

Mental Health/Point of Contact through Release from Jail Task Force Minutes

June 13, 2019 1:30PM-4:00PM
700 Kipling, 2nd floor Meeting Room

ATTENDEES:

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Joe Pelle, Chair, Boulder County Sheriff
Chris Bachmeyer, District Court Judge, 1st Judicial District
Jamie Brown, Colorado Jail Association
Frank Cornelia, Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
Tina Gonzales, Beacon Health Options
Cynthia Grant, AllHealth Network
Nancy Jackson, Arapahoe County Commissioner
Norm Mueller, Private defense attorney
Megan Ring, State Public Defender
Jigruti Shaw, Office of Behavioral Health

ABSENT

Patrick Costigan, 17th J.D., District Attorney's Office
Benjamin Harris, Department of Healthcare Policy & Financing
Charles Smith, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
Abigail Tucker, Community Reach Centers

STAFF

Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant
Kim English, Division of Criminal Justice
Laurence Lucero, Division of Criminal Justice
Stephané Waisanen, Division of Criminal Justice

GUESTS

Cristen Bates, Office of Behavioral Health
Kerry Krause, Office of Behavioral Health
Kara Martin, State Court Administrator's Office
Jennifer Turner, State Court Administrator's Office

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Welcome & Introductions Chair Joe Pelle</p>	<p>Chair Joe Pelle welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He explained that this was the final meeting of the Task Force. Richard would summarize the work of the group and four presenters would provide the Task Force with a “status report” of some of the initiatives that originated from Task Force recommendations.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Recap of March Meeting: Richard Stroker</p>	<p>Richard recognized that the Task Force produced a lot of recommendations that led to legislation and policy changes. The work from the members of this group and Chair Pelle has been extraordinary.</p> <p>The group investigated many opportunities, methods, and alternatives with individuals who have behavioral health issues who are involved in the criminal justice system. The group focused on how individuals could be moved from criminal justice system and into the behavioral health system for treatment.</p> <p>For individuals who could not be diverted from the criminal justice system, we attempted to improve opportunities and appropriate treatment for individuals while incarcerated.</p> <p>The last time the group met, the group decided to request an update on the work and the outcomes associated with these initiatives.</p> <p>Sheriff Pelle introduced Cristen Bates, Kara Martin, Kerry Kraus and Jennifer Turner to provide updates on the initiatives related to the recommendations generated by the group.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>S.B. 17-207: Strengthen Colorado’s Statewide Response to Behavioral Health Crises</p> <p>Cristen Bates</p>	<p>Cristen Bates described the primary goal of S.B. 2017-207 was to prevent the use of jails to hold individuals who are not charged with a crime, but were a danger to themselves or others, and who are in need of treatment. The bill clarifies the intent to establish a coordinated behavioral health care crisis response system.</p> <p>The Office of Behavioral Health completed contracts to provide alternatives to jail for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The expansion of the crisis system resulted in a reinforced infrastructure with support mechanisms for providers and access points for patients. The effort has five components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transportation Pilot Programs - San Luis Valley and Montrose - To move individuals who are having a healthcare crisis to a location to receive treatment without involving law enforcement.

<p>Issue/Topic S.B. 17-207 (continued)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Co-Responder Programs - Comprising a law enforcement officer and a behavioral health specialist, co-responder teams respond when there are mental-health-related calls for service to assist in de-escalating situations. 3. Criminal Justice Liaisons – Four liaisons are the point of contact in seven crisis regions. They are based in three facilities and work with law enforcement officials and the Colorado crisis system. 4. Involuntary Transportation for Immediate Screening Holds –Initial intervening step to help individuals in a mental health crisis who will not go to treatment voluntarily and do not meet the 72-hour hold criteria. This initiative is intended to move individuals from the community to a facility with crisis walk-in services that will screen for the need for a 72-hour hold. 5. Crisis Stabilization/Three Rural Units – Implementation of this initiative has been challenging due to conflicting regulations between OBH, the Department of Public Health and Environment and local fire departments, but these issues are being resolved. One crisis stabilization unit has recently opened in Summit County and two others, in Montrose and La Junta, will be opening soon. <p>A report is due July 1, 2019 regarding the status of the transportation hold.</p> <p>Related documents can be found in the Task Force “Materials” on the Commission website at, colorado.gov/ccjj/ccjj-pMHJTF</p>
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Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>S.B. 18-249: Establishing Alternative Programs in the Criminal Justice System to Divert Individuals with a Mental Health Condition to Community Treatment</p> <p>Kara Martin</p>	<p>Kara Martin described that S.B. 18-249 established alternative programs to divert individuals with mental health disorders who have committed low-level offenses into community treatment options.</p> <p>The bill created four pilot programs in the following judicial districts: 6th (southwest), 8th (north central), 16th (southeast), and 20th (Boulder Co). The main goals are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the number of individuals with mental health conditions in jails. 2. Reduce the number and cost of court cases. 3. Create cost savings and other measurable efficiencies in justice and healthcare resource management. 4. Promote positive outcomes for individuals living with mental health conditions. <p>After arrest, a mental health screening and assessment process identifies individuals to divert from routine criminal case processing to mental health treatment. Successful completion of the six-month diversion period requires initiation of treatment and no new criminal charges. The outcome for the</p>

