

**Lincoln, Nebraska
June 13, 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, June 13, 2007, at Conference Room B, Bryan LGH West, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members Present:

Jerome Barry, Co-Chair
Shannon Black
Roxie Cillessen
Cathy Gibson-Beltz
Julie Hippen
Linda Krutz
Terri Nutzman
Michael Overton
Nancy Probst
T. Hank Robinson
Steve Rowoldt, Co-Chair
Christine Salvatore
Dave Wegner
Linda Wittmuss

Council Staff Present:

Nickette Allen, SOS temp

Others Present:

Dave Carver
Michael Dunkle
Lori Griggs

Members Absent:

John Atherton
Michael Behm
Robert Bell
Scott Carlson
Catherine Cook
Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky
Raleigh Haas
Lee Kimzey
Randy Kohl, MD
Mona McGee-Snyder
Rick McNeese
Deb Minardi
Kathy Seacrest
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. Noted was the upcoming resignation of Shannon Black with this being her last meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Wittmus noted Ron Sorenson and his designee, in addition to Joel McCleary, were the contacts from Health and Human Services for the position of Director of Consumer Affairs and Behavioral Health as not previously indicated in the March 14, 2007 meeting minutes. Mike Overton moved for approval of the March 14, 2007 minutes as corrected. Dave Wegner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES

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

Lori Griggs was invited to the meeting to fill the position of Juvenile Probation Officer. The Committee reviewed her credentials of being the current District 20 Juvenile Probation Chief Officer, several years of working with Drug Courts and Jerome Barry, and working with the Standardized Model in the juvenile arena. The motion to accept Lori Griggs in this position was advanced by T. Hank Robinson, seconded by Linda Wittmus. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Jerome Barry nominated Kathleen Grant, M.D., from Omaha, to fill the position of Medical Doctor. Kathleen Grant is a doctor of internal medicine and has worked diligently in training medical students in Substance Abuse treatment and also worked with clinical training. Christine Salvatore moved for her nomination. Julie Hippen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

David Carver was present as an invitee to represent the Board of Psychology. Currently he is the Director of Counseling and Student Development at UNMC in Omaha and works with the Discovery Center for Substance Abuse. Dennis McChargue's curriculum vitae was circulated to each member for review as a replacement for Shannon Black. Steve Rowoldt motioned to accept David Carver and Dennis McChargue as the two licensed psychologists. T. Hank Robinson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The position for Director of Consumer Affairs for Behavioral Health was nominated to be filled by Joel McCleary. The representative from the Department of Health and Human Services for the Office of Behavioral Health will remain Ron Sorenson with Sherri Dawson identified as his designee. The motion to install Joel McCleary was placed by Roxie Cillessen and seconded by Nancy Probst. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

The motion to install Bruce Prenda, currently working in the Lancaster County Attorney office and involved in adult drug court, into the position for County Attorney was placed by Cathy Gibson-Beltz, seconded by Mike Overton, and passed unanimously with acclamation.

The positions for Criminal Defense Attorney and Consumer were opened to the floor for more discussion and suggestions. Margene Timm, the original Juvenile Drug Court attorney, was suggested for the Criminal Defense Attorney position; Shannon Morgan was given as a contact for the Consumer representative; Linda Krutz mentioned the governor has not yet appointed someone to fulfill the Community Corrections vacancy left by Scott Adams.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL REPORT

Linda Krutz gave the Community Corrections Council Report. There is a Community Corrections Council meeting on Friday, June 15, 2007 at 9:00 in the Embassy Suites conference room. This meeting will have a full agenda.

Julie Rogers has resigned as the Executive Policy Analyst of the Community Corrections Council with her last day being June 12, 2007. It was noted that she has been invaluable to the Council and Committee and will be sorely missed. The staffing for the Council is in flux as the Administrative position is being filled June 18, 2007 by Tia Bachman and soon a search will be started to fill the Executive Policy Analyst position.

Vera will be the contractor to complete the Probation/Parole Study Scope even though they were not named in the bill. This study is slated to be completed by December 2007. Nebraska was chosen as one of only eight states which were recipients of the Pew Charitable Trust grant which pays for Vera to continue working with states by providing technical support and to further research the move to developing and implementing community corrections.

The Sentencing Guidelines hearing is posted on the Courts website with the audio also available. At the District Court judges' meeting, Vera Associate Judge Walker talked about the guidelines and his information was well received. The judges are considering forming their own Sentencing Commission and will consider the adoption of guidelines through the legislative process.

The result of the District Court judge's survey is available on the Crime Commission website located under Community Corrections Council. Mike Dunkle explained a couple of the most pronounced results involved: 1) lack of knowledge of available services, such as Mental Health services and, 2) the belief that rural communities have fewer services available. Jerome Barry asked if there is an action plan to follow up the survey. Linda Krutz explained the Council meeting on Friday, June 15 will allow for this discussion.

The Council is receiving technical assistance from Vera provided for by Pew and has met with the representatives to detail the different projects. Robert Guy, Director of the North Carolina Department of Corrections, has already put into effect a community corrections program so has been an invaluable resource to Nebraska in its developmental process. Linda

Krutz depicted the background of Vera, Pew, and their roles in assisting Nebraska in the on going formation of Community Corrections.

PROBATION ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Christine Salvatore gave the Probation Administration Update. Since January 1, 2007, the Fee-For-Treatment Voucher program has issued 696 Probation related Vouchers and 144 Parole related Vouchers. From January to May, Parole has seemed to stay pretty steady with approximately 33-36 vouchers issued per month. For June, 38 have been issued and it appears use of the vouchers by Parole will continue to increase as the target population is expanded.

