

**Lincoln, Nebraska
March 14, 2007**

**JUSTICE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
*MEETING MINUTES***

The Justice Behavioral Health Committee (Committee), formerly Justice Substance Abuse Team (JSAT) of the Community Corrections Council (Council) met Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at the Bryan LGH Conference Room C, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members Present:

John Atherton
Jerome Barry, Co-Chair
Scott Carlson
Roxie Cillessen
Cathy Gibson-Beltz
Linda Krutz
Rick McNeese
Deb Minardi
Mike Overton
Christine Salvatore
Kathy Seacrest
Dave Wegner
Linda Wittmuss

Council Staff Present:

Jennifer Doné
Julie Rogers

Others Present:

Toni Ahrendt
Ron Felton
Joann Huss
Brad Meurrens
Brenda Miner
Chuck Stepanek
Rick Thomas

Members Absent:

Michael Behm
Robert Bell
Shannon Black
Ellen Brokofsky
Catherine Cook
Raleigh Haas
Julie Hippen
Randy Kohl, MD
Mona McGee
T. Hank Robinson
Steve Rowoldt
Ron Sorensen
Cameron White

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Jerome Barry, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. Attendance is indicated above. Each person present introduced him or herself and gave a brief statement about his or her involvement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kathy Seacrest moved for approval of the December 6, 2006, minutes. Mike Overton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

REVIEW & DISCUSSION OF DRAFT GUIDELINES

A second draft of the Committee Guidelines was reviewed. There was follow up discussion on Vacancies, Expected Outcomes, Voting, and Membership.

The question arose as to whether the Committee should include more representation from juvenile justice. It was decided that since the Committee is under the direction of the Council, which does not address juvenile justice, the Committee's representation should not expand past the ambit of the Council. The Committee was reminded that the membership list includes Director of the Office of Juvenile Services and a Juvenile Probation Officer, so as issues arise relating to both juvenile and adult populations, the Committee has experts that may address such issues.

A motion was made by Kathy Seacrest to approve the guidelines as corrected. Linda Witmuss made a second and the motion passed by unanimous acclamation.

MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES

The membership list consists of thirty-seven total Committee members. Eight of the member positions are currently vacant.

The Committee reviewed six applications for the Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor vacancy. The applicants were Denny Crain from Lutheran Family Services, Larry Holmquist from CenterPointe, Joan Huss from Touchstone, Michelle Nelson from CenterPointe, Nancy Probst from the Blue Valley Mental Health Center, and Duane Wirth from the Panhandle Mental Health Center. The person elected to fill the LADC position will be eligible to serve as the chair of the Provider Subcommittee. There was discussion about the applications. The vote to fill the LADC position was taken by secret ballot.

Receiving ten out of thirteen total votes, Nancy Probst will be asked to fill the LADC position. Denny Crain, Joan Huss, and Duane Wirth each received one vote. Larry Holmquist and Michelle Nelson received no votes.

Jerome reviewed the complete membership list, including vacancies and asked certain Committee members to bring nominees for the vacancies to the next Committee meeting. Deb Minardi will bring back nominees for the Juvenile Probation Officer vacancy. Jerome Barry will contact Dr. Kathy Grant from the Omaha Veterans Administration to fill the psychiatrist vacancy. Rick McNeese will bring back nominees for the psychologist vacancy. Linda Wittmuss will contact Joel McCleary from Health and Human Services about joining the Committee as the Director of Consumer Affairs for Behavioral Health. At the December meeting, Steve Rowoldt volunteered to bring suggestions to the Committee for the County Attorney vacancy and the Criminal Defense Attorney vacancy. Also at the December meeting, Julie Hippen volunteered to bring nominees to the Committee for the Consumer vacancy.

All persons applying for a vacant position on the Committee will forward a resume and letter of interest to Jennifer Doné for distribution to Committee members before the next meeting. The Committee will vote on nominations presented.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL REPORT

Linda Krutz gave the Community Corrections Council Report. There will be a hearing for the petition filed with the Supreme Court for the adoption of Sentencing Guidelines for Felony Drug Offenders on April 25, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at the Supreme Court Courtroom.

Council staff is working with Probation, Parole, Drug Courts, and the Crime Commission to develop a new Community Corrections Data Report. The Final Report of the Nebraska District Court Judges Survey 2006 will be presented at the March 16, Council meeting. The report will be distributed to Committee members at the next meeting and will also be available on the Council's website at www.ncc.ne.gov.

