

Minutes

Special Commission on Substance Addictions Treatment in the Criminal Justice System

Date: Friday, March 20, 2015

Time: 10:30am

Location: Two Center Plaza, Boston, MA

Commission Members Present:

Brian Sylvester	Co-chair and Director of Inter-Agency Initiatives, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Representative
Mark Larsen, Esq.	Committee for Public Council Services (CPCS) Representative
Randy Hunt	House of Representatives
David Sullivan	Northwestern District Attorney, Mass. District Attorneys Association Representative (via remote participation)
Marina Moriarty	Attorney General's Office Representative
David Henderson, MD	Mass. General Hospital- Substance Addiction Treatment Representative
Charlene Bonner	Deputy Commissioner, Department of Correction (DOC) Representative
Alejandro Alves	Representative for Senator John Keenan
Daniel Bennett	Secretary, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)
Carol Mici	Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Classification, Department of Corrections (DOC) Representative
Matthew McKenna	Department of Veterans' Services

Visitor Attendees:

Sheila Casey	Trial Court Specialty Courts Administrator
Georgia Critsley	Trial Court Intergovernmental Relations Senior Manager
Edward Callahan	Veterans Court Program Director
Kevin Riley	Trial Court Representative Research & Planning
James Kelleher	Assistant Superintendent of Western MA Correctional Alcohol Center
Shawna Andersen	Research & Planning Specialist, Mass. Parole Board
Della Blake	Hampden County Sheriff Department
Martha Lyman	Hampden County Sheriff Department
Peter Babineau	Hampden County Sheriff Department
Michael Ashe	Hampden County Sheriff
Ying Wang	Representative Elizabeth Malia's Office
Rebecca Kaye	Representative Elizabeth Malia's Office
Margaret Wile	Representative Elizabeth Malia's Office
Kyle Pelletier	Department of Corrections

I **Call to order:** at 10:42 a.m. by Co-Chair Brian Sylvester.

II **Quorum:** 10 voting members present and 1 voting member via remote participation

Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Brian Sylvester with opening remarks regarding approval of February minutes. The minutes were voted upon and unanimously approved. Co-chair Sylvester then asked Commission Members and guests to introduce themselves.

Presentation 1: Hampden County Sheriff's Department- Co-chair Sylvester introduced guest speakers and presenters from the Hampden County Sheriff's Department (Dr. Martha Lyman, Peter Babineau and Della Burke). They gave the Commission an overview of their department's policies for stepping offenders down through security levels, the corresponding successes in reduction in recidivism, medical protocols for treating detox and withdrawal, and substance abuse treatment in the main institution's Substance Abuse Treatment Unit. A large component of the Hampden County Sheriff's Department involve community based programs and residential treatment facilities, such as, the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center, the Women's Regional Correctional

Center, AISS “After Incarceration Support Systems Program” and The Foundation House (HCSD half-way house operated in collaboration with the Corporation for Justice Management). These programs assist offender’s transition from incarceration to the community. Upon incarceration, each Offender is screened using the LSI-R:SV, a screening tool utilized to score each inmate’s level of risk for recidivism as well as criminal behavior. Other screening assessments that may be utilized are CAGE for substance abuse, CIWA-AR for alcohol or Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale “COWS”.

The Hampden County Sheriff’s Department representatives detailed the Department’s After Incarceration Support Systems (“AISS”) Program, used to enhance public safety through strategic partnership and support. It educates and assists inmates in transitioning back to their home communities. Majority of offenders are faced with many issues such as addiction, mental health, employment obstacles, financial or housing situations. Without these programs many offenders once released are prone to return to crime. The programs are partnered with community providers such as the Providence Behavioral Health and Phoenix House, to provide treatment and intermediate sanctions for relapse rather than return to jail.

