

Judicial and Law Enforcement Task Force
Meeting February 17, 2016 4:30 p.m.
Roger B. Wilson Government Center, Room 301

Present: Rusty Antel, Chair; Kay Evans, James M. Owen, Christine Patterson, Tracey Cleeton, John Schloot, Kelli Canada, Kelly Wallis, Mary Epping, Janet Thompson, Phil Steinhaus.

Rusty and Janet gave a brief update on the Stepping Up Initiative at the outset of the meeting, outlining the work done with various stakeholder groups. Rusty spoke to a program that it is hoped will begin in March or April 2016, in which cases with clients in the jail, presenting with a mental illness component, will be staffed on a weekly basis by a collaborative group led by Judge Schneider. The group will include but not be limited to the Judge, prosecutor, defense counsel, behavioral health providers as necessary, the jail mental and physical health staff, corrections and law enforcement.

Tracey Cleeton, of the Boone County Sheriff's Department and the lead in the Department for the CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training model, next spoke. He and his colleague Christine Patterson of the Missouri Coalition for Behavioral Health Care and the CIT conference coordinator provided information about CIT—that the training is traditionally done in 40 hour timeblocks and is POST approved. Its purpose is to enhance the training of law enforcement officers and to improve their ability to respond to mental health crises. They noted that CIT is by and large a standardized curriculum but that some hours are tailored to particular communities. They noted that the statewide coordinator for CIT is Sgt. Jeremy Romo from St. Louis. They noted that CIT training is also available with various emphases, such as youth, veterans and dispatcher. When asked how an emergency dispatcher would know if a call had a mental health component, we learned about the protocol used by the dispatchers, which will lead them to the appropriate questions to answer and responses to give in certain situations.

They also spoke about the proposed 115 waiver, in which a limited pool of money is proposed to be utilized for providing intensive services—mental and physical health issues to be addressed—for a small group of people, ages from mid-20's through mid-30's. This proposal will undergo public hearings within the next few months and Tracey and Christine encouraged members to speak out in favor of the program.

Christine also spoke about the CIT annual conference, which is scheduled for March 29 at the Executive Center. Because of the low cost of the conference and the benefits from attending, everyone was encouraged to go.

In the course of the conversations about CIT, it was discovered that St. Charles County is piloting a program whereby a Youth Community Mental Health Liaison was put in place.

The next meeting will take place on April 20 at 4:30 p.m. Location to be announced later.