Nebraska was chosen by the Pew Charitable Trusts, with support from the Vera Institute of Justice, to be one of eight states that will receive direct assistance in developing policies and programs to protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control corrections costs.

PROBATION ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Christine Salvatore gave the Probation Administration Update. Since January 1, 2007, the Voucher program has been expanded to include 1) Offenders receiving Parole as of September 1, 2006, who have an order for substance abuse evaluation or treatment; 2) Felony Probation or Problem-Solving Court Offenders unable to remain drug/alcohol free, as demonstrated by one or more positive drug/alcohol tests, failed attempt at treatment, or admission of use, via an administrative sanction or during the violation of probation process and approved by Chief or designee; 3) Class I Misdemeanor Drug Offense, where a substance abuse problem has been identified either through a Pre-Sentence Investigation or a substance abuse evaluation completed by a registered provider prior to sentencing, resulting in an order by the court as a condition of probation; and 4) DUI III Offense and above or Felony DUI, where a substance abuse problem has been identified either through a PSI or a substance abuse evaluation completed by a registered provider prior to sentencing, resulting in an order by the court as a

condition of probation. Voucher requests for the expanded populations have increased since the first of the year.

From March through December, 2006, 828 offenders were served with either an evaluation-specific or treatment-specific voucher. The monthly average of vouchers issued in 2006 was 97. So far in 2007, the monthly average of vouchers issued is 156.

Christine Salvatore and Kim Bunch from Probation have been training providers on the provider portion of the NPMIS system. Dave Wegner stated that Probation plans to fully automate the provider system on April 30, 2007.

Probation is planning for a spring conference, "The Community Corrections Addiction and Treatment: An Effective Strategy for Crime Control" on May 21-23, 2007, at the Cornhusker Hotel.

SUB-COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Draft charge statements for the Curriculum and Data Subcommittees were distributed. Two possible draft charge statements were presented for the Provider subcommittee. There was discussion about the charge statement for the Curriculum and Provider subcommittees.

John Atherton made a motion to adopt the Curriculum Subcommittee charge statement, Data Subcommittee charge statement, and the first draft of the Provider Subcommittee charge statement. Deb Minardi seconded the motion and the motion passed by roll call vote.

There was discussion about whether the Strategic Planning Subcommittee should continue. Deb Minardi will contact Hank Robinson to solicit his opinion.

The floor was opened for nominations for the Curriculum Subcommittee chair position. Kathy Seacrest nominated Linda Wittmuss. Cathy Gibson-Beltz seconded the nomination and the nomination passed by acclamation. Linda Wittmuss agreed to serve as the chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee.

The floor was then opened for nominations for the Provider Subcommittee chair position. Jerome Barry nominated Nancy Probst. Kathy Seacrest seconded the nomination and the nomination passed by acclamation. Jerome Barry will contact Nancy Probst about serving as the chair of the Provider Subcommittee.

PROVIDER FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

The second draft of the Provider Follow-Up Survey was distributed. The intent of this survey is to reevaluate provider processes after the adoption of the Standardized Model. This survey will give providers the opportunity to suggest changes to the Standardized Reporting Format.

There were concerns about how the survey will be interpreted by providers. The survey may unintentionally mislead providers to believe that the Committee has the authority to discontinue use of the Comprehensive Adolescent Severity Inventory (CASI) or Addiction Severity Index (ASI).

Deb Minardi and Jerome Barry will work together on revising the survey in order to get feedback from providers and inform providers of the work of the Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

On behalf of the Committee, Steve Rowoldt and Jerome Barry, Co-Chairs, wrote a letter of grant support for the Nebraska Supreme Court, as requested by Scott Carlson. The grant will provide funding to complete a statewide evaluation of Nebraska Drug Courts.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Brenda Miner, the Director of St. Francis Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center in Grand Island, came forward to testify. She stated that she has heard concerns from providers about using the Standardized Model for the Voucher Program. She expressed interest in participating on the Provider Subcommittee as this will be a way to convey the opinions of providers in central Nebraska.

Rick Thomas, the Clinical Director of CenterPointe, also testified. He also stated that he has heard concerns about using the Standardized Model for the Voucher Program. He expressed concern about patient treatment time being reduced because of filling out the ASI.

Ron Felton, the Director of Horizon Recovery Center in Hastings, testified about his concerns with the ASI for the Voucher Program. He also voiced concerns about delays with the presentence phase.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, at 9:30 a.m., at the Bryan LGH West Conference room B in Lincoln, Nebraska.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer K. Doné