Representative Hunt raised the question, what is the process for pre-trial offenders and what types of services are offered to them? Dr. Lyman responded that every offender goes through a 30 day mandatory assessment; even if after 5 days they are released. It is important for all inmates to have such an assessment so at least they get the proper assistance and resources to guide them as an inmate and after they are released. Anyone involved in criminal justice can join the AISS program. Ex-offenders can take advantage of their referrals to community agencies, assistance with food, clothing, housing, employment, etc. Some of the program’s mentors are ex-offenders who have participated in the program and have succeeded. Each offender who participates is provided with a release plan designed to address the needs for which they were incarcerated. HCSD’s belief is that re-entry into the community begins on day one of incarceration.

Before presenting our next presentation District Attorney David Sullivan joined the meeting via remote participation.

Presentation 2: Mass. Department of Correction- Co-Chair Sylvester then introduced Carol Mici and Kyle Pelletier from Mass. Department of Correction “DOC”. They provided an overview regarding their re-entry programs for inmates to transition back into the community, specifically focusing on the Substance Abuse program continuum. They explained that the DOC is now approaching substance abuse both as a public safety initiative but also as a public health initiative, as inmates upon release are at an increased risk for overdose. Upon incarceration each inmate is assessed to target their need areas such as education, psychological services or substance abuse.

Evidence Based Treatment programs can reduce recidivism and strengthen public safety due to fewer victims and inmates. The DOC finds that around 75% of inmates have a documented substance abuse need based on either the Risk/Need assessment or the Texas Christian University Drug Screening. The types of treatments usually offered are residential, non-residential, MATRI (Medication Assisted Treatment Reentry Initiative) or Aftercare which is a community based program. While these programs are found to be effective, program participation during incarceration is not mandatory in Massachusetts. Many inmates who are assessed with a substance abuse issue do not get placed into a facility with a substance abuse program, decline the program and/or are terminated from the program for noncompliance. Identifying these gaps the DOC has increased programming space at the minimum security prisons and further incentivized participation in programming. For example at MCI Norfolk, increased incentives for participation in programming resulted in a 54% reduction in refusals, 8% reduction in termination and a 13% increase in completions.

The continuum does not just cover programming while incarcerated but also provides support to those engaged in MATRI post release with the implementation of Recovery Support Navigators who can follow up with inmates post release to assist them with any challenges they have upon release; this “warm handoff” is key in assisting inmates post release.

Other Business: Co-Chair Sylvester then asked Sheila Casey, Specialty Courts Administrator, for a status update on the Drug Court manual and the Center of Excellence. The final draft of the manual has been circulated to Chief Justice Carey and will be circulated to the Specialty Court

Steering Committee this week. The Center of Excellence is up and running and currently working on two grant applications, one with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ("SAMSHA") and the other through the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Center is also planning to conduct an evaluation of Drug Courts as requested by the Legislature which will begin next fiscal year.

Co-Chair Sylvester raised a motion to table discussion regarding non-violent offenses committed by substance addicted offenders was voted and seconded by Representative Hunt. Representative Hunt felt it was best to postpone a discussion until the Governor has made a decision to provide drug treatment instead of incarceration for nonviolent offenders.

The Commission then engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding sub committees and their goals. It was decided to remove the two previously formed subcommittees Treatment and Specialty Courts. The Commission will focus on the resources they currently have and gather data to determine whether there is a need to expand court services or provide more staff in the courts. From that information Charlene Bonner stated that we could utilize the data to assist in treatment plans along with the information provided from each presentation. Representative Hunt also stated that the Commission will need to come up with a budget plan for fiscal year 2017 of what this will cost. It was also suggested that a sub-committee be formed to analyze data and the number of people in court programs to determine how many more could be serviced. Co-Chair Sylvester then made a motion that this suggestion be adopted; it was seconded by Matthew McKenna. Co-Chair Sylvester then asked any Commission member interested in assisting the sub-committee to sign up.

New Business: The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2015. At such time Matthew McKenna and Edward Callahan, Department of Veterans' Services will present a broad overview on statewide systems in Norfolk and Suffolk Counties.

Adjournment: Co-Chair Sylvester declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22pm