

MINUTES
Task Force Concerning the Treatment of Persons with
Mental Illness in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems
Friday, September 25, 2015
9am to 3pm
Shiloh House Administrative Offices, Littleton, Colorado

I. Call to Order

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

II. Introductions and Welcome

- *Susie Walton, Park County Department of Human Services*
- *Camille Harding, Health Care Policy & Financing*

Steven Ramirez gave a short presentation about Shiloh House and its operations over the years to try to prevent more high need youth from entering the criminal justice system as adults and shared details about his many programs developed to support at risk youth and their families. The group expressed their appreciation to Steven Ramirez, CEO of Shiloh House and his assistant, Stephanie Harper, for all their help to make our retreat special and productive. Further, the group expressed their appreciation to Michael Ramirez for his efforts in setting up the retreat.

III. Summary of Oversight Committee Meeting from September 21, 2015

- *Senator Beth Martinez Humenik, Representative Jonathan Singer*

The Oversight Committee met on September 21st and those notes were prepared by Amanda King and can be found on the MICJS website. Notable for Task Force Members is that the Oversight Committee legislators decided to draft four bills for consideration:

1. A bill to address workers compensation for mental health treatment related to PTSD for first responders, law enforcement and Department of Corrections staff.
2. A bill to address Juvenile Competency with the inclusion of restoration services.
3. A bill to address matching grant programs for co-locating mental health professionals with law enforcement agencies.
4. A bill to clarify the qualifications of Mental Health professionals who participate in Collaborative Management programs per HB 04-1451.

Senator Martinez Humenik and Representative Singer summarized the bill ideas and they will be drafted soon by Jane Ritter, perhaps ready for review by the Task Force at the October meeting. Fiscal notes now have to be prepared for Interim Committee bills and the next Oversight Committee meeting on October 29th, 1pm in Senate Room 352 is when decisions will be made as to whether these bills move forward. For more information concerning this, please refer to the audio tape of the Oversight Committee's meeting from September 21st which can be found on the website or at the following link:
http://coloradoga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=35&clip_id=8193

IV. Summary of Retreat Day Activities

The task force expressed thanks to Caren Leaf and Roz Bedell, as they facilitated the Task Force Retreat.

Small group discussions of priority issues occurred, which were then grouped by categories of areas for study in alignment with our reauthorizing legislation, SB 14-021. A “payoff matrix” was used by the facilitators to highlight areas where “high value” mental health/criminal and juvenile justice topics could be easily identified. Several issues presented were determined to not need much task force effort or focus, as they are already being handled by other groups. Some of those issues include: Medication Consistency, as this is already being addressed by the Behavioral Health Transformation Council and Dr. Richard Martinez and Peggy Heil of the task force already participate in that group. Suicide Prevention is another example. It is being studied by the Suicide Prevention Commission. Data collection/information sharing, trauma informed systems are being studied by other groups, and after the retreat activities were completed, these did not fall into the priority issues of study for the coming year.

Two priority issues, housing and restoration, emerged as crucial for the task force to address in the coming year. Two groups were formed and to review them. One explored access to and affordability of housing for individuals with mental illness who are involved with the criminal and juvenile justice systems to determine next steps. The other reviewed restoration services for adults and juveniles to do the same.

Concerning housing, tasks determined were:

- Review former legislation run by the Oversight Committee concerning housing (Kathy McGuire)
- Convene initial meeting with stakeholders within and outside of the task force to develop a housing focus group. This group will convene on October 15th at 8:30 am prior to the Task Force meeting at 10am and Kathy McGuire will set it up and facilitate.
- Peggy Heil will research a Lean Event, a process used to determine actionable items for focus for this focus group.
- Determine areas for legislative action on the part of the Oversight Committee, or other action

Concerning restoration, tasks determined were:

- Convene a group to review adult and juvenile competency statutes
- Formal needs assessment and data collection concerning existing restoration services/processes
- Review statute concerning Management Plans for youth, 19-2-1303
- Explore funding for management plans
- Standardize a curriculum for restoration, juveniles and adults
- Explore funding for restoration services, inpatient and outpatient
- Standardize qualifications for professionals delivering restoration services
- Understand existing backlog for competency evaluations
- Update task force mandates to include restoration services
- Determine areas for legislative action on the part of the Oversight Committee, or other action

Closing remarks were made by Susie Walton, Camille Harding and Senator Martinez Humenik. Additional planning will occur at the October 15, 2015 Task Force Meeting.