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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 14, 1998
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 156-B
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 5

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

Members Absent: Rep. Michael Young; Sen. Patricia Miller; Sen. Billie Breaux.

Representative Summers called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Community Mental Health Centers Presentation

Mr. Jim Jones, Executive Director, Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, provided information to the Committee concerning the mental health bed needs for Central Indiana and the entire state.¹ Mr. Jones stated the following: (1) There are 751 supervised group living beds statewide and 190 beds in the central district, with have an occupancy rate of 99%. There are 65 individuals on the waiting list in the central district for a supervised group living placement. (2) There are 278 semi-independent living beds in the central district with an occupancy rate of 97%. There is a waiting list of 52 individuals in the central district for these beds. (3) There are 15 individuals on the waiting list for a state hospital bed in the central district and there are 84 individuals statewide on the waiting list for a state hospital bed. (4) There are approximately 100 individuals in state mental hospitals who are ready to be discharged if there were placements in the community available.

Mr. Jones explained that the cost of maintaining an individual in a state hospital is approximately \$75,000 annually, while the cost of maintaining a patient in a community residential placement ranges from \$2,150 annually for the least restrictive environment to \$50,000 annually for the most restrictive environment. He stated that at the present time there is gridlock in the system. Mr. Jones estimated that it would cost approximately \$18 million in additional funding over the next biennium to relieve the gridlock.

¹This document is on file in the Legislative Information Center, Room 230, Statehouse, Indianapolis, Indiana. The telephone number of the Legislative Information Center is (317) 232-9856, and the mailing address is 200 W. Washington St. Suite 301, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789.

Sen. Borst asked if the number of individuals on the waiting list is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same. Mr. Jones replied that the numbers are increasing due to individuals who are leaving the correctional system, but are being civilly committed after serving their prison term. Mr. Jones stated these individuals generally do not leave the state hospitals. Mr. Jones explained that if the 100 individuals in the state hospitals could be placed in the community, the backlog would be alleviated.

Mr. Eric Krause, Executive Director, Gallahue Mental Health Center, stated that there have been two research studies which looked at what has happened to the former patients of Central State as well as studied the type of treatment these individuals have received since leaving Central State. Mr. Krause stated these studies found that the patients are receiving better treatment in the community than they did at Central State and that the patients were satisfied with their treatment. He stated that the community mental health centers are able to provide treatment due to the fact that the money once used to provide treatment at Central State was allocated to fund community treatment. He stated that changes in Medicaid at the state level also provided additional funding for treatment.

Mr. Krause stated that a comprehensive array of services are being provided in the community. He described the various types of services and treatment options provided by the community mental health centers. He stated that recent developments at the federal level which change the disability designation will put stress on the mental health system. The federal changes will cause some individuals to lose their supplemental social security benefits which will probably cause them to lose their housing in the community. If this occurs, these individuals will need to be treated as in-patients. He suggested additional state funding will be necessary to provide housing options for individuals so they can be treated in the community.

Indiana Mental Health Association

Mr. Steve McCaffrey, Executive Director, Indiana Mental Health Association, testified that there is not a need for an additional state hospital for adults who are mentally ill. He stated that mentally ill individuals need to be treated in the least restrictive environment. He said the reason for the waiting list for services is due to the inadequacy of community placements and the number of forensic patients entering state mental hospitals. He stated there is a need for a state hospital that specializes in the needs of forensic patients. Mr. McCaffrey testified that according to the Division of Mental Health there could be as many as 235 new forensic patients in state hospitals by the year 2000. He said there is a need for additional funding for community services for the mentally ill.

City of Indianapolis

Mr. Joe Loftus, representing the City of Indianapolis, testified that the city has not been part of recent discussions concerning the use of the Central State property. He said the city would suggest that if the state has no use for the property, the property could be given to the city. He stated the city would create a re-use authority and develop a re-use planning process similar to what has occurred at Ft. Benjamin Harrison and the Naval Air Warfare Center. He stated this process would determine the best use of the property from the city's viewpoint.

Mr. Tom Bartlett, Administrator of Planning, City of Indianapolis, discussed the different groups and individuals that were involved in the previous re-use planning efforts.

Indiana Psychiatric Society

Dr. Steve Dunlop, M.D., Legislative Representative, Indiana Psychiatric Society, stated the Psychiatric Society has no position on the use of the Central State Hospital property. He stated the Psychiatric Society agrees with the position of the community mental health centers. He stated that the backlog in getting into a state hospital is an occasional problem although the solution is not to build a new state hospital. He stated that if the Department of Correction builds a forensic hospital, this will not alleviate the problem of individuals who have completed their prison term and are being civilly committed.

There being no further business, Representative Summers adjourned the meeting.

