

**MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT ACCESS
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE**

JOINT MEETING

July 13, 2015

The Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force and the Behavioral Health Treatment Access Legislative Task Force met jointly at 10:00 a.m., on Monday, July 13, 2015, in Room B-MAC, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force members present: Senators Jeremy Hutchinson, Co-Chair, Joyce Elliott, Representative Dwight Tosh, Drew Baker, Tjuana Byrd, Dan Casady, John Felts, John Wesley Hall, Tim Helder, Wendy Kelly, Benny Magness, Steve Newsome, Robin Raveendran, and Sheila Sharp.

The Behavioral Health Treatment Access Legislative Task Force members present: Senator Scott Flippo and Representative Clarke Tucker, Co-Chairs, Carole Baxter, Ann Brown, Dan Honey, David Sterling, and Mark Thurman.

Other Legislative Members present: Representatives Charles Blake and Trevor Drown.

Senator Hutchinson called the meeting to order.

Senator Hutchinson recognized Governor Asa Hutchinson to speak to the Task Forces.

Addressing Criminal Justice System Challenges: How States Can Achieve More Effective Public Safety Policies

Mr. Marc Pelka, Deputy Director of State Initiatives, and Mr. Ben Shelor, Policy Analyst, Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, were recognized to present the initiatives CSG is involved in to assist policymakers in developing evidence-based strategies within their local jails and state prison system. Mr. Pelka explained one CSG initiative is the Justice Reinvestment Project which compiles state-specific comprehensive data to develop consensus-based policies to reduce corrections spending and generate savings that can be reinvested to redesign programs and training strategies, integrate evidence-based practices in treatment programs, decrease recidivism and increase public safety. According to CSG's report, Arkansas's prison population increased 34% between CY2005 - 2015 and could climb an additional 44% by 2025. Between CY2012 - 2014, prison admissions increased 57%. Mr. Pelka said CSG is eager to meet with both task forces at a future date to implement policy options for the state's criminal justice system.

Overview of the South Dakota 24/7 Sobriety Project

Mr. Ronnie Baldwin, Executive Director, Arkansas Sheriff's Association and Mr. Bill Mickelson, President, Mickelson Consulting Group LLC, explained how the 24/7 Sobriety monitoring program reduced recidivism rates on substance and alcohol abuse in South Dakota's state correctional system. The program involves voluntary sobriety testing which is paid for by offenders who wish to stay in society. In South Dakota, 85% of the prison population has an admitted alcohol or drug problem. There are approximately 2,500 participants with DUI convictions in South Dakota's program and 99.1 % of participants are successfully following the program guidelines.

Presentation of the Sequential Intercept Model

Ms. Bonnie White, CEO, MidSouth Health Systems, Dianne Skaggs, Executive Director, Mental Health Council of Arkansas, and (via conference call) Mr. Dan Abreu and Dr. Henry Steadman, Policy Research Associates, were recognized. Dr. Steadman explained the Sequential Intercept Model is a schematic diagram of the criminal justice system divided into five intercepts. The model visualizes a series of points of interception at which services can be provided to keep offenders with behavioral health disorders from penetrating deeper into the criminal justice system.

Mr. Abreu explained how Policy Research Associates conducts Sequential Intercept Mapping and Sequential Intercept Model Train the Trainer workshops. These workshops are designed to allow cross-system collaboration between multidisciplinary teams to examine the gaps between the criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse systems. The teams then develop programs to fill the gaps to better serve individuals with mental illness, coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

Presentation by SAS – The Value of Analytics in Criminal Justice

Ms. Breanne Davis, Arkansas, State and Local Government, Kay Meyer, Principal Industry Consultant, and Mr. Will Jones, Child Well-Being Industry Consultant, were recognized to explain the SAS software program. The software is a comprehensive tool that law enforcement and criminal justice agencies can use to quickly retrieve accurate information about offenders with prior criminal records. The program consolidates an offender's criminal trends and patterns into a single file that helps criminal justice agencies make quicker and more cost effective decisions to reduce recidivism, reduce hours of investigative work, and thereby lowering costs to the state and criminal justice system.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.