

Committee on Mental Health and the Justice System | Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

State Courts Building • 1501 W. Washington St. • Phoenix, Arizona • Conference Room 119 A/B

Present: Kent Batty (Chair), Mary Lou Brncik, Brad Carlyon, Amelia Cramer, Shelley Curran, Asim Dietrich (Proxy for J.J. Rico), Jim Dunn, Hon. Elizabeth Finn, Hon. Michael Hintze, Natalie Jones, Josephine Jones, Dianna Kalandros, James McDougall, Dr. Carol Olson, Ron Overholt, Hon. Barbara Spencer, Beya Thayer (Proxy for David Rhodes), Paul Thomas, Jason Winsky (Proxy for Chief Christopher Magnus), Megan Woods and Susan Podshadley (Proxy for Michal Rudnick)

Telephonic: Hon. Cynthia Kuhn, Kristin McManus, Dr. Michael Shafer

Absent/Excused: Hon. Christopher Staring, Hon. Fanny Steinlage

Guests/Presenters: Kathy Bashor, Arizona Peer and Family Coalition; Lee Ann Bohn, Maricopa County; Hon. Juan Delgado, Glendale Municipal Court; Andrew Fleming, Banner University Health Plans/Arizona Peer and Family Coalition; Kristina Sabetta, Arizona Peer and Family Coalition

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff: Liana Garcia, Don Jacobson, Stacy Reinstein

Regular Business

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mr. Kent Batty (Chair) asked Committee members and guests to briefly introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Members were asked to approve minutes from October 28, 2019, noting they were in the meeting packet and provided electronically in advance of the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jim Dunn and seconded by Paul Thomas. Motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation & Discussion: Arizona Peer and Family Coalition

Kathy Bashor, President of the Arizona Peer and Family Coalition introduced herself and the other presenters, Kristina Sabetta and Andrew (Drew) Fleming. Presentation Slides were made available on the Committee's website in the meeting packet.

Ms. Bashor's work as an advocate began as a dream to create a peer and family system and was involved in spearheading the creation of the Office of Individual and Family Affairs (OIFA) through the Arizona Department of Health Services, which is now housed at AHCCCS. In addition, the OIFA Advisory Council was created to include a powerful community of peer and family-run organizations who provide leadership training, advocacy, and peer and family leads and monitoring within AHCCCS and at each health plan. Ms. Bashor underscored that it is of critical importance for peer and family members to be participants and leaders, and encouraged the Committee and others to tap into the network to support our work moving forward.

Kristina Sabetta presented the Coalition's *Call to Action* based on shared values and the Highlander Statement of Concern and Call to Action:

- We call upon all people committed to human rights to organize and fight against the passage and implementation of legislation making it easier to lock up, shock, and forcibly drug people labeled with psychiatric disorders.
- We call upon all people committed to human rights to work together to build a mental health system that is based upon the principle of self-determination, on a belief in our ability to recover, and on our right to define what recovery is and how best to achieve it.
- We call upon people who have used mental health services to heal each other by telling our stories.
- We call upon elected officials, political candidates, and those with power over our lives to recognize and honor the legitimacy of our concerns through their policy statements, legislative proposals, and their actions.

Ms. Sabetta noted additional threats to the peer and family movement include the two biggest barriers to treatment: stigma and access. One way that stigma is perpetuated is through language, for example the term "frequent fliers" has a negative connotation. Reframing our language and using a "People First" language can help reduce stigma and improve access. An alternative reframing of "frequent fliers" would be to note that people are frequently in and out of our systems because when they enter our system, we did not get them what they needed at the time.

Ms. Sabetta also reviewed the timeline of the mental health and peer and family movements nationally, as well as within Arizona specifically. The "Ladders of Involvement" were presented which include 9 steps to true engagement, participation and initiation, with the attributes of meaningful involvement including access, voice and ownership.

Finally, Ms. Sabetta shared the Coalition's current policy priorities and how those intertwine with the Committee's work.

