

## INFORMAL WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 3, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Oval Office

PRESENT: Commissioners Kathy George, Mary P. Stern and Leslie Lewis.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, Silas Halloran-Steiner, Ted Smietana, Tim Loewen, Ron Huber.

Guests: Carl Gordon, Ph.D.; Gary Christensen, National Institute of Corrections.

Subject: Special Needs Task Force

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Kathy called the meeting to order.

Gary Christensen reviewed the recommendations made in the January 2010 report and the progress made by the SNTF. He said that, using the current SNTF definition, the special needs population could range from approximately 15-80% of the jail population, with 15% being the national average for mental illness and 80% being the national average for substance/alcohol abuse. He reviewed the purpose and goals of the SNTF:

- **Purpose:** Assess local criminal justice (CJ) system and how it interfaces with special needs populations (CD, DD, MH) in order to make recommendations and strengthen system initiatives.
- **Goals:** Increase the overall health and safety of our community by focusing on cost-effective, research-based principles to
  1. Prevent initial involvement of special needs persons in the CJ system;
  2. Reduce length of stay at Jail/Detention and ensure quality care while incarcerated; and
  3. Decrease the rate of return to the CJ system.

He stated that 187 local professionals, stakeholders, and consumers were surveyed and 100% indicated support of the overall SNTF project mission goals.

Recommendation: With the assistance of IT professionals, Yamhill County officials should consider implementing electronically a screening tool to understand the existing jail population in the context of risk to reoffend.

Progress:

Identified evidence-based MH, A&D, and Risk screenings to be used at booking;

Put together a local IT team and SNTF policy to make decisions about jail screen project;

and

Completed a "pilot" or point-in-time study of jail population to further identify next steps on jail screen project.

Recommendation: Consider the use of some brief jail mental health screen or a locally developed screening instrument to gain a better understanding of the jail population relative to special needs. Consider additional release services for the severely and persistently mentally ill, such as release

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with maintenance medication.

Progress: Brief Jail Mental Health Screen, Self-Report of A/D Use At Time Of Arrest, TCU Drug Screen.

Recommendation: Expand upon the history of collaboration among Yamhill County officials to develop better collaboration between partner agencies and organizational cultures that are more conducive to meeting agreed-upon SNTF system goals. Once definitions and target groups are agreed upon (inclusive of intended goals and/or outcomes), a full system review should take place to determine placement and actions for targeted populations after being sorted by variables such as criminogenic risk/need, psychiatric/clinical disorder, current crime, length of stay, etc.

Progress:

Started a Multi-disciplinary Jail Transition Team to review cases and make improvements about transition and reentry issues;

Continued to improve crisis response and diversion services via Community Crisis Response Team meetings with stakeholders ;

Wrote a \$250,000 collaboration MH & CJ system grant at BJA to improve crisis response capacity;

Developed a multi-disciplinary release of information (final implementation pending);

After critical review of the 45 CFR language, determined we could share additional info without releases when in "custodial" situations;

Initiated meetings in areas of Housing and Juvenile system improvements;

Identified two training arenas: one for the court with a 4-part series training and another for local LE who are going to do a half-day with MH staff in both McMinnville and Newberg.

Gary presented more detailed data samples and reviewed considerations for the jail sample and risk triage. He discussed the latitude that the county has in key decisions such as arrest, sentencing, and discharge.

After further discussion, the meeting adjourned.

Anne Britt

Secretary