The electronic voucher system went live on May 15, 2007 so paper vouchers are no longer available for the providers. There is a help number available for those needing assistance with filing vouchers electronically. Salvatore stated she will try to respond to requests for help. Final instructions are not yet available as the system is new. Some difficulty with the voucher system is the language cross over and the differences which prevents particular services from being covered.

On May 21-23, 2007 **Community Corrections and Addictions Treatment: An Effective Strategy for Crime Control Conference** was held for providers, State Patrol, Probation and Parole with high profile national speakers. The conference featured high profile national speakers and turned out to be highly successful with about 500 attendees and very positive feedback. As a result, Probation has seen an increase in applications to be providers. Christine Salvatore noted the increase in provider application numbers is also likely due to the presentation by Thomas Coyne regarding Addiction Severity Index (ASI) as a tool.

The Day Reporting Center (DRC) in Omaha has moved into their new building and are planning to secure more contracts to provide more services. Steve Rowoldt announced the DRC in Lincoln is also moving and taking over the 3rd and 4th floors of the detox center at Trabert Hall with the plan to open in August of 2007. The move will be a great help as the center sees roughly two to three thousand people a month with cognitive groups, Substance Abuse testing and services from contracted providers. Both Christine Salvatore and Steve Rowoldt agreed the DRC size is very important as many classes and services are held in the centers. Some services provided are: Life Skills classes, Good Will programs, Job Search, GED, and parent classes. As of now the DRCs are located in Kearney/Lexington, South Sioux City, Sarpy/Cass/Otoe counties, and Omaha/Lincoln.

Currently 160 offenders are identified as participants in the SSAS Program in the Sarpy area. There has been some staff turnover creating difficulty due to the strict guidelines of 24 cases per SSAS officer. Of the 160 cases, about 72 are affected by the staffing issues. The slow growth allows the timing to establish the DRC and other services.

Dave Wegner brought up the issue of the difficulty of obtaining funding for the various programs. The growth plans are exciting and integral to the development of community corrections but the funding is a large issue. To this point, Linda Krutz asked the Committee members to get the news out about the work of the Council and Committee to increase the

awareness of outside individuals. Steve Rowoldt brought up the point that providers do not understand the Voucher program falls under the Standardized model. When providers are evaluating, many are assessing according to the Voucher program.

PAROLE ADMINISTRATION

It was requested by Jerome Barry that a report from the Parole Administration should be added to the agenda for every meeting starting with this meeting. Cathy Gibson-Bentz stated there was not much to report at this time but the administration is happy with the DRCs. After visiting different areas in Western Nebraska, Gibson- Bentz stated there seems to be some confusion regarding who is eligible for the voucher program so this will need to be addressed.

SUB-COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The final review and approval of the Provider Subcommittee Charge statement was opened to the floor. Any questions were addressed and discussed. Shannon Black made the motion to adopt the Subcommittee Charge statements; Cathy Gibson-Bentz seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Curriculum: Linda Wittmus stated the group is working to establish different areas in which to move although initially focusing mainly on Substance Abuse, than branching out into different areas. The nomination list of members include Ken Sturdy (Training Administrator with DCS) sent by Cathy Gibson-Beltz, Kate Speck (Doane College Addiction Technology Transfer Center), Monica Mile Steffen (Judicial Branch Education Program Manager) nominated by Probation , David Carver (UNMC Psychologist) suggested by Shannon Black with possible members Dennis McChargue (Psychologist), Rick Thomas (CenterPointe), Nicole Kennedy, Julie Erikson and Melva Denholm suggested by T. Hank Robinson, Julie Hippen, Jerome Barry respectively. The group is also planning to meet one or two times before September 12, 2007.

Data: Dave Wegner listed the current members as Linda Wittmus, Mike Overton, Mike Dunkle, Scott Carlson, and Julie Hippen. Marcella Short, from the Parole Administration, could be added to the committee.

Provider: Nancy Probst discussed the May 10th meeting where Christine Salvatore and Jerome Barry attended. Jim Holmquist, representing CenterPointe, is a member of the subcommittee. The subcommittee defined their goals at this meeting. Due to the time and cost of traveling to meetings, the idea of using conference calls arose which would allow more individuals from Western Nebraska to participate in the meetings. As the attending counselors and providers were unaware or seldom used evidence-based practices, Nancy Probst assigned each to research one of the following venues and to report back to the committee: websites, books or other resources. The next Provider subcommittee meetings are scheduled August 23rd and November 8th, each being held from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the orientation room of Bryan LGH West.

Strategic Planning: T. Hank Robinson explained the reason for the creation of the subcommittee and there was discussion about whether the Strategic Planning Subcommittee should continue. T. Hank Robinson suggested it may better to deactivate the subcommittee at this time. Whenever the need arises, the committee may be re-activated. After discussion, there was general consensus.

PROVIDER FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

The third 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 the use of acronyms on the survey without follow up definitions. The request was made by Linda Krutz to make the cover letter and survey consistent. All acronyms should be followed by the defining words in parenthesis.

The motion to approve the corrected survey was made by Linda Wittmus and seconded by Christine Salvatore. The motion was unanimously approved by acclamation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Shannon Black brought up the issue of some departments wanting to get a voucher program for Sex Offenders, which could create a further conflict for funds.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There was no Public Testimony at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, at 9:30 a.m., at the Bryan LGH West Classroom 1 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nickette Allen