

Forensic Interagency Task Force

5-23-17

Meeting Narrative

Those attending the meeting held in the DOC Training Academy Complex on the above date were: **Tricia Baffa** (Forensic Case Manager Supervisor); **Daniel Beauchamp** (Regional Forensic Liaison); **Justin Behrens, LSW** (Nat. Assoc. Social Workers); **Michele Bratina** (Asst. Professor); **Tori Bright** (Regional MH Services Coordinator); **Andrea Concordia** (Dir. Targeted Case Mgr); **Lance Couturier** (Psychology Dir. Annuitant); **Hazel Dacus** (Forensic Coordinator); **David Dinich** (President FTAC); **Cindy Egizio** (Dir. of Corrections); **James Fouts** (Dir of FSS); **Heidi Fuehrer** (Psych Services Specialist); **Larry George** (Ex. Dir. LCBHDS); **Moriah Harms** (North Hampton Co); **Laurie Hess** (FCCII- Forensic Corrections Counselor); **Janet Jones** (Gaudenzia); **Mary Jordan** (Dir. Spec. Clinical +CJ Unit); **David Kopinski** (Wernersville CCC); **Robert Marsh** (DOC Psychologist); **Ray McManamon** (Dir. Emergency & Court Services); **Maureen McManus** (I.V. Pretrial); **Donna McNelis** (Dir. BH Education); **Kerri Miller** (SPORE Case Mgr.); **Robert Nichols** (Prime Care); **Heather Pack** (Forensic Case Manager); **Sharon Potter** (Counselor); **Andrea Priori-Meintel** (CCTM); **Palukuri Reddy, MD** (psychiatrist); **Jessica Reichenbach** (OMHSAS); **Melissa Repsher** (Reentry Division Director PBPP); **Meagan Rice** (Justice Related Services); **Emily Scordellis** (Prime Care); **Nicole Seiple** (Forensic MH Caseworker); **Matthew Sheaffer** (Parole Agent 2); **Jack Sommers** (Superintendent); **Vivian Spiese** (FTAC); **S. Drew Taylor** (Spore Dir); **Stacy Tekely** (Sup. JRS Unit Mgr.) **Tammy Twombly** (Social Worker 11); **Josh Warfield** (Court Coordinator); **Nancy Wieman** (Consultant); **Elaine Ziegler** (MH Mgr. Chester Co. Prison); **Jennifer Zimmerman** (Inst. Regional Dir); and **Lisa Zook** (PA Assoc. County Administrators).

This is the twelfth meeting of the resumption of the Forensic Interagency Task Force (FITF) convened by FTAC with 44 attendees.

Facilitator, Dave Dinich of FTAC, welcomed the group and asked attendees to hold off on introductions and a relating of new things that are happening until the main presenters arrive so they can know to whom they are presenting.

Instead he asked for several updates. Tori led off with a discussion re: the changes occurring at Norristown State Hospital. There is a planned closure of the 120 Civil beds at NSH with approximately 50% already closed. There will be a repurposing of the 120 beds to serve consumers with forensic involvement. The facility will be called the Southeast Forensic Treatment Center. Assessment teams have been set up and are working on service plans for those already released. There will be 30 beds from Wernersville State Hospital that will be made available to the Southeast Region. Those Counties that use WHS are being offered additional CHIPP slots to develop projects to transfer consumers out. Indications are that all involved Counties are interested and are developing projects.

The focus for State Hospitals is now on diversion projects.

The ACLU suit has a list of 215 people waiting in county jails for competency evaluations or restoration services. The SE has made room for 95 beds but the list has increased from 170 to 215.

ACLU has filed an injunction recently against DHS indicating they are not doing enough. They will be enforcing the current law that says people can only remain on the waiting list for 7 days. The current average is 180 + days. The current agreement is for DHS to create an additional 100 beds within 6 months.

Danny Beauchamp is reporting that the Community Mental Health 101 Presentation at the Forensic Rights Conference has been developed and updated to be used for training DOC Psychological and Social Work Staff aimed at improving information and access to reentry services. There was a suggestion that DOC update their website with new information on reentry to include mental health resource information for each county.

The dates for the next Forensic Rights Conference were announced – November 29th and 30th, 2017. Official notices and call for papers will be going out soon.

Jim Fouts reported that the Philadelphia Forensic Task Force has been started and is working on several issues related to information sharing and communication between intercepts.

There was a report that the PA State Reentry Meeting was held in Harrisburg recently, which previewed the movie GRAVITY. Many have seen this since and highly recommend it.

Dave then went on to ask for Introductions and asked for opinions on the proposed consolidation of Human Services, Health, Drug and Alcohol Programs, and Aging.

The opinions varied from many no comment, no opinion, wait to see, ideal if it works. Some indicated that it would help with licensing surveys, sharing of resources, removing communication problems, falling in line with the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics approach. There was strong belief that the Counties need to be involved in the decision-making process.

The main presentation was by the Lehigh County's Team MISA program. (See attached PowerPoint)

The keys to development and success of the program have been – weekly meetings, very organized approach, dedication of members and buy in from key decision makers. Some challenges included inmates refusing to sign release of info forms, and language (system language and acronyms) differences.

The next meeting will be on July 25, 2017 beginning at 10:00AM. It is scheduled for Classroom 11 again in the DOC Training Academy in Elizabethtown.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Fouts, LSW FSS