

## 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, July 17, 2014  
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 pm  
House Committee Room 0111

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- 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**
- *June 19, 2014*
- Minutes were approved as written
- IV. Update on Juvenile Competency Workgroup**
- *Ashley Tunstall, Department of Human Services – Division of Youth Corrections*
  - *Michael Ramirez, Colorado Department of Education*
- A meeting of the work group and interested parties will be held on July 18 at 1 p.m. at the Department of Corrections Director's office. Ms. Walton and a member of the Oversight Committee may be able to attend. Ms. Tunstall and Mr. Ramirez encouraged members to attend. Some of the issues that may be addressed in the proposed legislation are related to the age at which juveniles may be identified as having competency issues. There may be other issues that Kim Dvorchak, Executive Director of the Colorado Juvenile Defender Coalition, would like to see the MICJS task force move forward rather than the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ), this will be explored further.
- Next steps:**
- *Work group will provide the members of the task force with an initial draft of the proposed legislation at the August meeting*
  - *After the August meeting, the draft will go to the Interim Committee for review in September in order to meet October 1 approval deadline*
  - *Mr. Ramirez will speak with Ms. Dvorchak and bring suggestions to the task force at the August meeting for consideration and input*
  - *Ashley Tunstall will contact Dr. Richard Martinez for contact information for two clinical experts he recommends provide input about juvenile competency.*
- V. Update on Housing Subcommittee**
- *Susan Walton, Park County Department of Human Services*

Ms. Walton recently met with Frank Alexander, Director of Boulder County Housing and Human Services for his ideas to make a positive impact in the area of housing as it relates to persons with mental illness and criminal justice involvement. She has tentatively scheduled him for a presentation to the task force in September on the creative programs Boulder has implemented to help different populations of people with housing. Mr. Alexander asked at that meeting whether legislation or administrative solutions could be put forward this year and they will reach out to Pat Coyle, Director of the Division of Housing, about expanding current programs and implementing pilot efforts. A housing subcommittee may be created upon the return of Task Force member Gina Shimeall, who said previously she would like to be involved in the creation of the subcommittee but will be unable to chair it. A sign-up list for interested task force members was distributed. Ms. Walton will collect the names and speak with Ms. Shimeall.

**Next step:**

***-Ms. Walton will speak further with Frank Alexander and bring ideas to the August meeting.***

**VI. Update on topic area: Safety of Staff Who Work with Individuals with Mental Illness**

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

Sheriff Spiess has spoken with POST (The Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training Board) about the Task Force's recommendation that mandatory mental health training for law enforcement be implemented in the state. In Mesa County, Ms. Spiess' office is meeting with local healthcare providers to discuss the issue of sending individuals with a mental illness to jails, rather than retain them in a hospital setting because of concerns over staff safety in health facilities, as this has been a problem she has seen in Mesa County.

Sheriff Spiess has reached out to Sheriff Pelle, of Boulder, to present in August or September. Peggy Heil has also been in touch with Sheriff Pelle.

**Next step:**

***-Sheriff Spiess and Ms. Heil will discuss and organize a presentation for September.***

**VII. Behavioral Health Transformation Council – Medication Consistency Group**

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

BHTC meets August 15. Dr. Martinez will update the Task Force on their activities at the next meeting.

**VIII. Affordable Care Act Update**

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

Ms. Harding announced that the number of persons with Medicaid in Colorado has surpassed one million. HCPF is working on developing an infrastructure with the Accountable Care Collaborative that she presented to members of the Task Force at the last meeting. In addition, Ms. Harding provided an update on the Statewide

Innovation Model (SIM), an \$80M proposal for behavioral health services that Ms. Harding feels will change the face of healthcare delivery if funded. This initiative is being led by the Governor's Office. If funded, it will be implemented January 1, 2015. In addition, Ms. Harding briefed the committee about the state's Medicare/Medicaid pilot program that will focus on care coordination for people who have both Medicare and Medicaid to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and ER utilizations.

**Next steps:**

***-Ms. Harding will provide an HCBS rule update and bring dates of the Children's Services Steering Committee***

**IX. Task Force Membership**

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

Ms. Walton is confident that she will soon be able to make an official announcement about the appointment of Kathy McGuire and Shari Danz. Currently, there is a vacancy for a practicing mental health professional on the Task Force, the position vacated by Terri Hurst. Ms. Walton will solicit recommendations from task group members Harriet Hall and Fernando Martinez as well as others. In addition to the mental health professional vacancy, the position represented by David Mosher, member of the public who has experience with mental illness and the criminal justice system, is now open. Ms. Walton asked for recommendations from Task Force members, specifically for members of the public who may live in a rural community, since the Task Force now has approximately \$3,300 to be able to reimburse members of the public for mileage, parking, and lodging expenses. Dr. Martinez suggested Beth Feldman be contacted, even though she is not in a rural community.

