 10:05 am

Welcome and Introductions

1. Selection of new Task Force chair

- In light of Bruce Langer's imminent departure from the Task Force, a motion was entered to consider Michael Ramirez and Susie Walton for chair.
- Michael respectfully declined to be considered.
- The current vice-chair of the committee, Michele Manchester, expressed that she would rather remain at the right hand of the chair instead of moving to the chair position.
- The group discussed the role of the chair and whether the chair should have legal and/or government expertise.
- It was the opinion of those who spoke that no specific expertise is required to chair the Task Force, and members who do have such expertise will step up and help the chair when required.

Vote:

The following motion carried by acclamation:

- For Susie Walton to chair the MICJS Task Force.

2. Discussion and vote on proposed juvenile competency legislation

- Group discussed the merits of defining juvenile competency (on p. 3, 12.4) differently than defining adult competency.
- It was the opinion of most of the group that there was no clear reason to define juvenile and adult competency differently.

Action:

Susie Walton, newly elected chair of the committee, will bring the legislation to the Oversight Committee meeting on October 3. Michael Ramirez agreed to attend and present the proposed bill.

Vote:

The following motions carried unanimously with one abstention:

- To modify the mental disability definition in 168.5 101-12 to be the same as the definition in the adult statute.
- To include the exact definition of intellectual disability from the revised Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM V).
- To refer the bill with the discussed changes to the legislative oversight committee was entered and carried unanimously with one abstention.

3. Discussion and vote on proposed legislation extending the term of the task force to 2020

- The group determined that it would be best to wait until the outcome of the Oct. 3 oversight meeting before discussing the bill language that may extend life of the committee and that would address any statistics in the legislative declaration.

- The group discussed the many costs to participation on the MICJS Task Force (travel costs, staffing costs, etc). A small budget could help alleviate burdens and incentivize member participation, especially for consumers and family members.
- Some burden could be alleviated with changing the frequency and the venue of the MICJS meetings; for example, holding meetings every two months or via conference call every other month.
- Many members agreed that offering a per diem for the consumer population will likely strengthen the consumer and family voice on the task force. It may also help with recruiting efforts state-wide for all positions.
- The group discussed the fact that there are issues that the Task Force handles that are not addressed by similar behavioral health work groups, many of which consist of the same members, hence the need for the focus of this task force.
- The role of Guardians ad Litem (GALs) was discussed as a missing voice from the task force, as is the Alternative Defense Counsel. The group agreed that this should be mentioned at the Oversight Committee for them to address.
- GALs surfaced as an issue by one of the subcommittees of the CCJJ and that group may not have been able to address it so the MICJS Task Force may pick it up in the immediate future. (I don't think we need this?)- The group also discussed at length whether the Task Force is the right vehicle to address issues and what is the value added for this group now that the landscape regarding the mentally ill in criminal justice has changed.

Action:

- Fernando will pull together some numbers for Susie to present to the oversight committee in order to provide a rough idea of the "cost of doing business", as he is the member who commutes from the furthest distance.
- Susie will present to the Oversight Committee that the task force recommends a small budget for training and to encourage participation, especially from consumers and families.

Vote:

The following motion carried unanimously, with one abstention:

- To present to the Oversight Committee the recommended changes in legislation as well as the budgetary items discussed.

4. What's happening at your agency?

- Task Force members shared the updates from their agencies.

Adjourned at 11:41