

The Criminal Justice and Mental Illness Task Force Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m. – State Library of Ohio

Justice Evelyn Stratton, retired, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. speaking about what our meeting will be based around and who would be speaking. Everyone went around the room and provided introductions. Justice Stratton then spoke about all of the work that is currently being done on the Stepping Up Program and what is upcoming. She also advised the group that if your county is not currently a part of Stepping Up, to take some flyers and give to your county officials so that they can get the ball rolling. She then introduced Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine expressed his appreciation for everyone's attendance and their role in this Task Force. He spoke to how we all play a role in eventually stopping the "revolving door" of the Criminal Justice System that so many individuals with mental health issues fall thru the cracks. The Ohio Attorney General's Office has created a Heroin Unit at the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. They are working with local law enforcement with investigations and pursuing players throughout the counties. He spoke about a new program they are forming called START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma), a pilot intervention program that will serve children and families harmed by parental opioid abuse in several southern Ohio counties. Also, establishing Drug Abuse Response Teams (DART) through partnerships with law enforcement and victim advocates to link victims of opioid overdoses with appropriate recovery programs.

The Attorney General's Office has filed lawsuit against five leading prescription opioid manufacturers and their related companies for allegedly understating the risks and overstating the benefits of these prescribed opioids. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine also announced a 12 point Ohio Recovery Plan with specific recommendations for battling our state's opioid crisis. As we move forward in our fight against Ohio's opioid crisis, we've found that substance abuse and mental health issues are frequently co-occurring disorders.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine was very pleased to report that through the work of this Task Force, we've been able to adopt a number of promising practices in Ohio. First, Crisis Intervention teams should be part of local police response. Since 2011, the Ohio Attorney General's Office has supported CIT training for local law enforcement agencies with more than \$501,000 in grant funds. In 2011, Ohio trained about 700 officers annually. In 2017 1,714 officers received CIT Training. Today 69% of Ohio's 968 law enforcement agencies have at least one CIT-Trained Officer. In 2012 the Ohio Attorney General's Office provided \$25,000 each in grant funds to the Mercer County Sheriff's Office and the Hancock County Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board. These agencies were tasked with developing programs to identify individuals with mental health needs so discharge planning could begin prior to release and recidivism could be prevented. As a result of the grant, 75 inmates with mental health needs completed the discharge plan assessment and 48 were successfully linked to community services after their discharge. One inmate who had regularly cycled in and out of the criminal justice system participated in the program and was release with help from the community partners, has since obtained employment, housing, and regularly visits with his daughter.

As part of this Task Force the Veterans Court and Military Affairs sub-committee was established to assist the justice system in dealing with the civil and criminal justice needs of military personnel and veterans. The sub-committee also developed a survey of Ohio's Veteran Treatment Courts to identify best practices in establishing a court that meets the needs of its veterans. The survey has been sent to all of Ohio's Veteran Treatment Courts. The Ohio Attorney General's office recently gave grants of

approximately \$7,500 to each of Ohio's 22 Veteran Treatment Courts to help with transportation needs to court-ordered appointments and meetings for participating veterans. Also, Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy hosted a training session for law enforcement officers entitled "Understanding the Impact of PTSD on Combat Veterans."

Finally, the Task Force strongly advocated for a "suspend" rather than a "terminate" Medicaid Policy which was implemented in Ohio on August 1, 2016. This will allow individuals in jail, upon release, to have immediate access to treatment including prescribed medication.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine then introduced Dr. Mark Hurst provided an update to group on Ohio MHAS programs and funding for co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues. Dr. Hurst joined the Ohio Department of Mental Health in 1993. He is a native of Zanesville, Ohio and was 1981 class valedictorian and Muskingum College. He graduated from the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo and completed residency training at the University of Michigan and at the Ohio State University.

Dr. Mark Hurst presented on behavioral health redesign and new initiatives. The Goal is to rebuild community behavioral health system capacity, components and several different models to make this happen. To increase expertise, knowledge and skill in working with this population and improve outreach, education and referral availabilities. He discussed different graphs regarding funding and trends. He suggested that we work on maintaining existing capacity at our six State psychiatric hospitals and continue full commitment to ADAMH board subsidies, Residential state supplement and recovery housing. Continue full support of prevention activities such as Evidence based practice (EBP) approaches in school-based settings. Collaborate on Ohio's initiative to reduce suicides; in 2015 New York had the lowest suicide rate in the United States. Dr. Hurst discussed ACEs, Abuse, Neglect and Household dysfunction, Trauma Informed Care and explained that to date more than 8,000 Ohioans have been trained with the Trauma Informed Care experience. Specialized Dockets appropriation for 22 counties and the potential for expansion exist; the funding for the specialized dockets will be for court staffing, drug testing and recovery supports. In 2016, MHAS assumed responsibility for addiction treatment rendered in DRC, staff increased by 50% and a Community Transition Program was initiated. Dr. Hurst discussed the response and treatment to the opioid crisis, how to prevent and start prevention in the elementary classrooms. Start Talking Building a Drug Free Future and TakeChargeOhio are with MHAS in treating, preventing and addressing the opioid crisis. Recent Federal Assistance – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act: \$26 million/year for 2 years is allocated for MAT-PDOA for treatment and recovery support in 17 counties.

Justice Evelyn L. Stratton, retired announced that March 21, 2018 is the Major Crisis Center Conference. She then introduced Ruth Simera from Northeast Ohio Medical University who reviewed the Progress Report Quarter 3 in regards to the Community Overdose Action Team and that the team was established in the fall of 2016 to address the opioid/heroin epidemic in Montgomery County. She explained some of the services and contact information and stats for the program. She then introduced Jody Long from Montgomery County who is part of this team to discuss the sequential intercept mapping. She discussed the percentages of unintentional drug overdose deaths from 2010 to 2016. She explained the timeline and planning for the sequential intercept mapping through February 2018. A Community Overdose Action Team is working together to combat Opioid Overdoses, to date 232 individuals representing 4 coalitions and 100 organizations including state and local government, non-profit and for-profit organizations have become members of the Community Overdose Action Team. She discussed the priorities of Access to the Services, Medical Detox, Jail Re-Entry Linkage, Transitional & Recovery Housing, Education and Information, Harm Reduction, Prevention Branch and Treatment &

Recovery and the progress being made currently. She discussed how to create Sequential Intercept Mapping and Taking Action for Change through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence. She offered several statistics and sequential intercept mapping graphs with the number of people involved and people treated.

Justice Evelyn L. Stratton, retired, announced that 2.5 million is in the budget for medication, suspension in some jails still need to do this and the implementation of medication needs to be done in all the jails. She explained the purpose of the Stepping Up Meeting would be about recidivism. She spoke to the difficulties and need for transportation in the Veterans community and that they are in the process of distributing monies for this problem.

Michael Sheline then came up to go over sub-committee updates and new meeting dates. He thanked everyone for coming and participating and asks the group for topics to base our next meeting around. One idea which raised a great deal of interest was youth suicide. Sarah Shendy from OPOTA offered to work with the Task Force in helping to plan a meeting around this topic.

The meeting was then brought to a close at 1:00 p.m.