Andrew (Drew) Fleming currently works as an Adult Member Advocate with Banner University Health Plans where he is able to utilize his experience in the mental health and criminal justice systems to inform policy and decision making, as well as in direct support work with patients.

Mr. Fleming highlighted the need for peer and family specialists to be interwoven throughout the Sequential Intercept Model and put in place as a policy of the organizations and entities that interact throughout the SIM – from community to court, in jails and prisons, and upon re-entry and further community support. Mr. Fleming noted that a defendant, particularly one with mental health conditions, can greatly benefit from the court and jail providing additional understanding and assistance through forensic peers, and not just for individuals who are receiving services with a provider. Mr. Fleming provided additional clear examples along intercepts 4 and 5 – for those who are in prison and upon re-entry.

Committee members thanked Ms. Bashor, Ms. Sabetta and Mr. Fleming and discussed additional areas with the presenters related to creating and enhancing the integration of peer support needed for people in crisis and throughout the justice system.

Court Ordered Treatment Data: Feedback & Discussion

Megan Woods presented the data analysis that she and the team at AHCCCS have been working on related to Court Ordered Treatment. The [Court Ordered Treatment Data Snapshots](#) were provided on the Committee's website.

Ms. Woods and the Committee discussed what information AHCCCS has available and the Committee gave feedback on additional data analysis that will be helpful in our mutual work. This discussion also raised some gaps in the data and system, as well as discrepancies between the counties and health plans. Committee members again identified the need to understand why there are differences with the court-ordered evaluation and screening decision-making, and how consistency could be useful.

Maricopa County Mental Health Task Force

Lee Ann Bohn, Maricopa County Assistant County Manager presented the Committee with an update and status report on the Maricopa County Mental Health Task Force which was convened by Presiding Judge Welty and Chairman Gates in 2019. The [Presentation](#) was made available on the Committee's website.

Ms. Bohn shared an analysis of the Maricopa County jail population which has helped inform the work of the Task Force. This analysis shows that 17 percent of individuals in jail have some type of mental illness identified during the booking process. Further, when looking at an individual with an identified Serious Mental Illness "flag," additional points of interest include being more than twice as likely to have experienced homelessness; 1.5 times more likely to have more than one booking in a year; and 3 times more likely to have a substance use disorder. Of those individuals who have a mental illness, in comparison to those without a mental illness identification, the majority of the offense types are less serious crimes, including property/theft offenses (28%) and public order (33%). And finally, the data analysis showed that those who have a mental illness are more likely to stay in jail longer – at least twice as long as those without a mental illness.

Ms. Bohn reviewed the Task Force structure, including three primary working groups focused on: (1) Data Sharing; (2) SIM Intercepts 1-5 Mapping Update; and (3) SIM Intercept Zero.

Workgroup Report: Competency Practice

Dianna Kalandros updated the Committee on the current status of the workgroup's best practices for Restoration to Competency programs and shared that the workgroup has been vetting its proposal and inviting individuals and groups within the forensic Psychiatric/Psychology community to review and comment on the proposal.

News & Updates

Mr. Batty informed the Committee that there would not be a December meeting, and its next meeting will be January 27, 2020. Mr. Batty noted that the AOC would convene a stakeholder meeting to discuss and further engage them in the Committee's work, and address concerns that some stakeholders have expressed with its specific proposals and recommendations.

In addition, Mr. Batty noted that the Committee will need to review guidelines on meeting attendance and proxies early in the new year.

Mr. Batty noted that other presenters have been requested by Committee members and others and asked for any additional suggestions or input to be provided to staff.

Mr. Batty noted that Chief Deputy Dave Rhodes will be running for Sheriff of Yavapai County and conveyed how much we appreciate his participation, the work that Yavapai County is doing and its value to the Committee's and State's work in this area.

Good of the Order / Call to the Public

No members of the public requested to speak.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m. by order of the Chair.