Issue/Topic: S.B. 18-249 (continued)	<p>successful participants is non-filing or dismissal of criminal charges. Most of the funds allocated for these programs are used for treatment.</p> <p>The presentation and can be found in the Task Force “Materials” on the Commission website at, colorado.gov/ccjj/ccjj-pMHJTF</p>
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Issue/Topic: S.B. 18-250: Provision of Jail-Based Behavioral Health Services: Pilot Kerry Krause	Discussion: <p>Kerry Krause described how the Jail Based Behavioral Services (JBBS) was founded in 2011 and was originally funded through the Correctional Treatment Fund. It was used to provide substance abuse treatment services. The services include screening, assessment, treatment, and case management care that offers support from transition to recovery.</p> <p>JBBS is a partnership between the state, county sheriff’s office and local treatment providers to serve individuals in jails with substance use disorders (SUDs) and co-occurring mental health disorders. Goals include a reduction in critical incidents in jails by offering behavioral health services and a decrease in recidivism by better identifying treatment options. Many larger areas had mental health resources available in the jails, but smaller, rural areas did not. The JBBS is now available in forty-five counties.</p> <p>There was a gap in JBBS because it was funded through the Correctional Treatment Board, and thus only offered services to SUD-involved individuals. Any individual entering jail that had mental health needs did not qualify for mental health services, especially in rural counties.</p> <p>With this funding, jails can hire staff to complete universal screenings within forty-eight hours. They will also be able to prescribe psychiatric medication, substance abuse disorder treatment AND conduct mental health counseling.</p> <p>There is also a component in the bill that allows for mental health services to be provided to individuals awaiting competency restoration.</p> <p>The presentation and can be found in the Task Force “Materials” on the Commission website at, colorado.gov/ccjj/ccjj-pMHJTF</p>
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Issue/Topic: S.B. 18-251: Establishing Statewide Behavioral Health Court Liaison Program (BRIDGES Program) Jennifer Turner	Discussion: <p>Jennifer Turner described that the BRIDGES program was created by Senate Bill 18-251, which mandated that the State Court Administrator’s Office (SCAO) contract with behavior health organizations across Colorado to provide Court Liaisons in each Colorado Judicial District. The liaisons will facilitate communication and collaboration between the criminal justice and mental health systems.</p>
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<p>Issue/Topic: S.B. 18-251 (continued)</p>	<p>The following are the goals of the program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting positive outcomes for individuals with mental health conditions who encounter the criminal justice system. 2. Expanding information sharing between judges, attorneys. 3. Connecting individuals to appropriate mental health and other support services. <p>A challenging issue has been the protection of the constitutional rights of the accused. There will also be limits on the information the Liaisons can collect regarding clinical diagnosis, prescriptions, and substance abuse.</p> <p>All twenty-two judicial districts have contracts in place for the provision of Court Liaisons. Twenty-seven of 29 Liaisons have been hired across 21 judicial districts.</p> <p>The presentation and can be found in the Task Force “Materials” on the Commission website at, colorado.gov/ccjj/ccjj-pMHJTF</p>
<p>Issue/Topic: Wrap-Up & Adjourn Chair Joe Pelle</p>	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Joe thanked the presenters for sharing their information.</p> <p>Joe thanked the Task Force members for their time and contributions to the Commission over the three productive years of the Task Force.</p> <p>A recommendation will be offered at the next Commission meeting that the Task Force be concluded.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>