



CENTRAL STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair
Rep. Mae Dickinson
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Michael Young
Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chair
Sen. Lawrence Borst
Sen. Billie Breaux
Sen Glenn Howard

LSA Staff:

Ron Sobecki, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee
Ann Naughton, Attorney for the Committee

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Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 232-9588 Fax: (317) 232-2554

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 7, 1998
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair; Rep. Mae Dickinson; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Michael Young; Sen. Patricia Miller; Sen. Lawrence Borst; Sen. Glenn Howard.

Members Absent: Sen. Billie Breaux.

LSA Staff Present: Ron Sobecki, Fiscal Analyst; Ann Naughton, Staff Attorney.

Representative Summers called the meeting to order and asked the members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

Department of Correction Discussion

Mr. Clay Fattore, Deputy Commissioner, Special Services, Department of Correction (DOC), stated the DOC had no formal presentation, but would answer questions from the Committee. Sen. Miller asked how many individuals in DOC facilities are mentally ill. Ms. Patty McKinney, Director of Planning, DOC, presented Committee members with information on the number of individuals in the various correctional facilities with mental health related medical classifications.¹ She explained that the DOC divides the individuals by class using a letter designation. Ms. McKinney said those in the E category are those individuals who are unable to function in a standard prison environment. She stated that individuals in the H category are those who need psychotropic medication or frequent monitoring by a psychiatrist. Ms. McKinney stated those individuals in the K category are those with an acute or stable mental or emotional condition requiring limited psychiatric services and monitoring. She stated those in the H and K categories can function in a standard prison environment.

Sen. Miller asked how many of the individuals in the three categories would need a bed in a mental

¹ A copy of the information provided by the Department of Correction is on file in the Legislative Information Center, Room 230 of the State House, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204. The telephone number of the Legislative Information Center is (317) 232-9856

health facility when released from prison. Ms. McKinney provided this information to the Committee.² Sen. Miller expressed her concern that she has heard that the number of individuals housed in DOC facilities who need mental services is larger than the number presented to the Committee.

Dr. Dean Rieger, Medical Director, Department of Correction, stated that the DOC had undertaken a survey to determine the number of individuals with mental illness in DOC facilities. He said the problem with the survey was that each correctional facility interpreted the questions in a different manner and the DOC decided the survey was not valid. He explained that the DOC looked at mental health needs of individuals in surrounding states' correctional facilities and believes the data presented today are accurate. He discussed with the Committee the need which the DOC has for a stand alone facility for in-patient medical care. Dr. Rieger stated that the Westville facility, which is currently providing medical care, is outdated and it has difficulty providing the proper care. Sen. Miller asked how many individuals would be treated in a new in-patient medical care facility. Dr. Rieger stated approximately 125 individuals would be treated in such a facility. Dr. Rieger testified that the DOC is planning to develop a medical facility at the site of the former New Castle Developmental Center and would replace the Westville facility.

Dr. Rieger explained to the Committee the continuum of care inmates receive in a correctional facility. He stated that individuals may move through a spectrum of care while in the correctional facilities. He explained the DOC process, if an individual has served their prison term, but still has a need for mental health services. Dr. Rieger noted that the individual will be referred to a community mental center or the DOC will proceed with the civil commitment process if the individual needs to be placed in a state hospital.

Mr. Jim Jones, Director, Community Mental Health Centers of Indiana, stated there is no good data on the number of individuals who are mentally ill when they are released from correctional facilities. He stated that the recently completed actuarial study by the Division of Mental Health did not count individuals in correctional facilities who will need mental health services when released.

Sen. Miller asked whether the DOC has any need or plans for the Central State property. Mr. Fattore replied, that with the development of the New Castle Developmental Center property, the DOC has no plans for the use of Central State.

Indiana Sheriffs Association

Mr. Mike Eslinger, Deputy Director, Indiana Sheriffs Association, stated that some of the larger county jails are having a slight problem with individuals who need mental health services. He stated that many of these individuals were previously in a DOC facility receiving mental health services. He explained that one of the problems county jails face are individuals who quit taking their medicine after being released from jail. He said often these individuals commit new crimes and end up back in county jails.

Sen. Miller asked if the sheriffs can handle the problem within their current facilities. Mr. Eslinger stated that the larger metropolitan areas are having some problems, but the problem is not overwhelming. He stated the sheriffs do not want the mentally ill in their jails because they do not have the ability to serve these individuals. He said that a mentally ill inmate is generally moved to the DOC within three days of being placed in a county jail if the commitment process is completed.

Other Testimony

Mr. Jim Jones testified that the Department of Mental Health only has enough dollars to serve the most seriously ill individuals. He also noted that there is a problem with substance abuse funding which consists of mostly federal funds. Mr. Jones said that one of the biggest problems the DOC faces is the substance abuser, and the restriction on the use of federal funds makes it difficult to treat these individuals.

² A copy of the information provided by the Department of Correction is on file in the Legislative Information Center (see footnote 1)

Mr. Steve McCaffrey, Director, Indiana Mental Health Association, stated that the Mental Health Association supports the development of the New Castle facility. He said the Mental Health Association would argue that there are a larger number of individuals in the correctional system that could benefit from segregated care.

Ms. Dee Weeks stated her concerns about individuals who are in DOC facilities and need mental health services.

Representative Summers stated that the next meeting of the Committee will be a public hearing on the use of the Central State property. The next meeting was scheduled for August 26, 1998, at 6:30 p.m., at a site yet to be determined.