

Judicial and Law Enforcement Task Force Meeting
November 14, 2017 4:00 p.m.
Roger B. Wilson Government Center, Chambers

Summary:

The Judicial and Law Enforcement Task Force met on Tuesday November 14, 2017 for a presentation from Joan Becker. Joan is a mental health advocate from Iowa. Joan and her family reside in a rural area, where mental health services are difficult to access. Her son, Mark, began to develop symptoms of mental illness in high school but never received the help that he really needed. Joan shared the all too familiar story of those who suffer mental health issues – Mark would be hospitalized and received some treatment and his condition would improve to the point where Mark was functional and able to work. But his situation gradually deteriorated and the cycle of events ended with Mark taking the life of a beloved high school athletic coach in the family's hometown.

Mark was convicted in court of the murder and is serving time in the Iowa Department of Corrections. He is housed in a unit that provides quality treatment for those suffering from mental illness. He serves as a peer counselor to others. Mark's mental health is currently stable and he is receiving the treatment that he needs.

Local Media Coverage:

Columbia Missourian

https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/local/mental-health-advocate-speaks-on-personal-tragedy-and-systemic-health/article_6262a79c-c994-11e7-a3df-af3857470ab7.html

KOMU 8

<http://www.komu.com/news/mother-of-mentally-ill-son-speaks-to-boone-commissioner-law-enforcement>

Wake Up Columbia, 93.9 The Eagle

<http://939theeagle.com/joan-becker-discussing-mental-health-issues-wake-columbia-939-eagle/>