

Staff Notes and Meeting Summary
WORKGROUP ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH¹
Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

Thursday, February 18, 2016

9:00 -10:15 AM

Location: Atwood Building, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Rooms 102 and 104

Commissioners Attending: Stephanie Rhoades, Jeff Jessee, Greg Razo, Brenda Stanfill, Trevor Stephens, Alex Bryner, Kris Sell.

Other Attendees: Bob Linton (DOL), Janet McCabe (Partners), Steve Williams (MH Trust), Arceli Valle (AJIC), Alysa Wooden (DHSS), Laura Brooks (DOC).

Staff: Mary Geddes, Teri Carns, Giulia Kaufman, Susanne DiPietro

Materials provided in advance of meeting:

[“Trust Beneficiaries in Alaska’s Department of Corrections,”](#) Hornby-Zeller, May 2014

[UNLV Review of Alaska Mental Health Statutes](#)

[First-Episode Incarceration: Creating a Recovery Informed Framework for Integrated Mental health and Criminal Justice Responses](#) (Vera Institute of Justice)

[White Paper 2015: Medicaid Expansion and the Alaska Department of Corrections](#)

*[Online Powerpoint](#): “The Sequential Intercept Model: A Systematic Approach to keeping People with Mental Illness Out of the Criminal Justice System”

Due to difficulties with teleconferencing, the meeting had a delayed start around 9:20 AM.

Leadership. Greg Razo stood in as temporary chair because it was the Workgroup’s first meeting. Jeff Jessee and Stephanie Rhoades were proposed and agreed to be the Workgroup’s co-chairs.

Relationship of topic to SB64 Mandates. Brenda Stanfill noted that Behavioral Health is an appropriate and immediate topic because SB64 directed the Commission to consider the adequacy and availability of treatment programs, and to consider alternatives to incarceration.

Important parties to engage in future Workgroup meetings: DOC, DHSS (most likely Acting Director of Division of Behavioral Health Randall Burns), Tribal providers such as Southcentral Foundation. Alex Bryner mentioned that Corrections involvement was crucial. At this point, it was noted that Laura Brooks from DOC had joined the meeting.

Workgroup planning: The staff proposal to limit all committee work to intensive two-month blocks was viewed as unrealistic for the scope of this committee’s work. It was agreed that the committee work on this topic should be delayed until after the end of the regular Legislative session because of the number of Commissioners tied up in Juneau. There was additional discussion on how its work would proceed.

¹ Throughout the continuum of care in the criminal justice system.

Mary Geddes suggested that the BH group could start its work with the review of the UNLV Report on Mental Health Statutes since the analysis was relatively complete and recommendations for changes had been made. Noting that there had been consensus in the CJWG subgroup on some of those recommendations, she asked if the Workgroup would like staff to prepare a synopsis. Jeff Jessee observed that UNLV had essentially done what the JRI staffers had done in terms of compiling the relevant research. Alex Bryner, who had seen the UNLV presentation, remembered that much of UNLV's recommendations reflected "best practices" and not necessarily evidence-based reforms; consequently, he wondered if those recommendations would be hard to translate into cost-benefit analysis. Stephanie Rhoades said there were evidence based recommendations included, but she thought there are reasons to delay consideration of the report. Stephanie Rhoades said that the members of the Workgroup have to be first educated about the existing mental health system and interstices.

Resolved: She and Jeff Jessee as co-chairs will be responsible (rather than staff); they will advance an agenda and a "fully-baked" opening meeting in May. At that meeting, to include a larger number of stakeholders, the Workgroup members will get the necessary overview of the flow of BH beneficiaries in and out of the criminal justice system.

TO DO:

- Rhoades and Jessee should contact staff regarding the scheduling and location of the May meeting.
- Rhoades and Jessee will plan the meeting.
- Staff will send out notice of the meeting and any materials in advance to the invitees.

Public comment

There being no additional public comment, the meeting was adjourned.