

Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness
Meeting Minutes Executive Summary
September 23, 2013

- The Attorney General’s Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness held its biannual full meeting on September 23, 2013, co-chaired by Ohio Attorney General Mike Dewine and Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, former Justice on the Ohio Supreme Court
- Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine opened the meeting and stated that real progress has been made since the inception of the Task Force in December, 2011
- Moving forward, the Task Force will be asked to produce an annual report that is both retrospective and prospective for release around June, 2014. Participants can use the Human Trafficking Commission and Juvenile Foster Care Working Group reports as a guide
- To provide administrative support, each subcommittee has a point of contact
 - Ms. Stratton – Juvenile, Veterans, and Reentry
 - Michelle Gillcrist – Legislative Policy, Law Enforcement, and Aging
 - Michael Sheline – Research and Best Practices, Housing, Psychiatry and Treatment, and Mental Health Courts
- Ms. Stratton presented information about the Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program funded by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
 - There are twelve programs throughout Ohio with a focus on minorities leaving jail and prisons, a population with high needs in terms of drug and alcohol dependency
 - Programs are located in Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Lima, Lorrain, Mansfield, Toledo, Youngstown, and Warren
 - Ms. Stratton is attempting to have the program give a formal presentation at the next meeting
- Ohio Military Veterans Legal Assistance Program has been operational in Franklin County since January, 2013. The program provides free legal assistance to veterans and active duty military. Approximately 40% of calls about services come from Vietnam-era veterans. The program plans to expand statewide as the number of attorneys increases
- Volunteers of America receives a \$1.25 million grant to provide services to veterans and their families. A similar grant is being written to cover the Appalachian area where services for veterans are lacking
- NAMI Ohio offers programming proven to decrease stigma against mental illness, particularly schizophrenia. Programming is primarily offered in Cleveland; contact NAMI Ohio for information on expansion
- Two grants of \$500 each are given to Lisa Marie and Carolyn to help them attend the International CIT conference
- Judge Amy O’Grady discussed law enforcement programming. The Mercer County Sheriff’s Office hired a counselor for their jail who has assisted with crisis counseling and ensuring inmates can receive services and access to medications. Hancock County also has a counselor in their jail who has already assisted 42 released inmates.
- Ms. Stratton discussed mental health court programs in Hamilton County, both at the municipal and common pleas levels. The specialty dockets are currently in the process of certification and have already identified eligible clients and worked with Medicaid and OHFA. JFS is being restructured which is creating some delays. Next step is learning about when to target housing for mental health court clients.

- Veterans Services subcommittee has met with officials in Hamilton County Common Pleas, Cincinnati Municipal Court, Mansfield Municipal Court, and Marion Municipal Court. Greater Cleveland Veterans Court is working on certification. The subcommittee wants to develop a statewide curriculum and training program for veterans court as well as a peer mentoring program. Dr. Bob Hammond is working with the subcommittee to develop information about working with spouses of service members to recognize post-traumatic stress disorders.
- The Ohio Attorney General's Office Elder Abuse Commission was awarded a \$50,000 grant. Current focus is on how to recognize victims of elder abuse. Challenges are that 20% of individuals 55 and older have a mental health challenge, and many older adults have been misdiagnosed or undiagnosed. The Commission plans to pilot comprehensive training programs.
- DYS and DRC are working together in Madison on programming to youth who are in an adult facility, which is the first project of its kind in the country. Judge Gill co-chairs the committee and will be attending and speaking at three national conferences on juvenile justice issues
- Melinda has been working with the Jail Standards Review Committee to put specific jail standards in place on working with youth. A preliminary recommendation is for the judges to be advised when youth are being placed in the adult system. Funds are being given to DYS to do standard mental health screenings for jails.
- Ohio Juvenile Detention Director's Association is implementing the second version of the Massachusetts Youth Assessment Inventory (MAYSI-2), which is the most widely used juvenile justice mental health screening in the country. The tool screens for alcohol, drug use, anger, depression, anxiety, body discomfort and suicidal ideation.
- Conversations need to be had about bind overs, with the ideal situations being completely discretionary.