

Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO)

Teleconference December 12, 2014

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

COMIO Council Members

- Dr. Mark A. Grabau, Ph.D., Chief Psychologist, California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) (representing DSH Director Cliff Allenby)
- Brenda Grealish, Chief, Mental Health Services Division, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) (representing DHCS Director Toby Douglas)
- Manuel J. Jimenez, Jr., MA, MFT, Director, Behavioral Health Care Services, Alameda County, COMIO Vice Chair
- David Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Ret.), Humboldt County (via phone)
- The Honorable Stephen V. Manley, Santa Clara Superior Court Judge
- David Meyer, J.D., Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California (via phone)
- James W. Sweeney, J.D., Legislative Advocate, James W. Sweeney and Associates
- Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Law Enforcement Consultant, Orange County

CDCR Staff

- Kirsten Barlow, Executive Officer, COMIO
- Patricia Carrillo, Office Technician
- Nolice Edwards, Chief Deputy Secretary, Office of Public and Employee Communications
- Thomas Gilevich, Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs
- Lisa Heintz, Parole Administrator, Division of Adult Parole Officers
- Joe Medina, Special Assistant Operations, Office of the Secretary
- Albert Rivas, Deputy Chief, Office of External Affairs
- Robert Storms, Special Assistant to Undersecretary Diana Toche
- Millicent Tidwell, Director, Division of Rehabilitative Programs
- Nick Weber, Staff Council, Office of Legal Affairs

Interested Parties

- Molly Willenbring, Executive Director, Forensic Mental Health Association of California
- Helene Zentner, California Board of State and Community Corrections

Welcome and Introductions

Kirsten Barlow, COMIO Executive Officer, started the teleconference at 1:35 p.m. and self-introductions were made. The purpose of the conference call is to generate ideas of potential topics of focus for the Council's work and deliverables in the coming year, as well as identify key partners for its work.

Discussion of Potential COMIO Priorities for 2015

- Mr. Meyer suggested COMIO focus on the Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) wait list, including the lack of capacity at the local level and in the Department of State Hospitals. COMIO could identify mechanisms to deal with the problem, and involve the Judicial Council and Sheriff's Association. Additionally, Mr. Meyer suggested focusing on implementation of Proposition 47. COMIO could identify and track the problems that arise, and observe how mental health resources react to problems that arise. Could work with Judicial Council, Sheriffs, probation chiefs, and county mental health and substance use disorder programs.

- Ms. Graeish suggested COMIO develop an overview report on the state-of-the-state on criminal justice and mental health issues. This could provide a sense of the current foundation, key issues (such as Prop. 47, Affordable Care Act, Realignment), and populations affected.
- Mr. Walters suggested COMIO focus on its web site to serve as a better resource to county government and service providers and provide more information about available training and links to promising and evidence based programs and strategies.
- Mr. Lehman suggested COMIO's juvenile justice focus could include monitoring potential changes to the IST standards for juveniles. Additionally, COMIO could promote the creation of juvenile mental health care that is beyond acute mental health care. The federal lock-out for funding is a barrier that needs to be addressed. A facility in Humboldt County may be a model to explore and replicate.
- On the topic of law enforcement training, several council members suggested COMIO focus on this area. Mr. Jimenez noted this topic is of interest to the County Behavioral Health Directors Association. Judge Manley indicated that funding seems to be a major obstacle with training for law enforcement. Mr. Lehman suggested COMIO follow-up with the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) representative and request to be consulted as they look at mental health issues, and suggested COMIO could focus its next round of Promising Practices awards on this area. Mr. Sweeney supported a focus on this topic, but stated a concern about COMIO's legal authority to weigh in on legislation. Mr. Walters indicated that we should offer our expertise to POST's legislative team, identify any suggestions on the hours and content of training and look at San Antonio as a model. Additionally, paramedics have a decentralized training model that may be worth exploring.
- Judge Manley encouraged COMIO to urge implementation of the recommendations included in the Judicial Task Force report from 2011, particularly given that three years of comprehensive work was contributed to the recommendations in the report.
- On the topic of community reentry, a number of council members support COMIO work on this topic. Judge Manley discussed it in relation to Proposition 47, and Mr. Grabau spoke to the importance of housing so that treatment gains can be sustained once an individual is living in the community.

(VI) The Next COMIO Meeting

The next COMIO meeting is January 22, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 1515 S Street, Room 510-S, Sacramento, CA 95814. Attendees should feel free to bring their lunch, giving the meeting's time. The

(V) Adjournment of Meeting

The conference call was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.