
Public Notice

Protection of Individuals with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System Task Force Committee Meeting: Awareness of and Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System

Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2021

Conducted via WebEx

Task Force Member Attendees: Representative Will Davis, Penny Gates, Carol Nesteikis, Amy Newell

Not present: Mary Dixon, Linda Kelly, Allison Stark

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order
 - Meeting was called to Order at 2:59 pm – Carol Nesteikis, Member and Committee Co-chair
 - Roll Call completed with certification of number of members to constitute a quorum
2. Approval of May 14, 2021 meeting minutes
 - Motion to approve the minutes was made by Amy Newell, Member
 - Second of the Motion made by Penny Gates, Member
 - Ayes have it and 0 Nays
3. New business
 - Carol Nesteikis referred committee members attention to the list of recommendations. She noted that the original list was circulated by Mary Dixon, Chair and the list was updated and put on the task force recommendations template by Carol Nesteikis, Co-chair.
 - Allison Stark shared her thoughts on the recommendations via email. Carol Nesteikis shared them with the committee for their review and thoughts. Director Stark recommended additional demographic information be added to recommendation number one if a person is determined unfit, fit or a repeat offender.
 - An additional recommendation suggestion was made regarding services before an individual gets into the system. Carol Nesteikis indicated that she along with Penny Gates, member and Teresa Park, Deputy Director and HRA Director at Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, are working on language for a sex education bill that addresses kindergarten through high school and on into transition planning for students with disabilities.
 - Amy Newell, member asked a clarifying question about the language, which Carol Nesteikis addressed and referenced that the sex education language was being addressed outside of the task force already thus perhaps not yielding a need to add it to the committee recommendations

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- Amy Newell suggested that the language could be a part of the personal justice plan and could be part of the diversion suggestions. There was also a suggestion to not list all possible diagnoses so that no diagnosis would be left off
- Carol Nesteikis provided another suggestion from Director Stark regarding making clear that intervention should be done as early in the criminal justice system as possible, which garnered committee agreement
- Amy Newell asked a further clarifying question regarding data collection citing that she was unable to attend the last committee meeting where this topic was discussed in full. Committee members further discussed collecting demographic data and if there presented a need to explicitly add the language to the recommendations
- The committee continued to discuss and flesh out their recommendations as well as tie them to data collection needs citing data from the National Center for Criminal Justice and how that data is collected and reasserting that data collection from the outset of CJ interaction is key
- The committee then began to discuss recommendations ranging from disability courts, crisis response teams and training for law enforcement as well as each recommendations correlation to juveniles including data collection being key from initial interaction with the criminal justice system
- Penny Gates cited the need for persons with cognitive disabilities to be afforded the same protections as a juvenile
- Representative Davis addressed the committee regarding turning recommendations into legislative tasks and the steps to get to creating proposals along with the vehicles to get through the legislative process. He also referenced measures that have been taken and will be taken by the Legislative Black Caucus. Once the task force votes on the final recommendations Rep. Davis is prepared to work with the agencies that agree to carry legislation forward
- Gia Orr, task force administrator, spoke about recommendations coming out of other committees and to the bill language being drafted based on the bill in Virginia that LRIDD worked on that Carol Nesteikis and Penny Gates spoke about

4. Next steps

- The final recommendations with any agreed edits will be emailed to Gia Orr
- Rep. Davis indicated that the committee should determine who and what will be reported out in the next whole task force meeting

5. Public comment

- None

6. Adjournment

- Carole Nesteikis, Member Moved to adjourn the meeting
- Amy Newell, Member Seconded the Motion
- Ayes have it and the meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm

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