**Next steps:**

***-Task Force members are asked to forward CVs/resumes and work experience to Susan Walton for suggestions on practicing mental health professionals.***

***-Ms. Walton will email Dr. Martinez about the member of the public vacancy and he will get her in touch with Ms. Feldman.***

Ms. Walton announced that it has come to her attention that elections are required in August for the chair and vice chair of the Task Force. Ms. Walton has served as chair since October, 2013, and is willing to continue, should the Task Force elect her. Michele Manchester (not present) has served as vice chair and she has mentioned to Ms. Walton that she worries about her capacity to serve based on the distance she must travel for meetings and some large projects and vacancies that require her attention at the State Hospital. She is willing to serve, but also has stated to Ms. Walton that she'd be happy to hand off vice chair responsibilities to someone else who has more availability. Members are encouraged to nominate themselves or others in advance of next month's vote.

**Action:**

- *Camille Harding nominated Michele Manchester to serve as vice chair. Nomination was not seconded, as it was unclear whether the nomination would be accepted by Ms. Manchester, who was not present.*
- *Melinda Cox nominated Camille Harding as vice chair of the Task Force. The nomination was seconded by Dr. Martinez and Ms. Harding accepted the nomination.*
- *Sheriff Spiess formally nominated Ms. Walton to remain as chair of the Task Force. Dr. Martinez seconded the nomination, and Ms. Walton accepted it.*

*Next steps:*

- *Ms. Walton will discuss the protocol of voting with Amanda King.*
- *Ms. Walton will send out a call for nominations from all Task Force members and collect them.*
- *At the August meeting, Ms. Walton will facilitate discussion of the nominations she has received.*
- *The official vote will take place in September.*

**X. Topics of Study – Discussion**

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

Harriet Hall wondered if implementation of the statewide Crisis Stabilization System (headed up by Behavioral Health) should be studied by the Task Force in some way, as it has implications for mental health professionals and law enforcement.

*Next steps:*

- *Ms. Walton will facilitate an in-depth discussion of this next month and the Task Force will develop an action plan about initiatives in Office of Behavioral Health to focus on*
- *Mr. Condojani will provide a presentation about Behavioral Health updates at the next meeting*
- *Ms. Walton will send out the list of articles, etc. about jails that Peggy Heil compiled*
- *Ms. Hall will also gather information she thinks task force would be interested in*

Michael Ramirez suggests discussing data at some point since it crosses so many different topics of study. CDPHE, CDHS, and HCPF are working on blending and sharing data. Separately, HCPF and Office of Behavioral Health are working on dashboards and performance measures that show what is happening in the state.

A discussion of the challenges in collecting data and sharing data ensued. Many homeless, undocumented, and jailed individuals are not tracked easily, and this data is not aggregated for any of the populations. The jailed populations were of particular concern to this group. Data collection can be cumbersome, time consuming, invasive and costly. Therefore, there is no holistic approach and only

individual data sets that can be examined. In addition, many laws have been enacted to protect patient data and that can become a road block in trying to share/collect/aggregate data about populations who may have mental illness. State examples (New York and Maryland) were discussed. Ashley Tunstall suggested that the goal of this topic of study is to expand the knowledge base of the Task Force. Mr. Ramirez would like to see data as a standing agenda item at each meeting. Then, Task Force members can provide an update on what data initiatives are being implemented in different agencies. Ms. Walton is certain that the Oversight Committee will ask about the data topic of study in October. It is expected that they would like to know how the Task Force is intending to study a subject of this magnitude.

Ms. Hall suggested the following course of action and answer for the Oversight Committee: First, get on top of what's happening in data collection across state (know who is collecting what and how); second, make suggestions about how criminal justice data can be matched or shared with healthcare data to better understand and serve the population.

**Next step:**

***-Ms. Harding will speak with the Governor's Office to see if she can share the behavioral health dashboard that is set to be released with Governor's State of the Health Address***

***- Ms. Harding will bring high-level/summary plans of data initiatives as well as what is occurring with HIE (health information exchange)***

***-Ms. Heil will send information on other state data collection to members of the Task Force.***

***- Ms. Harding will contact Kate Kiefert, Colorado Health Implementation Coordinator in the Governor's Office, to see if/when she might be available to discuss statewide Health IT strategies.***

**XI. What's Happening at Your Agency**

Members of the Task Force provided a round-table update of what is happening at each agency. The following are highlights:

- Public Defender's Office is actively interviewing social workers (MSWs) to fill spots that legislation created.

- Jack Hilbert has been hired to direct the implementation of a statewide Child Welfare Hotline

- The Division of Youth Corrections has officially begun the process to implement the Sanctuary model. Full implementation and cultural change should be achieved in 3-5 years. This process could be presented at a future meeting.

- The Department of Education is seeing a big shift nationally with how special education is implemented. The mindset is shifting more toward improving outcomes for students with disabilities. This may be a helpful update to Task Force members at a future date.

***Meeting Adjourned***