

MINUTES

Task Force for the Continuing Examination of the Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness who are Involved in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

Thursday, April 17, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 pm
Hearing Room B
Legislative Services Building

I. Call to Order

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

II. Introductions and Welcome

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

III. Approval of Minutes

- *March 20, 2014*

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. Legislative Update

- *Terri Hurst, Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council*

Ms. Hurst announced to the group that she will no longer represent the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council on the task force due to her resignation from that agency. She is hopeful that her new position will allow her to remain on the task force. She will recommend someone to replace her as a representative for the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council on the MICJS task force.

Ms. Hurst gave an update on the bills that are of particular interest to the MICJS task force. She also noted that HB 1253, which would have consolidated drug and alcohol civil commitment statutes, is essentially dead and will be replaced by a new bill that will change the wording of “gravely disabled” and “danger to self and others.” Ms. Hurst does not foresee any stumbling blocks for the new bill.

Next step: Ms. Hurst will provide a wrap-up of the legislative session and Ashley Tunstall and Chris Hapgood will help present it.

V. ACA Update

- *Terri Hurst, Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council*

Ms. Hurst also provided an update on the Affordable Care Act and its impact on the criminal justice system in Colorado. Of note, Ms. Hurst mentioned that release from jail or prison is a qualifying life event to make someone eligible for health insurance. Various jails are working on getting people enrolled, although the community corrections population still faces challenges with Medicaid.

VI. March Legislative Oversight Committee Update

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

At the Legislative Oversight Committee meeting, Kerry Pruett and Dave Young introduced themselves. They each shared their perception of the Oversight Committee and the meeting. Ms. Walton said that a small group would convene to rework the bill that Mr. Ramirez's subcommittee put forth on juvenile competency matters. It will be an ad hoc working committee convened by Representative Rosenthal to address the legal challenges and prepare it for re-introduction next legislative session. The task force was asked to provide suggestions and volunteers for this ad hoc group to be convened by Representative Rosenthal. A sign-up sheet was distributed.

Next Steps: The names of volunteers will be given to Rep. Rosenthal. Ms. Tunstall will help organize the ad hoc meetings and Michael Ramirez will assist.

VII. Behavioral Health Transformation Council – Medication Consistency Group

- *Michele Manchester, Colorado Mental Health Institute-Pueblo*

Ms. Manchester reported that the subgroup of the BHTC formed to address medication consistency met this morning and discussed the draft survey that will be distributed to jails in order to identify issues around formulary/patient status of inmates. The BHTC identified two work groups: formulary work group and purchasing work group. Dr. Martinez had agreed to represent MICJS on BHTC and will be on the pharmacy work group. BHTC would like any recommended changes to the draft survey by May 1.

VIII. Update on Topic Area -- Safety of staff who work with individuals with a mental illness

- *Rebecca Spiess, Under Sheriff, Mesa County Sheriff's Office*

Jeanne Smith provided an update in the absence of Ms. Spiess. The Colorado Commission on Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) heard a presentation from Sheriff Joe Pelle of Boulder. Ms. Smith brought this topic to the task force to determine if this group would be interested in working with the CCJJ on this issue, specifically to address: 1) The need for more diversion services (grant program is now in the courts and not put into effect; 2) looking at jail resources to deal with the mentally ill inside jails (staff safety is one concern; and 3) re-entry into the community (e.g. medication consistency/availability and programs). Ms. Smith proposed that she will carry the message back to the CCJJ that the MICJS task force is working on medication consistency issues and will be gaining more information about safety standards and training. The task force would like to continue working on identified issues within this broad category and will be sharing information and partnering with CCJJ.

Next Step: Ms. Smith will report to CCJJ that the task force is eager to address the issues and will conduct a study.

Clif Northam will make contact with the County Sheriffs of Colorado to notify the group that the MICJS task force would like to take on the staff safety and training issue. From that contact he will determine if a formal letter from the Chair is needed and whom the president of CSOC would recommend to make a presentation to the task force.

IX. What's Happening at your agency

Members updated the group about activities at their agencies. The following are highlights:

-Public Defenders offices throughout Colorado are trying to get more involved in mental health courts. Hope to get adult mental health court soon in Jefferson County. The Veterans Court in Jefferson County just started and the adult mental health court is slated to start in October. The First Judicial District went after a SAMHSA grant to initiate evidence-based practices. City of Lakewood is partnering with them.

-In the Division of Youth Corrections, a PBIS approach in facilities has been implemented statewide.

-May is mental health awareness month. A proclamation will be signed regarding this designation on May 1.

-April is child abuse prevention month. May is also foster care month. Colorado is one of four states that have rolled out interactive website on data in child welfare (CSTAT), now available to the public.

-The May Correctional Treatment Fund and State Court Administrators conference (collaborative justice conference) is now up to about 700 attendees.

-DOC (Parole) is hopeful that HB 1355 will help reduce recidivism thru evidence based practices.

-DOC (Residential Treatment): San Carlos, Centennial, Denver Women's began training all staff in mental health first aid, trauma informed practices, etc. They hope to be finished by the end of May.

-The Haven Warrior Support Center in Colorado Springs is working with the El Paso County Sheriff on veterans in jails.