

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

June 16, 2016

II. Introductions and Welcome

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for February, March and April were sent and will be approved at a later date.

IV. Legislative Update-Adeline Hodge

Amanda sent out an updated spreadsheet of bills prepared by Adeline Hodge.

Senate Bill 169: concerning emergency 72 hour mental health procedures. Vetoed by the Governor last week. It came with an executive order for the Department of Human Services and OBH to create a task force to look at this issue and solve the shortage of facilities and resources for people in mental health crisis. The task force discussed how we might be involved in the effort, and it appears since a separate task force under tight deadlines is being formed, we will ask for updates from members who are also members of this task force.

Representative Singer sent out a copy of the Governor's veto letter outlining his objections to the bill and what he would want from the Task Force.

V. Update: Oversight Committee Meeting, June 23, 2016 from 1:30-4, House Committee Room 0112

The Oversight Committee asked for lists of all task force subcommittee members and these are being prepared. The task force discussed who from the subcommittees will be available to attend the Oversight Committee's meeting and be able to present.

MICJS wants to start capturing the process and administrative achievements of the Task Force, this was also discussed.

Examples include:

- Grant work
- HCPF focus group interviews and survey information collected for data sharing
- Developing the child welfare specific PCG report
- Collaboration and understanding that has developed between stakeholders, for example, among the Juvenile Competency/Restoration Subcommittee members
- The Advocacy for Families Toolkit
- Different county and jail personnel involved in 340-B funding for pharmaceuticals in jails

VI. Nominations for Task Force Chair and Vice-Chair

A new Chair and Vice-Chair need to be elected by August, 2016.

Susie Walton and Camille Harding will ask the Oversight Committee to help identify options for new staff support to support the work of the task force.

Camille is nominated to be Chair of MICJS with Susie Walton as Vice-Chair. Camille will have a discussion at HCPF to determine if there are resources available to support this effort.

VII. Housing Group Update

Two interns from DU are working part time to understand current zoning laws. They are also working on a 50 state survey to look at anything in the past 5-10 years that would be a good model for Colorado.

The Chafee program has specific rules for children leaving the child welfare system. While the Department of Local Affairs has vouchers for these youth, some are still unable to locate and identify housing in their communities.

The vouchers are from Mile High United Way and utilization of the voucher program is dropping because kids are having a hard time finding housing. Rent prices are currently very high in Colorado.

How can the Task Force support children (and adults) with vouchers that are looking for Housing? The group discussed whether there is a targeted effort needed to support at risk youth aging out of the child welfare system and entering the community, beyond the role of Chafee and the Family Unification Program.

Two components of this issue:

- 1.) Availability of reasonably priced and safe rentals
- 2.) Youth having sufficient funds to pay for rent

If a youth has a voucher, they have to work very hard to pay the difference for their rental and still need to cover other costs of living.

Often the youth getting vouchers don't have GEDs or high school diplomas. This makes employment very difficult.

VIII. Competency/Restoration Group

The Competency/Restoration Group believes there should be legislation designating the Office of Behavioral Health as the oversight entity responsible for providing juvenile competency restoration services. This legislation would also identify guiding principles to standardize and strengthen the current system of providing restoration.

The Competency/Restoration Group has a draft of a needs assessment survey that will be distributed to stakeholders by late June or early July. This survey will be about perception of need and how communities are dealing with juvenile competency and restoration services.

House Bill 16-1410 passed: addresses the location of competency evaluations and factors that judges should consider before sending someone to the state hospital, ordering the evaluation at the county jail, or letting the person out on bond.

-This statute does not address looking for least restrictive settings for restorations.

Should the Office of Behavioral Health also be designated as the oversight entity for adult competency and restoration?

They are currently required to fund adult restoration in the form of inpatient setting restorations at CMHIP or at inpatient jail based settings as part of the RISE program.

If some of these individuals could be transferred into a community based restoration program it could result in cost savings. The issue is there are no outpatient restoration settings with the exception of a program at DU that doesn't have a funding source.

IX. Data and Information Sharing Subcommittee Update

The Subcommittee's consultant arranged site visits with criminal justice stakeholders.

X. Behavioral Health Transformation Council Update

None

XI. Membership Updates and Vacancies Discussion

There is a candidate in the works for the position from the Mental Health Institute at Pueblo. There is not an official appointment recommendation yet.

Judge Theresa Slade from the 18th Judicial District has expressed interest in the judicial vacancy. There is not an official appointment letter yet.

These are the only two outstanding vacancies.

XIII. What's Happening at Your Agency?

The Social Impact Bond project to house 250 of the highest utilizers of the Denver jail has received 67 individuals requesting housing. 33 of these individuals have been housed so far.

One of the major topics for the Department of Education is trauma informed care and how to build the capacity of educators across the state. There is grant funding work with three districts around support for trauma informed care practices.

The Office of Alternate Defense Council is in the process of working with defense teams to represent individuals.

The Office of Behavioral Health just submitted two SAMHSA grants. One grant would enable OBH to receive one million dollars annually for five years for naloxone distribution. It targets working with first responders, expanding jail based work, and working with treatment providers to reduce overdoses. The second grant is to build capacity for medication assisted treatment.

OBH is currently going through leadership changes.