

Thursday, January 16, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Hearing Room B
Legislative Services Building

I. Call to Order

- *Susan Walton, Jefferson County Department of Human Services*

II. Introductions and Welcomes

- *Susan Walton, Jefferson County Department of Human Services*

III. Approval of Minutes

- *November 21, 2013*

Minutes approved as written

IV. Review of Proposed Legislation

- *Senate Bill 14-021 - Persons with Mental Illness Criminal Justice*

This bill will be heard on Tuesday Jan 21 upon adjournment. Ms. Walton, Gina Shimeall will attend. Task force members were encouraged to attend in the event that testimony is needed on the bill. Jeanne Smith reminded the task force that the state is unable to testify on behalf of any bill without the approval of the Governor.

- *House Bill 14-1025 - Juvenile Competency to Proceed Determination*

HB14-1025, intended to clean up statutory language, was postponed indefinitely due to legal concerns that were not able to be resolved in time and the probability that the bill would get a lot of scrutiny due to high profile cases in the state right now. Representative Rosenthal would like the committee to rework the bill, relying largely on the legal expertise of committee members and partners, for introduction during the next legislative session.

The committee discussed the main concerns with the bill's language, which focused on the definition of "competency" and "a competent juvenile." Committee members agreed that it is critical to have the CDAC and Public Defender's office involved when the bill is re-worked. This involvement could be gained through stakeholder meetings called by Representative Rosenthal. It was suggested that the Colorado Commission on Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) is unable to champion this bill, given the many tasks already assigned to this group.

Michael Ramirez will be happy to continue to support the bill and suggested someone with legal expertise to chair the next revision committee. He will serve on the committee. Richard Martinez will also sit on the committee but is not interested in chairing.

Next step: Ms. Walton will discuss with Rep. Rosenthal about holding stakeholder meetings in the summer, and tell him the CCJJ schedule is quite full.

Ms. Walton will speak with Terri Hurst about updating the committee on legislation of interest.

V. Affordable Care Act Update - Terri Hurst, MSW, Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council

Ms. Hurst updated the committee on the number of people enrolled in the health insurance exchange. She also brought to the attention of the committee the activities of a collaboration spearheaded by the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CJRC) and Colorado Center for Law and Policy. This committee meets monthly and addresses issues that arise when the healthcare and criminal justice systems interact.

Committee members also discussed the complex issues surrounding healthcare and the criminal justice system, specifically regarding the legal definition of “inmate” at the federal level, the various issues in housing and parole, re-entry programs, funding, etc.

VI. Presentation on Information Sharing - Meg Williams, MPA, Manager of the Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance, Division of Criminal Justice, Colorado Department of Public Safety

Ms. Williams outlined the efforts of CCYIS, a collaboration since 2007, of members in the Departments of Education, Public Safety, and Human Services, as well as the Judicial Branch. These efforts – funded through a federal grant from BJA ending Jan. 2014 – were started originally to determine how different technology systems manage information on juveniles in the criminal justice system. They soon determined that the real focus of the group should be on whether the information being gathered is used legally, ethically, and efficiently. CCYIS has reached the implementation stage of a consent form that Ms. Williams hopes will become a standard for all agencies in the state. The form is available online and a hard copy is being created. It is the result of years of analysis of policy and statutory changes state-wide interviews, and focus groups.

Ms. Williams will provide the committee with the form’s link so that they can have staff use it, test it, and provide feedback. The CCIYS leadership team will continue to meet even after the funding from the federal grant ends, and Ms. Williams and the OAJJA staff will continue to offer technical guidance for use of the form. In addition, the CCIYS group is cross-referencing the TRAILS and ICON/ECLIPSE databases to track specific cases of children through systems/jurisdictions. Ms. Williams said this is going to provide a lot of data for a previously non-trackable portion of the population: foster children who change educational districts. With the information sharing project, longitudinal studies now can be done to see how children in the foster system proceed through school.

VII. Discussion of Task Force Vacancies

- Dave Young, CDAC, will likely attend meetings in the future. He was unable to attend this day because of trial. Mr. Young has been provided the agenda and minutes of this meeting.
- Rep. Lebuda is now the Oversight Committee Chair. Ms. Walton will provide her with the information so that she may make official appointments to the MICJS committee.

-Walt Pesterfield has been hired as director of Division of Parole. Ms. Walton will send him a letter to request his recommendation for the Parole position on the committee.

-Harriet Hall will try to reach David Mosher, member of the public, about his interest in still attending committee meetings.

VIII. Discussion Concerning Prioritizing Topics of Study for the Task Force

The committee discussed a number of topics that are of interest to the group or that are mandated by statute to be studied and in what manner are the topics to be addressed (e.g., information gathering, crafting white papers, in-depth study). Namely, these are housing, data collection/information sharing, medication, and safety. It was suggested that the committee revisit the draft document from the MICJS retreat that outlined how these subjects would be addressed for discussion at the next meeting. Committee members also expressed a desire to define the role of members of the committee – whether they represent the position of the agencies for whom they work, or whether they act upon individual opinions and areas of expertise. It is important that the committee understands the new Oversight Committee may have specific issues that it would like the MICJS to address.

Next Steps:

Ms. Walton and Ms. Manchester will discuss the role of the task force and the role of individuals on the task force and send out the draft document from the retreat. In addition, Ms. Walton will seek clarification from the Oversight Committee about the breadth of topics MICJS will address (i.e., is the committee expected only to look at topics that will have a legislative solution).

Mr. Condojani will invite Pat Coyle to present at a future meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:20