

COUNCIL ON MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS

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MINUTES

May 17, 2007

This meeting was held at the headquarters building of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Office of the Secretary, in Sacramento.

In Attendance:

Council Members

Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D., Vice-Chairperson
Wendy Lindley, Judge, Orange County Superior Court
Dave Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Retired), Humboldt County
Duane E. McWaine, M.D., Medical Director, DHCMHC, Los Angeles
David Meyer, J.D., USC Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science
Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Assistant Sheriff, Orange County Sheriff

Support Staff

Allan Lammers, Executive Officer
Patricia Mook, Executive Assistant, Office of Facilities Management, CDCR

Interested Parties

Aaron Carruthers, Office of State Senator Darrell Steinberg, Sacramento
Lynda Frost, Field Representative, Corrections Standard Authority, Sacramento
Helene Zentner, Consultant, Corrections Standard Authority, Sacramento
Annie Breault Darling, Advocate for Offenders with Mental Illnesses, Sacramento
Mark Grabau, Ph.D., Vice-President, Forensic Mental Health Association, California
Molly Willenbring, Executive Director, Forensic Mental Health Association
Emily Brayton, Area Business Specialist, Ortho-McNeil & Janssen Pharmaceutical Services
Betty Sutton, Ph.D., California Psychological Association, Folsom
Robert Storms, Staff Services Manager I, Division of Adult Parole Operations, CDCR
Jill Dubbs, Staff Services Manager II, Division of Adult Parole Operations, CDCR
Doug McKeever, Director, Mental Health, Division of Correctional Health Care Services, CDCR
Joseph A. Partansky, Advocate for the Frail, Elderly, and Person with Disabilities, Concord
Zack Olmstead, Homeless Policy Advocate, Housing California, Sacramento
Goldie Parino, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Division of Adult Parole Operations, CDCR
Brooke Gibson, Ortho-McNeil & Janssen Pharmaceutical Services, San Francisco
Karen Moen, Collaborative Justice Project, Administrative Office of the Courts
Sofia Miuham, Paralegal, Rosen, Bien, and Galvan, San Francisco
James Kenshalo, LCSW, Contra Costa County Mental Health Services, Concord

Absent:

Council Members James E. Tilton, Chairperson; Jo Robinson, M.F.T., Assistant Director, Programs, San Francisco Jail Psychiatric Services; James W. Sweeney, Legislative Advocate, California State NAACP, Sacramento

A quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D., Vice-Chairperson.

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Opening Comments/Previous Meeting Minutes

Dr. Mayberg, Vice-Chairperson, welcomed all in attendance; introductions were made.

Allan Lammers, Executive Officer, briefly reviewed the agenda, as well as the meeting materials that were distributed to Council Members.

There were no changes noted to the minutes of March 14, 2007; therefore, a motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the meeting, held at the Embassy Suites Hotel Conference Center in Seaside, be approved. The motion was passed.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Legislation Discussion

Senate Bill (SB) 851; Steinberg; Mentally Ill Offenders

Aaron Carruthers discussed SB 851, which is Senator Steinberg's comprehensive approach to provide services to mentally ill offenders. This bill would authorize superior courts to develop and implement mental health courts for offenders suffering from serious mental illness. Work is being done to narrow the bill and define the language. A review of Assembly Bill (AB) 2034 (Chapter 215 Statutes of 2006) is also being conducted as it could apply to SB 851.

AB 900 (Chapter 7 Statutes of 2007); Solorio, Agazarian & Machado; Prisons: Construction

This bill authorizes the financing and construction of State prison facilities using lease-purchase financing arrangements by means of the issuance of State revenue bonds. Aaron Carruthers informed the Council that since AB 900 is passed, Senator Steinberg is working with the leadership of the Legislature on how to shape SB 851.

May Revise

Aaron Carruthers briefly discussed the May Revise noting the tie-ins to AB 900 as it applies to parity in pay for staff of the Department of Mental Health and CDCR; as well as \$50 Million available for rehabilitation and treatment of prison inmates and parolees.

Other

Zack Olmstead of Housing California talked about a pilot program called PROMISE that could be rolled out to select locations if funding becomes available. PROMISE seeks to transition homeless offenders with mental illness who are exiting prison into permanent supportive housing with integrated services. Working with CDCR, PROMISE will provide transitional supportive housing and necessary services to 100 participants, in each selected area, while they are on parole.

