

JUDICIAL & LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY – MAY 20, 2015

Persons present: Robert Harrison, Mike Hayes, Janet Thompson, Jan Beckett, Rockne Corbin, Cathy Richards, Mick Wilson, Keith Hoskins, Vicki Fessler, Sara Lemberger, Merilee Crockett, Mary Epping, Lisa Thomas, David Thomas, Kay Evans, Rusty Antel

The meeting began at 4:30 PM.

Vicki Fessler and Sara Lemberger gave a detailed presentation on the function the State Board of Probation and Parole. Initially, P & P becomes involved when a sentencing assessment report (SAR) is requested by a judge after a finding of guilt in a felony case. The SAR includes a description of the offense, the offender's personal and criminal history, a risk assessment and a summary of how other similar cases have been decided statewide over the past five years. For individuals placed on probation by the court, some receive a suspended imposition of sentence (SIS) which becomes a closed record upon successful completion of probation. Other individuals receive a suspended execution of sentence (SES) which leaves a permanent record. Some individuals are sent to the Department of Corrections either for shock incarceration or for a treatment program and are then placed on probation. Some individuals are sentenced to serve time in the Department of Corrections without probation. The release of persons serving time is controlled by the parole board, subject to certain mandatory sentencing requirements.

The presentation included a detailed description of the standard conditions of probation. The sentencing judge receives routine case summary reports every six months. Where a violation occurs, the court is notified. P & P uses evidence based supervision strategies, attempting to determine what causes the criminal behavior and thinking and supervising accordingly.

The Boone County probation office supervises more than 1600 persons, of which approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ are male and $\frac{1}{4}$ female. Approximately 400 persons are on minimum supervision where they call in at regular intervals on an automated telephone system. The Boone County office employs 32 probation officers. Many of the probation officers handle specialized caseloads, including sexual offenders and domestic violence cases. The probation office also provides probation supervision services for our four alternative treatment courts – drug court, mental health court, DWI court and Veterans' treatment court.

The second half of the meeting was a discussion of the Stepping Up initiative sponsored by the National Association of Counties. The goal of the Stepping Up initiative is to reduce the number of persons admitted to jail with mental health issues and to provide those individuals with treatment services, which will result in better outcomes and a cost savings to the citizens. Currently, 25-33% of the persons brought into our jail have mental health issues. Approximately 20% of the jail census is on mental health medications.

The County Commission passed a resolution on Thursday May 21 committing the county to support the Stepping Up initiative.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday July 8, 2015 at 4:30 PM in conference room 214 at the county government center. We will work to identify all of the resources in the community that we can bring together and to develop a plan of action. If you have any suggestions, please email Janet Thompson (jthompson@boonecountymmo.org) or Rusty Antel (rusty@wasf-law.com).

Attachments:

1. NACO Stepping Up Summary
2. News break from NACO re Stepping Up kickoff event
3. Guide to Understanding Probation and Parole for Friends and Family (abbreviated version)

NACO STEPPING UP – SUMMARY

Each year, approximately two million people are admitted to jails nationwide who have significant mental health issues, often with co-occurring substance abuse issues. They tend to stay longer in jail and have less favorable outcomes and they consume large amounts of public money. The goal of the Stepping Up initiative is to reduce the number of persons admitted to jail with mental health issues and reduce costs.

The general plan of action is:

1. Form a diverse team
2. Collect information on people entering the jail
3. Identify treatment options
4. Develop a plan
5. Implement research/evidence based approaches
6. Track progress and measure success

This is envisioned as a process that will take time with no promise of immediate success. Results will be measured over a long period of time.

Johnson County, Kansas:

1. Mental Health-Criminal Justice Intercept Project
2. Co-responder program – mental health professional teamed with law enforcement officer (large number of calls for service involving mental health issues – but a very small number of arrests)
3. Crisis stabilization center
4. Crisis recovery center
5. Crisis intervention training for law enforcement

Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. Criminal and Mental Health Project
2. Pre-booking response:
 - a. Crisis intervention training
 - b. Diversion programs
3. Post booking response:
 - a. Diversion program
 - b. Re-entry services

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Stepping Up initiative kicks off around the country

By Charlie Ban
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn) speaks at the Washington, D.C. Stepping Up kickoff event. Photo by Alix Kashdan

Addressing mental illness starts with a good hard look inside, but all too often, "inside" has meant inside a jail cell.

The Stepping Up initiative aims to change that by encouraging counties to divert the estimated 2 million mentally ill inmates currently in local jails to appropriate treatment services instead of leaving them confined and receiving a shadow of the treatment they need to right themselves.

The initiative started off strong the week of May 3 with events in Washington, D.C.; Johnson County, Kan.; Miami-Dade County, Fla. and Sacramento County, Calif. The collaboration between NACo, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation challenges counties to publicly declare their intent to tackle the problem and follow through.

"The potential impact on public safety and on county budgets is great, but the impact on people who have mental illness and their families is immeasurable," said Ramsey County, Minn. Commissioner Toni Carter, who spoke at a briefing on Capitol Hill in Washington May 5. "This battle won't be won in individual counties, we need a national movement to reduce these numbers and change the way we treat people who have mental illnesses."

