

MINUTES

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

Thursday, October 15, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 pm
State Capitol Building Rm. 352

I. Call to Order

Kathy McGuire, Alternate Defense Counsel Representative

II. Introductions and Welcome

Kathy McGuire, Alternate Defense Counsel Representative

III. Approval of Minutes

No minutes for review.

IV. Oversight Committee Update & Bill Draft Discussion

Senator Newell is asking for feedback on these two bills:

- 1) Collaborative Management
- 2) Revised version of last year's juvenile competency bill

Representative Singer also reviewed and requested feedback from the committee on a bill related to workers compensation for first responders who are suffering the effects of PTSD in first responders. Representative Singer stated that an identified an issue of concern from last year is the scope of the bill and what professions would be covered under it. The task force discussed the bill concepts and offered feedback. Several members of the task force pointed out that the issue of vicarious trauma in the workforce is certainly an important topic.

Another Bill that is also being worked on is one that seeks to co-locate mental health providers within law enforcement agencies. The group pointed out that there are similar initiatives taking place at Mental Health Partners and within the Denver Jail focused on high utilizers of the jail system which may be able to provide information to help shape the bill.

The next Oversight Committee will take place on October 29th from 1-3:30pm in the Capitol, House Committee Room 112.

Representative Singer indicated that the oversight committee is requesting an overview of the bills that the taskforce has assisted to draft in the past and feedback from the group as to what the status is of those bills. The committee is also asking for a review of the successes/challenges that the taskforce has had in the past. A question was posed to the taskforce on whether or not it would be useful to create a document that other jurisdictions/states can use which highlights the value and success of the taskforce. Harriet Hall offered to help coordinate this.

The group expressed much gratitude to Representative Singer for his active participation in the taskforce. Copies of bills will be sent out by Rep. Singer to taskforce members to review prior to the next meeting.

V. Retreat Summary and Subcommittee Discussion, Kathy McGuire, Alternate Defense Counsel Representative

Consensus based on feedback from the retreat was that the retreat was extremely beneficial. Senator Martinez Humenik and Representative Singer were present and provided an overview of their priorities for the task force to accomplish in the next year, as well as expressed some of their concerns. Two main goals were discussed at the retreat which included:

- 1) Competency for juveniles including restoration for adults and juvenile competency services
- 2) Lack of housing for individuals with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system.

Update from Housing Focus Group: Kathy McGuire, Alternate Defense Counsel Representative

This group's first meeting was this morning. Housing is a huge and complex issue and it is challenging to grasp the complexity of issue. Goal is for group to have a larger meeting with key stakeholders and decision makers/policy makers to identify priorities and areas for legislative and other action that will benefit our populations. The subcommittee will informally network for the next month and get the word out to others. Next step is to hold a focus group and to network with the Governor's Office and McArthur Foundation in the hopes that they may be interested in spearheading the issue and/or assisting the workgroup. If anyone knows of other stakeholders who should be included in this next meeting, or of other work happening in this area, please Kathy McGuire know.

Goals of the focus group being planned is to assess what's currently happening, identify where there are gaps/ barriers in housing and policies, and where the taskforce might be able to have positive impact on the issue. Peggy Heil reviewed the use of the LEAN process and indicated that the focus group was planning on using a modified LEAN process to identify the specific goals of the housing focus group.

Update from Competency Sub-Committee, Tariq Sheikh, & Camille Harding

Group has identified two areas of focus: 1) Restoration services for both juvenile and adults and 2) Management plans for juveniles. It has been identified that there is a lack of services in both of these areas. First thing the sub-committee would like to address related to restoration is the curriculum available for restoration services. Lack of funding has been identified as a major issue related to management plans. It was announced that the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) was recently awarded two million dollars in the form of a planning grant to address the issue of competency. It appears that funding is geared towards the expansion of Arapahoe County Jail's "RISE" program, although specifics of the award are not yet clear. OBH agreed to invite someone to attend the next meeting to provide a more in depth review of the award. OBH will also invite the Volunteer Lawyer Association who has brought suit based on length of time to restore competency. Committee is requesting an update from this group as well in regards to the work that they are doing.

VI. Potential Modification to Charge SB-14-021, Susie Walton, Park County Department of Human Services

There was a discussion concerning whether or not the issue of restoration is part of the charge of the committee. There was also a discussion around the size of the task force. Representative Singer expressed that the Oversight Committee is open to changes that might need to be made to the size of the group. The group also reviewed current vacancies within the task force. A question was posed as to whether the Director of CMHIP could be requested to join the taskforce? Discussion around the topic of restoration services and whether or not this fits under the taskforce took place. Susie offered to discuss this at the Oversight Committee Meeting.

VII. Data & Information Sharing Subcommittee Update, Peggy Heil, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

A grant to begin statewide planning on Justice and Health information sharing system was awarded. Grant and planning starts on October 1st.

Next Steps: planning what data to share, what infrastructure needs to be built? Goal is that clinical assessment, medications, etc. information will be able to be shared, as needed, between community entities and jails. Group has one year for planning and may be invited to apply for one million dollars per year for a three year period for implementation. First step is to explore what is already happening in various communities across the state. Adams County is working on a similar project which will be explored.

VIII. Behavioral Health Transformation Council Update, Peggy Heil, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

Council is focused on three areas: workforce development, reviewing the crisis services system, and medication consistency. In regards to medication consistency, a formulary has been developed and distributed for review, committee is also working on information sharing, 340B pilot (cost effective way to purchase medications) and a collaborative purchasing agreement to reduce costs of medications. There is a need for jails to be able to supply medications to inmates beyond 30 days of release. Council will be looking into this issue. Additional issue that the council is working on is funding for behavioral health services.

IX. Other Updates

- *Taskforce Membership Booklet, Beth Feltman, Member of the Public*

If taskforce members haven't yet submitted a short biography to Beth, please do so as soon as possible.

X. What's happening at your agency

Members of the Task Force provided a round-table update of what is happening at each agency.

XI. Meeting Adjourned