

Ohio Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness Meeting Minutes

The Ohio Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness meeting was held at the Ohio Supreme Court 65 S. Front Street Columbus, Ohio on March 12, 2012.

Opening remarks were given by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine was unable to attend but sent a letter expressing his appreciation to the Task Force and the work being done by the subcommittees. He encouraged the Task Force members to have a broad and bold perspective when working on ideas.

Justice Stratton also read the following information in the letter from Attorney General DeWine:

- \$500,000 was awarded to the State as a result of a settlement;
- The money will be used to fund projects to improve the mental health system in Ohio; and
- Task Force subcommittees were asked to submit project recommendations. A formal process for doing so is currently being developed and will be shared with the subcommittees at a later date.

Amy O'Grady spoke about the development of the Task Force website which will include – subcommittee meeting dates and times, meeting minutes, handouts and a directory of subcommittee descriptions.

Sandy Stephenson and Amy O'Grady discussed plans for a task force retreat. The retreat will allow subcommittees to learn about gaps in services that currently exist in the state. Co-chairs who were interested in assisting with the retreat were encouraged to contact Amy O'Grady.

Subcommittee reports

Aging: Mark Molea, Co-Chair, discussed these topics:

- Focusing on all issues regarding the safety and exploitation of elders
- Performing an “environmental scan” of the gaps in service related to elder issues. Some areas raised include:
 - Financial exploitation
 - Aging offenders
 - People with mental illness in nursing homes
 - Guardianships
 - Adult Protective Services
 - Opiate Epidemic
 - Law enforcement/EMS strategies (e.g., Liberty Township registries)
 - Elder's interaction with the courts and justice system as victims of crimes
 - Housing issues

- Health care issues

Diversion and Reentry: Dr. Robert Hammond Co-Chair, discussed these topics:

- Access to Medication
 - Extend two week supply to 30 days
 - 60 day prescription
- Provider shortages
- Creation of a legislative team to review reentry issues in pending legislation
- Developing a “Peer to Peer support team”: volunteer supports who work with inmates and provide wraparound support when the inmates leave prison

Housing – Doug Garver and Sally Luken, Co-Chairs, discussed these topics:

- Acquiring resources and partnerships that will increase housing units for persons with mental illness, including those involved in a specialty docket. (200 units in two years)
- Money follows the person program
- Examine existing studies and programs when carrying out subcommittee goals, including HUD-VASH program

Juvenile Justice – Judge Stephen Michael and Melinda Sykes, Co-Chairs, discussed these topics:

- Identify existing Juvenile Justice groups to collaborate with on projects and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Seek additional representatives to be a part of the subcommittee, including faith based organizations.
- Three subcommittee working groups have been formed:
 1. Data Collection
 2. Front end diversion
 - a. Look at school responder programs in Jackson/Summit counties
 - b. Legislation
 - c. Intake based diversion
 3. Juvenile Justice involved populations

Law Enforcement – Amy O’Grady, Co-Chair, discussed these topics:

- Focusing on outreach for counties that do not have CIT trained officers
- Working with Research and Best Practices and Policy and Legislation subcommittees to address data collection issues
- Revise the OPOTA 16 hour basic training course, Interacting with the Special Needs Population

Mental Health and the Courts - Patrick Harris, Co-Chair, discussed these topics:

- Focusing efforts on the state of mental health courts, including resources and gaps in service
- Additional focus areas raised by the subcommittee include:
 - Outpatient Commitment
 - Medication
 - Reentry services

Policy and Legislation – Betsy Johnson and Scott Corbitt, Co-Chairs, discussed these topics:

- Outpatient commitment and access to medication after release from prison
- Prisons/Jails – recommend jail standards for mental and physical health needs of those incarcerated
- Community solution and support – work with housing to expand the housing units of care available to mental health patient who leave the system or jail
- HB62 Pending legislation – increases the penalty for assault when the victim is a health care professional, health care worker, or security officer at a hospital

Psychiatry and Treatment – Sandy Stephenson, Co-Chair, discussed these topics:

- Treatment gaps and obstacles to treatment
- Training Models
- Lack of Psychiatrists
- Mental Health care within prison
- Discussed overlap of subcommittee issues: please send P&T issues to them

Research and Best Practices - Justin Hykes, Co Chair, discussed these topics:

- Data collection efforts so law enforcement can identify special needs individuals in the community
- Report on visit to Colerain Twp. to discuss their CARE voluntary registry program
- Potential project with Veterans subcommittee regarding research of available services

Veterans' Courts and Military Affairs – Judge Robert Milich and Tammy Puff, Co-Chairs, discussed these topics:

- Assistance with legislation
- Veterans Services Commission funding
- Pro-Bono LAMP program (Legal Assistance to Military Program)
- Seek collaborative solutions for veteran with mental health issues
- Fugitive Safe Surrender program as it applies to veterans