As of May 15, at least 14 counties had passed resolutions committing themselves to analyzing their county's deficiencies and developing a plan to get mental health services to the people who need them. The efforts will build toward a national conference on mental illness and jails in Washington, D.C. in 2016.

Nationally, Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) and Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.) hope to help with the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act, which has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. The bill reauthorizes the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act — which funds specialty courts, such as mental health courts — and adds an additional facet: training for every public law enforcement officer in the country to handle mental health crises.

The status quo, without specialized training, "doesn't makes sense for law enforcement officers who often enter situations where they themselves are at risk or people with mental illness are at risk and they don't have proper training," Franken said at the Capitol Hill briefing. "It doesn't make sense for courts, which are inundated with cases of people with mental illness. It doesn't make sense for those who often would benefit from treatment and supervision. And it certainly doesn't make sense for taxpayers."

Loudoun County, Va. Sheriff Mike Chapman began training part of his force to deal with mental health crises when he took office four years ago, and those trained officers handle about three cases a day. But he was a realist about where his employees fit.

"We end up having to deal with this problem," he said. "We're law enforcement officials and by default, we become the people that tend to handle whatever goes on out there."

He pointed out that officers who are trained to deal with mental health crises can appropriately close the cases in a fraction of the time it would take for a layman to handle the same situation.

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On the other end of the programming field, Carter touted Ramsey County's mental health court as an example of what could be replicated around the country.

Since its introduction in 2005, the court has provided services to 431 people with mental illness to divert them from the traditional criminal justice system. The court focuses on the mental health needs of the defendant in hopes of correcting behavior that may be a symptom of a mental illness, rather than willful disregard for the law.

"Our mental health court graduates are less likely to be charged with another offense and less likely to be convicted of another offense and less likely to spend time in jails," she said.

Denise O'Donnell, director of justice assistance at the U.S. Department of Justice, met, head-on, any skepticism that diverting mentally ill offenders from the justice system would reduce crime.

"We know more than ever before, what works in treating mental illness," she said. "Science is advancing and providing medically assisted treatment for behavioral health issues. We have innovative pilot programs...leading the way."

Paton Blough, a South Carolina man with bipolar disorder was even more blunt.

"People say we can't release mentally ill criminals back into the streets," he said. "That's what we're doing now."

In Miami-Dade County, Commissioner Sally Heyman recounted how her county's corrections and rehabilitation were nicknamed "the forgotten floors," where the mentally ill waited out their sentences because there was no coordination for their treatment. Those inmates have since been moved to appropriate care.

"We're the safety net," NACo First Vice President Sallie Clark told the crowd in Johnson County, Kan. "We're where everyone goes when they're having their first day. Whether that is needing food assistance, or needing mental health counseling, or having the worst day of their lives when they're arrested (for) a crime. That's where they end up — in local government."

Probation and Parole Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT CAN FAMILY AND FRIENDS DO TO ASSIST IN THE SUPERVISION PROCESS?

Our agency wants to ensure Family and Friends have a good understanding of the role of the supervising officer and the conditions of supervision. We encourage you to talk to the client and ask them what is required of them. Clients must meet with their officer as instructed. Having your encouragement and support is vital to their success. We promote having good communication with the officer to discuss any problems or issues that may arise. If the client is experiencing difficulties in meeting any of their requirements, including failing to report, contact should be made with the supervising officer immediately. If the officer is not available, you may ask to speak with their supervisor.

HOW CAN THE PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICER ASSIST YOUR FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND?

The primary goal of Probation and Parole is to promote public safety. The Probation and Parole Officer has the responsibility to guide the client in developing plans to reach their identified goals and in becoming a productive and contributing member of society. We also work with the client to help identify their needs and issues. They are often referred to programs, such as substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, educational and others aimed at improving their lives.

WHAT INFORMATION IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

Present offense(s), sentence and judgment(s), county of conviction, term of supervision, standard conditions of Probation, Parole or Conditional Release, special conditions set forth by the Court, confirmation that an individual is under supervision, name of the supervising officer, office location, custody or bond status, Parole or Conditional Release date, Parole Board release decision, and prior convictions.

HOW CAN A CLIENT OBTAIN AN EARLY DISCHARGE FROM SUPERVISION?

The granting of an early discharge rests primarily with the sentencing Court or the Parole Board. For clients that comply with their supervision conditions the Court may consider an early discharge, and the Parole Board can consider this after three years of supervision in the community has been successfully completed.

In the case of Earned Compliance Credits (ECC), the early discharge is based on whether a client meets the initial eligibility requirements and how well they comply with their supervision requirements.

**More information
is available at
www.doc.mo.gov**

HOW ARE CLIENT COSTS AND FEES PAID?

Court Costs/Restitution payments are specific to each case in Missouri and payment information should be obtained from the supervising officer.

