

Committee on Mental Health and the Justice System | Minutes

Monday, July 27, 2020

Virtual meeting

10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Present (telephonically): Kent Batty (Chair), Mary Lou Brncik, Brad Carlyon, Amelia Cramer, Shelley Curran, Jim Dunn, Hon. Elizabeth Finn, Hon. Michael Hintze, Josephine Jones, Dianna Kalandros, Cynthia Kuhn, Jason Winsky for Chief Chris Magnus, James McDougall, Dr. Carol Olson, Ronald Overholt, Beya Thayer for Chief Deputy David Rhodes, J.J. Rico, Michael Shafer, Hon. Barbara Spencer, Christopher Staring, Hon. Fanny Steinlage, Paul Thomas

Absent/Excused: Natalie Jones, Michael Lipscomb, Kristin McManus

Guests/Presenters: Dana Flannery, Alex Herrera, Greg Honig, Dr. Megan Woods

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff: Theresa Barrett, Don Jacobson, Liana Garcia, Diana Tovar

Regular Business

Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes from May 18, 2020, MHJS meeting were presented for approval.

Motion: Judge Elizabeth Finn moved to approve the May 18, 2020, minutes as presented.

Seconded: Judge Michael Hintze. Motion was approved unanimously.

Legislative Update: SB1523- *Mental Health Omnibus*

Liana Garcia, AOC Legislative Liaison, provided a brief update on the status of the legislation. Ms. Garcia noted that Rule 11 did not pass. Senate Bill 1523 passed. A few highlights of the bill include:

- Makes several changes to the insurance code and public health code with an aim toward increasing health insurance coverage for mental health and substance use disorders and decreasing the frequency of preventable suicides.
- Prohibits health care insurers from denying claims for mental health or substance use disorder benefits for a minor solely on the grounds that the service was provided in a school or other educational setting or ordered by a court.
- Establishes a Suicide Mortality Review Team in DHS to review data and adequacy of statutes and services and determine changes necessary to decrease preventable suicides.
- All information acquired by the Suicide Mortality Review Team is confidential and not subject to subpoena, discovery, or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding, with the exception of information that is otherwise publicly available.

AHCCCS Updates

AHCCCS staff Dana Flannery, Assistant Director, Greg Honig, Deputy General Counsel, Dr. Megan Woods DBH,LBL,BCBA, Integrated Care Administrator, and Alex Herrera, Project Manager presented an overview of AHCCCS and provided an informational document. The purpose of the presentation was to provide a general description of the court ordered evaluation (COE) process, court ordered treatment data, and the SMI determination process in Arizona and AHCCCS' involvement in these processes.

Discussion:

A member asked if AHCCCS monitors behavioral health utilization? Continue to submit authorization and Ms. Flannery will follow-up to determine restrictions on authorizations and possible reasons for denials. Are outside subject matter experts involved in making policy decisions? There are internal workgroups that can reach out to subject matter experts and AHCCCS Policy Committee (APC) also weighs in and then policies are put through public comment.

Review and Discussion of Draft Final Report

Mr. Batty and Mr. Jacobson, Sr. Special Projects Consultant Administrative Office of the Courts provided the committee with a look at the draft committee final report and encouraged member comments and editing suggestions. Mr. Batty informed the members to submit comments, edits, and suggestions for the report via email to Don Jacobson.

Discussion: Members discussed the enhanced services section of the report regarding increased costs. It was suggested to include a link to a list of mental health courts operating under guidelines in the report.

Motion: The Chair and staff, and members working at the Chair's request, have the members' authority to make changes and incorporate into next version of the final report on behalf of the committee, as contemplated by the members at today's meeting. Motion made by Jim McDougall and was seconded by Amelia Cramer. Unanimously approved.

Committee New/ Updates

Mr. Kent Batty advised the committee that Natalie Jones has resigned due to a heavy workload.

Good of the Order / Call to the Public

No one responded to the call to the public.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m by order of the chair.