

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, June 19, 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

- *May 15, 2014*

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. Update on Senate Bill 14-021

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

SB 14-021 was signed on June 6. Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2020 the task force is expected to study:

- Housing
- Medication
- Co-occurring disorders
- Awareness of and training for enhanced staff safety
- Enhanced data collection

Sheri Danz has been nominated to represent the Office of the Child's Representative and Kathy McGuire, who used to sit on the Task Force, will be formally nominated to represent Alternative Defense Counsel. Brenidy Rice will return to the Task Force after maternity leave. Peggy Heil has been nominated to replace Jeanne Smith, who has resigned from the Task Force, to represent the Department of Public Safety.

V. Legislative Session Update

- *Ashley Tunstall, Department of Human Services – Division of Youth Corrections*

There were no updates from Ashley Tunstall (represented by Carl Blake)

VI. Affordable Care Act Update

- *Camille Harding, Department of Health Care Policy and Financing*

Ms. Harding updated the Task Force on the number of individuals in Colorado who are enrolled in Medicaid and the demographics of that population, including the percentage who are adults, disabled, and in rural communities.

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) is undertaking several reform efforts outlined by Ms. Harding. They include the Accountable Care Collaborative, which was implemented in 2011. A Request for Proposals will be sent in the spring of 2015 to collect information about the populations that are represented in regions throughout the state (RCCOs). This data collection will help HCPF understand the ability of these populations to have access to primary care. In this effort, the RCCOs are tasked with building a network to assure access to primary care for the populations in Colorado who may not currently have access. Ms. Harding outlined other efforts that will aid the RCCOs in this matter. The members of the Task Force discussed many efforts to measure performance, such as child wellness checks, depression screening and follow-up, and 30-day follow-ups, in addition to behavioral health initiatives.

Ms. Harding also discussed efforts aimed at helping transitioning populations in the criminal justice system. This year, there will be a statewide effort on care transitions. Everyone in each RCCO will be responsible for the same performance management project that focuses on care transitions. Many regions are looking at transitioning criminal justice populations, especially data gathering. They are required to develop a methodologically sound project that will be approved and finalized by September. They will then have a year to work on the project and will share best practices at a community event.

In the Colorado Opportunity Model project, a collaborative effort among HCPF, Human Services, CDPHE and other state agencies, high-level indicators have been developed, and three agencies have worked on behavioral health data to be released with the Governor's State of the Health report. Ms. Harding is happy to share a draft of the report ahead of time. The report does not contain data specific to criminal justice populations, but the data analytics are improving and this will enable agencies to match data sets.

It was suggested that Terri Hurst be approached to provide the Task Force with a presentation on the issue of individuals who are incarcerated for 48 hours and their Medicaid eligibility.

Next step:

-Ms. Harding will provide the presentation to Ms. Walton, who will send it to members of the Task Force

-Ms. Walton will contact Terri Hurst regarding presenting to the Task Force

VII. Topics of Study – Discussion of Possible Retreat

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

It was mentioned that the emphasis of a retreat should be on legislation the Task Force could propose for the Oversight Committee to carry in this next legislative session or subsequent ones. Michael Ramirez and Ashley Tunstall are going to resurrect the juvenile competency issue. Mr. Ramirez provided a summary of the bill. Ms. Tunstall is going to lead this effort. Task Force members spoke about the importance of getting support for the bill's language from subject matter experts in different agencies and from different disciplines.

Next step: Mr. Ramirez and Ms. Tunstall will convene a work group in July and August. Mr. Ramirez will also send out the current statute and will highlight the areas of concern.

Dave Young will ensure someone from his office is on the work group and will forward to CDAC the information Mr. Ramirez sends to the Task Force.

VIII. Behavioral Health Transformation Council – Medication Consistency Group

- *Dr. Richard Martinez, Denver Health Medical Center*

A draft of a survey was sent to sheriffs and DOC personnel trying to gather data about mental illness in the populations they encounter. BHTC has sent the survey out and will hold a second meeting in July.