Intervention Fees payments can be made by automatic withdrawal, by using a District/Satellite Kiosk, by telephone at (855) 362-4333, online at www.modocfees.com or by mailing a money order or cashiers check to :

MO Dept. of Corrections
Attn: Offender Financial Service
P.O. Box 1848
Jefferson City, MO 65012

ARE CLIENTS REQUIRED TO DIVULGE INFORMATION ABOUT CONVICTIONS ON A JOB APPLICATION?

An officer can guide a client in answering this question. Typically, failure to divulge information regarding criminal history may result in loss of employment.

WHAT VOTING RIGHTS DO CLIENTS HAVE AND HOW ARE SUSPENDED RIGHTS RESTORED?

Per state statute, clients are not entitled to vote while on Probation or Parole for a felony conviction or while confined in an institution. Those on supervision solely for a Suspended Impositions of Sentence (SIS) are allowed to vote as these are not considered convictions. Upon being discharged from supervision, most clients are eligible to have these rights restored. This may be done at the local election authority, Department of Revenue or by mail at a participating state agency. More information may be obtained by contacting the Board of Elections at (800) 669-8683.

WHAT SHOULD A CLIENT DO IF THEY ARE SUBJECTED TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR SEXUAL ABUSE FROM OTHER CLIENTS OR STAFF?

The department does not tolerate any form of sexual misconduct or abuse against clients. If a client believes they have been subjected to sexual harassment, threats or an assault involving themselves or others, they should immediately notify staff, send a letter to the department's Inspector General explaining the situation or make an anonymous call to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Hotline at (573) 526-7732.

CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

Laws - Obey all laws. Report all arrests to the officer within 48 hours.

Travel - Obtain advance permission from the officer.

Residency - Obtain advance permission from the officer before changing residency.

Employment - Maintain employment unless in an approved program. If job is lost or terminated, notify your officer within 48 hours.

Association - Obtain advance permission from the officer before associating with person(s) convicted of any felony or misdemeanor or anyone currently under supervision.

Drugs - Do not possess or use any drugs unless medically prescribed.

Weapons - Do not possess, purchase, receive, sell or transport firearms, ammunition or explosive device or any dangerous weapon.

Reporting/Directives - Report as directed. Abide by any additional directives given by the officer.

Supervision Strategy - Enter and successfully complete any assigned supervision program or strategy.

Intervention Fee - Pay a monthly fee as directed.

Special Conditions - These are case specific as directed by the Parole Board or Court. Examples of these conditions are no alcohol, substance abuse treatment, anger management classes, restitution, court costs, community service hours, etc.

Failure to follow the conditions of supervision may result in a violation of a client's Probation or Parole.

GENERAL OFFICE INFORMATION

All district offices are open between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, except on State holidays.

Detailed District Information - Individual district telephone numbers and office resource guides are online at:

www.doc.mo.gov/PP/PP_Facilities.php

After Hours Emergencies/Natural Disasters

The P&P Command Center in Jefferson City may be reached at (888) 869-3195.

Weapons/Consent to Search - Anyone entering the grounds of a Probation and Parole Office is subject to search. Firearms or any other weapons are prohibited.

ADDITIONAL DOC RESOURCES

P&P Central Office	(573) 751-8488
DOC Central Office	(573) 751-2389
DOC Victim Services	(573) 526-6516

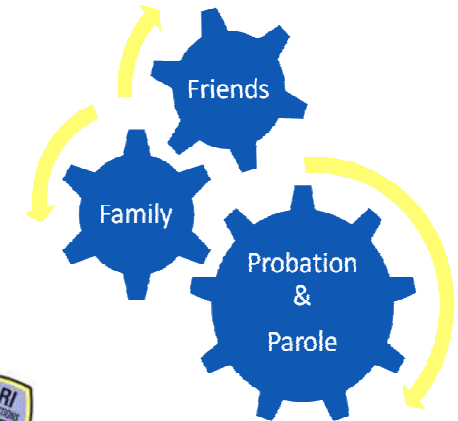
General client Inquiry is available by email at constituentservices@doc.mo.gov

STATEWIDE RESOURCES

Alcohol/Drug Abuse Hotline	(800) 784-6776
American Red Cross	(800) 733-2767
Child Abuse & Neglect	(800) 392-3738
Child Support	(866) 313-9960
Domestic Violence Hotline	(800) 799-7233
Elderly Abuse Hotline	(800) 392-0210
MO Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
Social Security Administration	(800) 772-1213
Suicide and Crisis Hotline	(800) 273-8255
United Way Helpline	211

www.doc.mo.gov

Understanding Probation and Parole for Family and Friends



The Missouri Department of Corrections supervises and provides rehabilitative services to adult offenders in correctional facilities and Missouri communities to enhance public safety.

This pamphlet is designed to assist both family and friends of those under the supervision of the Missouri Department of Corrections Board of Probation and Parole.

It will help you understand the requirements and expectations of your family member or friend while they are supervised by our agency and answer questions you may have.

Family, friends and significant others play a crucial role in the supervision process and are vital to the success of these individuals.

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