

Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO)

November 19, 2015 Meeting

MINUTES

LOCATION: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

1515 S Street, Room 510-South, Sacramento, CA

IN ATTENDANCE:

COMIO Council Members

- Secretary Jeffrey Beard, Ph.D., COMIO Chair, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
- Brenda Grealish, Chief, Mental Health Services Division, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) (representing DHCS Director Toby Douglas)
- Alfred Joshua, M.D., MBA, FAAEM, Chief Medical Officer, San Diego County Sheriff's Department
- Mack Jenkins, Chief Probation Officer, San Diego County (via phone)
- The Honorable Stephen V. Manley, Santa Clara Superior Court Judge
- Lester P. Pincu, D. Criminology (via phone)
- Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Law Enforcement Consultant, Orange County

CDCR Staff

- Jessica Barraza, Office Technician, Office of the Secretary
- Lisa Heintz, Parole Administrator, Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO)
- Diana Toche, DDS, Undersecretary, Health Care Services
- Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer, COMIO

Interested Parties and Guests

- Rebecca Gonzales, Director of Government Relations and Political Affairs, National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
- Anna Hasselblad, Director, Public Policy, Steinberg Institute
- Sheree Kruckenberg, Vice President, Behavioral Health, California Hospital Association
- Karen Moen, Division of Juvenile Justice, Judicial Council
- Joseph V.A. Partansky, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
- Kit Wall, Kit Wall Productions, Words to Deeds Coordinator
- Molly Willenbring, Executive Director, Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC)
- Helene Zentner, Field Representative, BSCC

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Beard called the meeting to order and welcomed new COMIO appointee Mack Jenkins, Chief Probation Officer for San Diego County. He further extended a welcome to the new COMIO Executive Officer, Stephanie Welch.

Informational Items

Chair's Report – Dr. Beard noted his support for COMIO and acknowledged how much work the council had done during the year to produce the 2015 Annual Report to the Legislature. He recognized the significant work of the previous executive officer and shared his confidence in the newly appointed executive officer, Stephanie Welch, to continue to strengthen the impact of COMIO, noting the additional benefit of new expert appointees.

Executive Officer's Report – Ms. Welch discussed her background as mental health social worker with a career working in policy and program administration. She expressed her commitment to supporting COMIO's work through building relationships with members and stakeholders, understanding relevant data and evaluation, and seeking lessons learned from those doing the work. Together a workplan with measurable objectives will be developed to focus COMIO's efforts on what is most critical, timely, and provides added value to administrators and policy makers, and ultimately the individuals, families, and communities COMIO intends to impact. Today's environment offers substantial opportunity to achieve progress with policy implementation in both the behavioral health and criminal justice systems. COMIO has much to offer in a pragmatic manner.

Mr. Welch report on the status of the COMIO Best Practices Awards for 2016. Members present discussed their support for identify recipients rather than soliciting applications. A small workgroup was established to look at revamping the process and focus, including COMIO members Brenda Grealish, Judge Stephen Manley, and Jessica Cruz. A recommendation for consideration will be provided at the January meeting.

Review and Discuss COMIO's Final Draft of the 2015 Report to the Legislature

Ms. Welch provided background regarding setting priorities for 2016 activities. At the September meeting, COMIO adopted the 2015 Annual Report to the Legislature, now the work must be concrete and value-added. The current 2015 report did identify some of those next steps but they need further study and discussion. Today's input on will aid in identifying how measurable impacts in select priority areas can be achieved.

Feedback will be incorporated into a workplan for 2016 and will be on-going. While the plan may not be able to include all of the next steps identified it will reflect the ones that consistently "rise to the top" in terms of:

1. Being the most relevant to the 3 priority areas identified in the 2015 Annual Report building upon existing work,
2. Represent a strong fit for COMIO that is consistent with purpose,
3. Take advantage of the current landscape and leverage opportunities,
4. Is feasible with limited resources, and
5. Can result in measurable outcomes

Training Next Step Priorities – Reported by Charlie Walters, Training Committee Chair

- Promote contents of existing plan,
- Build on what has already been accomplished with focus on enhancing understanding of the training needs of a full range of first responders including fire and emergency services,
- Act as a conduit for multiple training entities, facilitate sharing of best practice,
- Investigate what is being done to support the mental well-being of first responders, and
- Investigate the training being provided across entities and how COMIO can be a resource for those interested in improving their training -
 - In light of recent policy shifts in public safety policy, council members discussed the importance of preparing staff with skill sets to support the changing population of people with mental illness who are criminally involved at the local level.
 - Action: Training committee requested that an amendment be made to the 2015 report on page 15 to now read, *The Committee would like to develop specific recommendations aimed at improving the impact of mental health training in California*". Motion approved

It was suggested that COMIO could consider weighing in on quality training for individuals who are first responders to people with multiple disabilities in addition to mental illness, such as physical and intellectual disabilities.

Diversion Next Step Priorities – Reported by Judge Stephen Manley, Diversion Committee Chair

- Promote: contents of existing plan, a common assessment tool, identifiers for community placed high-risk individuals, successful service and housing siting strategies, and adequate housing and residential options,
- Identify: Local programs that are effectively serving criminally involved persons (adult and youth) with mental health challenges, the role Public Guardians plays in diversion and support improvements, and barriers to providers serving the target population, and policy and legislative barriers that need to be addressed for the above,
- Map which entities are studying what regarding emerging best practices from public safety realignment, MIOCR, MHSA programs and others,
- Participate in Prop 47 Implementation, and
- Participate in planning grant efforts for Certified Behavioral Health Clinics.

Additional comments included looking strategies to support centralized assessments and triage centers and using universal assessment tools to facilitate data sharing.

Juvenile Justice Next Step Priorities – Report by Ms. Welch

- Promote: promising practices in prevention and early intervention programs that could significantly reduce criminal justice contact for youth with trauma and other mental health needs, and strategies to address the racial and ethnic disproportion of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.
- Identify: Ways in which MICOR Juvenile Justice grants are developing models that support reinvestment in behavioral health prevention and early intervention programs.
- Collaborate with Diversion and Training Committees, when appropriate, to include the needs of juveniles/ youth in their activities

Next Steps, Priorities and Future Meetings

Helene Zenter reported that BCSS will be overseeing Prop 47 funds and suggested that COMIO provide a member to serve on the executive steering committee and to act as subject matter expert to review RFPs.

DHCS is developing the “what constitutes certification” for Community Behavioral Health Clinics. It was suggested that COMIO participate and monitor these activities.

The Diversion and Training Committees will meet on December 17th. Future COMIO meetings for 2016 will be identified and shared soon.

Adjourn