

MINUTES
Task Force Concerning the Treatment of Persons with
Mental Illness in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

Thursday, May 21, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 pm
Legislative Hearing Room B

I. Call to Order

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

II. Introductions and Welcome

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

III. Approval of Minutes

- **March 19 and April 16, 2015**

The March 19 and April 16 minutes were approved as written without objection from members of the Task Force.

IV. Housing Update

- *Gina Shimeall and Susie Walton*

Ms. Shimeall is presently working with the city of Aurora to set up a municipal mental health court. Housing the homeless, particularly those with mental health issues, is a part of this endeavor, and Ms. Shimeall detailed the efforts of this program that received HUD funding from the city. The program is using the money to partner with other agencies, such as Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, and explore multiple options for the homeless population (sober living homes was one example named).

The goal of the program is to make housing an integral part of the treatment team and programming for persons with mental illness in the criminal justice system. While some participants would qualify for Division of Housing vouchers, Ms. Shimeall met with Pat Coyle of the Division of Housing, Frank Alexander in Boulder, and Susan Walton to discuss fund-raising and options for funding through the housing authority to sustain the group home for a year or so before applying for vouchers so that they can show sustainability.

One difficulty that Ms. Shimeall has experienced is that housing regulations are different and the way housing is handled is different in every community or jurisdiction.

Ms. Walton expressed her surprise at the complexity of the housing issue, especially in such a housing market as currently exists. She said she would like to see how the Task Force can be involved. A discussion of developing a toolkit for others to map out similar projects in their own communities ensued. Ms. Walton noted that local housing authorities can choose the populations they want to prioritize and may be influenced by members of the Task Force.

Ms. Shimeall said that in most communities a government entity is over the development/housing area. Depending on the size of the city, certain funding is available. If smaller, CO Coalition for Homeless helps distribute. Others have a housing authority that is a specific non-profit that can apply for vouchers and other funds. One strategy used is that competitive bidding process can include very specific requirements for the vouchers/funds and project. It is a “project-based” voucher but for a specific population. So, perhaps the Task Force could start influencing local community housing authorities to specifically address people with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system in their RFPs.

Ms. Walton asked the Task Force for input regarding a subcommittee on housing. Task Force members discussed options for Ms. Shimeall’s program to find a developer. Some of the options offered were through the housing committee in Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, and the Stapleton Redevelopment Corporation. The HCPF program works with people coming out of institutions, high utilizers of Medicaid, people with mental health issues, the homeless, and people coming out of the justice system to provide “wrap-around” supportive housing programs throughout the state and around the country and utilize Medicaid to do that.

Peggy Heil asked Ms. Shimeall about whether her program is planning to provide data on outcome so it could be used as a potential model. Ms. Shimeall said that the Aurora IT department volunteered to look at returns and they have also reached out to Metro State University, which is providing interns from their social work program, and may provide someone from research to work with the care coordinator.

Ms. Shimeall and Lisa Thompson expressed interest in serving on HCPF’s housing subcommittee. Mr. Tucker said he will discuss it with the subcommittee’s leadership. He would like to have participation from key stakeholders from many different areas of the community.

V. Data and Information Sharing Update

- *Camille Harding, Health Care Policy and Financing*
- *Peggy Heil, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice*

Camille Harding, Ashley Tunstall, and Peggy Heil have met a few times in the past few weeks. Stevie Lynne Koehler, MD/MPH intern, will start in a few weeks to conduct key informant interviews with people in various communities. Questions will be drafted to determine gaps in data gathering.

Ms. Shimeall offered her City of Aurora program as a possible pilot project for gathering data. Ms. Harding, Ms. Heil, and Ms. Tunstall could design and develop parameters for gathering data. Ms. Harding expressed her interested in meeting with Ms. Shimeall about this.

Ms. Heil said representatives from IJIS Institute will give a presentation on June 16 from 1 to 3. The purpose of their visit is to start getting ideas about what might work and what might be barriers regarding information sharing between mental health and criminal justice systems. All Task Force members are invited to attend the presentation, and Ms. Heil will send out the time and location.