Robert Storms, Staff Manager, Division of Adult Parole Operations, CDCR, briefly discussed parole statistics. There are 133,000 individuals on parole and of this number, 22,000 are mentally ill (3,940 individuals are very seriously mentally ill).

Council Member Charles Walters briefly discussed how the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) will implement AB 900. OCSD plans to look at existing programs/existing facilities/existing bed space in order to create short- and long- term plans for programming mentally ill offenders. **Action:** Update to be provided at the next COMIO meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Recommendations for Minimum Standards for Assessing Mental Incompetence in the Justice System

Dr. Mayberg briefed the Council on this topic, stating that over the last several meetings we have become increasingly aware of the number of individuals who have been declared incompetent to stand trial by reason of insanity. Council Members Dave Meyer, Judge Lindley, Dr. McWaine, and Jo Robinson met to discuss a proposal that would require minimum standards for defendants claiming Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI). Some of the

information discussed was distributed to Council Members. **Action:** Look into proposing legislation to adopt minimum standards for NGRI, as well as the training needed.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Impact on the Department of Mental Health and County Mental Health as a Result of Pay Increases for Forensics Services in State-Level Corrections

Dr. Mayberg discussed the workforce crisis facing the mental health arena. One of the barriers with recruiting qualified individuals is salary. Dr. Mayberg also discussed a recruitment effort offered through the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), University of California, Berkeley. CalSWEC is a partnership between the schools of social work, public human service agencies, and other related professional organizations that facilitate the integration of education and practice to assure effective, culturally competent service delivery to the people of California. CalSWEC is funded by a contract with the State Department of Mental Health, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, and the California Wellness Foundation. CalSWEC focuses on developing a culturally competent corps of professionals who are specifically educated in social work and preparing for careers in the mental health service sector.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Letter to Counties/Best Practices

Allan Lammers and Dr. McWaine are working on the survey. Additional information will be presented at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Update on the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grant Program

Lynda Frost, Corrections Standard Authority (CSA), provided a brief update on the MIOCR Grant Program. Forty-four applicants received grants, with one-third up and running. There are over 100 clients enrolled. Lynda mentioned the next edition of “MIOCR Matters” will be available shortly and she will ensure the Council receives a copy. The next edition of “MIOCR Matters” will focus on the counties participating in the Program. It will also feature an article regarding training through the California Institute for Mental Health (CIMH).

Helene Zentner briefly talked about training she has attended as well as other CIMH training to be provided. Future training will include a focus on Mental Health Courts in August/September 2007.

The Department of Mental Health has partnered with CIMH to provide training on evidence-based practices, as well as training on such topics as crisis intervention, interagency partnerships, and cultural competency.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Judges’ Criminal Justice/Mental Health Leadership Initiative

Karen Moen announced that the Judicial Council of California was selected by the Council of State Government’s Justice Center to participate in a national project designed to assist State judicial leaders in their efforts to improve responses to people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system. California was one of seven states chosen to participate in the project. (The other states are Georgia, Texas, Vermont, Missouri, Nevada, and Florida.) As part of the initiative, the states will receive technical assistance, access to leading national experts, and a small amount of funding support.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – “Words to Deeds” Conference

David Meyer reported that the fourth “Words to Deeds” conference will be held in Sacramento on June 29, 2007 and is sponsored by the California State Sheriff’s Association and Eli Lilly. The main focus of the conference through interactive workshop sessions is to address barriers faced by mentally ill offenders and to determine how the courts, law enforcement agencies, and mental health professionals can minimize such barriers. As in the past, a goal of the conference is to provide individuals attending the conference with a list of action items to help ameliorate the problems of mentally ill offenders in the attendees home communities using tools discussed at the conference.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – Old Business

N/A

AGENDA ITEM 10 – New Business/Announcements/Discussion

1) Ms. Annie Breault Darling shared her letter, addressed to the Receiver, with Council Members. Ms. Darling has a son who has been in and out of the county jails, prisons, and hospitals due to mental illness. Ms. Darling thanked the State for finally treating her son, and she is very grateful.

2) A discussion took place regarding changing the September COMIO meeting from September 20 to September 6. Further information will be provided at the July meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be held in Sacramento on July 19 at the State Department of Mental Health, 1600 9th Street, Room 151.

MINUTES RECORDED AND SUBMITTED BY:

Patricia Mook, Executive Assistant, CDCR