Chris Johnson will be new president of County Sheriffs of Colorado (CSOC) in July and Cliff Northam will send contact Sheriff Johnson's information to Dr. Martinez so that they can pass the survey to all members after the new president is in place.

Housing

Ms. Walton has reached out to the Director of Boulder County Housing and Human Services, Frank Alexander, for brain storming about housing as it relates to individuals in the criminal justice system and who also have mental illness. Ms. Walton proposed that the housing subcommittee be reborn and plans to invite him to any sessions of that subcommittee. Gina Shimeall volunteered to sit on the subcommittee but cannot chair. Ms. Walton indicated the same. Members of the Task Force discussed some of the road blocks in the housing arena and some of the key people and elected officials in the community who may be interested in the issue.

Next step: Ms. Walton will work with Ms. Shimeall and Frank Alexander to convene a group of interested parties.

Jails

Jails seem to be an area that encompasses all of the topics of study to be undertaken by the Task Force. A discussion of how to tackle the subject ensued. The Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) has been approached by Boulder Sheriff Pelle regarding mental illness in the jail system. Prior to leaving the Task Force, Jeanne Smith had recommended that maybe this group take on the issue for CCJJ. Peggy Heil has pulled a variety of articles on the topic and provided them to Ms. Walton. Ms. Heil offered to ask Sheriff Pelle to present to the MICJS Task Force. Support for a presentation was voiced by several Task Force members.

Task Force members also discussed the efforts of the MACC group, the importance of data on recidivism, mental health courts, competency assessments in the court system, and community corrections. Ms. Walton envisions a two or three-part education series for the Task Force, starting with Sheriff Pelle and including community corrections and MACC data as well as a collection of the data about jailed populations. The purpose of the education series would be to study the issue and make recommendations for legislative or non-legislative solutions to specific problems that are identified. It was recommended that these issues be studied with an emphasis on rural areas and finding the gaps/needs in these communities, similarly to how staff safety is being addressed.

Commander Northam would like to head up this effort, but he is going to the FBI academy this fall. Ms. Shimeall suggested that the Task Force focus on developing a white paper on this issue. It was suggested that the Task Force look at what other states are doing in terms of mental health.

Next step:

- ***Ms. Shimeall volunteered to help plan these educational sessions.***
- ***Commander Northam will ask Sheriff Pelle about presenting to this group as soon as he would be willing to come***
- ***Ms. Heil will provide the materials she has collected to Ms. Walton, who will send them to the group.***
- ***Sheriff Spiess will reach out to CSOC to send out a call for its top issues***

IX. Update on topic area: Safety of Staff Who Work With Individuals with Mental Illness

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

Sheriff Spiess attended a meeting of the undersheriffs in Colorado. At that meeting, they expressed the need for more training. Governor Hickenlooper just passed a bill that mandates 40 hours of training for officers, but sent it back to POST to see what type of training they recommend. Sheriff Spiess feels this is a great opportunity to suggest training for officers when dealing with the mentally ill.

Next step: Sheriff Spiess will follow up on this at the next meeting.

X. What's Happening at your agency

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

- Fernando Martinez has been appointed to the state marijuana subcommittee
- Anne Rosales has been hired as The Division of Child Welfare director.
- Starting July 1 Division of Youth Corrections will begin a 3-year process of building a sanctuary model
- DOC has selected a parole/mental health coordinator and there will be parole/mental health workers to help offenders and their families. There are only 4 positions to spread among the parole regions so for now they will focus on the most severely mentally ill who are on parole.
- Due to requirements in new legislation this year, the Public Defender's Office looking for 8 social workers to work with juveniles charged with crimes. Posting will go out soon. They will be housed in counties that have a detention center. They would like to get them on board by August 1.
- Ms. Shimeall is setting up the Aurora Mental Health Court. She was recently hired by the City of Aurora.
- Dr. Martinez is leaving Denver Health and moving his entire training program to Ft. Logan.

Future meetings of the MICJS Task Force will be held at the Capitol, Hearing Room 0111

Meeting adjourned at 12:34