Ms. Harding said the first priority of this subcommittee is to determine how “mental illness” is defined in various agencies during screening, and how “recidivism” also is defined. Those two

concrete answers could help with the proposed project for the grant. The grant funding will help to determine how to close the gaps in medication continuity.

VI. Health Care Policy and Financing/Medicaid Update

• *Camille Harding, Health Care Policy and Financing*

Ms. Harding presented the Opportunity Model from HCPF, which has partnered with Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Department of Human Services to line up initiatives/projects that touch overlapping populations. They are working with the Brookings Institute to collect data on behavioral health indicators at different stages of life. More details about the Model can be found on the HCPF web site. The goal of this effort is to identify evidence based models and intervention programs in order to leverage dollars and line them up for each life stage. A request for information (RFI) has been sent out. If Task Force members know of programs to be included, Ms. Harding asked them to please respond to the RFI. The timeline of this project is not really solid right now, but Ms. Harding said that her Executive Director wants the project to move along swiftly. Once community pilots are developed and data is collected, HCPF is likely going to just start to add them to benefits packages rather than wait for the project to end.

Next steps:

- Ms. Harding will send the link to the RFI and information about the Opportunity Model to Task Force members

VII. Behavioral Health Transformation Council Update

• *Dr. Richard Martinez*

Dr. Martinez was unavailable to attend the Task Force meeting, so this update was tabled.

VIII. Other Updates

• *Presentation from Division of Insurance/POST Training Bill—Moe Keller*

Ms. Keller sent the Colorado Trust's Behavioral Health Status Update 2011 to Ms. Walton, who sent out the summary to all Task Force members. This report shows how many licensed practitioners are every county.

HB-1287 was signed by the Governor and includes Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) Board updates to include a lot more laymen and community members on the board. Also the bill includes "proper restraint and holds training, a two-hour anti-bias training program and, in altering years, either a two-hour community policy and community partnerships training program or a two-hour situation de-escalation training program." Members of the Task Force expressed their enthusiasm for these enhanced trainings for the POST Board.

• *JBC Questions/DOC Answers*

It was confirmed by Steve Allen that the JBC questions to the Department of Corrections had been forwarded to this Task Force as a courtesy. Ms. Keller thanked Mr. Allen for forwarding the questions, as they were an informative update. She said she hopes in future legislative budget cycles similar steps are taken to keep the Task Force informed.

• *Juvenile Competency Legislation—Next Steps*

Nothing was discussed.

• ***Task Force Vacancies and Membership Booklet***

Undersheriff Rebecca Spiess has taken the Deputy Executive Director position in the Department of Public Safety, thus both law enforcement spots on the Task Force are open. Once the entire Oversight Committee is seated, Ms. Walton will invite their suggestions, but she would like to forward names if Task Force members have ideas of who might be a good fit. In addition, the Division of Parole position will be filled once the Oversight Committee is full. The Division of Parole has been asked to suggest a Task Force member. Ms. Walton asked members to please forward suggestions for vacancies and also to reach out to any Task Force members whom they may know have not attended in a while.

The Task Force membership booklet is on hiatus. Task Force members were asked to forward short biographies to Kate Ferebee, Division of Criminal Justice.

• ***Stevie Lynne Koehler—MD/MPH Intern***

As presented earlier, Ms. Koehler is working with the data information sharing group.

IX. What's Happening at Your Agency?

-Ms. Walton has been appointed to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Council, which meets four times per year. She will provide updates to the Task Force.

-HCPF is outreaching to four different regions around the state about challenges surrounding payment on juvenile behavioral health. They are kicking off a stakeholder meeting and will send the invitation to anyone interested.

-Representative Singer announced that two of his interns have received their master's degrees in social work and in public policy and are actively seeking employment. He praised their work ethic and recommended them highly.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:45