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## Public Notice

### Protection of Individuals with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System Task Force Committee Meeting: Detention and Correctional Facilities

Meeting conducted via WebEx

**Friday, July 2, 2021  
11:30 am**

Task force attendees: Kathleen Bankhead, Edwin Bowen, Bryan Echols, Fred Chinn, Mary Hettel,  
Omar Jamil

Not present: Donald Dew, Jennifer Vollen-Katz

#### Minutes

1. Call to order

- Meeting called to order at 11:27 am by Mary Hettel, Member and Committee Chair
- Roll Call completed with certification of number of members to constitute a quorum

3. Old business

- Vote to adopt May 5, 2021 meeting minutes
  - Mary Hettel, Chair asked if the committee had an opportunity to review the minutes
  - Motion to approve the minutes was made by Fred Chinn, Member
  - Second of the Motion made by Dr. Omar Jamil, Member
  - Ayes have it and there is no opposition
- Review previously discussed recommendations
  - Mary Hettel asked if the committee members have seen/reviewed the template and asked if there were any more recommendations/discussions. Mary proceeded to pull the minutes up from the previous meeting and share them on her screen.
  - Task force administrator, Gia Orr, assisted the committee with reviewing some of the recommendations that had been batted around in previous meetings.
  - Kathleen Bankhead, member fleshed out the recommendation related to hiring mental health professionals for jails and prisons and suggested
  - Bryan Echols, member followed up with more details related to partnering with colleges/universities around the state including University of Chicago's School of Social Work and University of Illinois' Jane Addams School of Social Work. He then proceeded to research Spertus for its social work program
  - Dr. Jamil indicated that he was suggesting a recommendation related to the Health Service Corp and putting it in the chat box
  - Bryan Echols listed more schools for the state to potentially partner with such as Adler University and Southern Illinois University- Edwardsville

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- Kathleen Bankhead suggested reaching out to mental health professional groups especially those that represent various ethnicities and cultural groups
- Bryan Echols agreed and asked if there was a member of the task force who has a disability that has been incarcerated
- Gia Orr indicated that there are two constituents who are represented by their parents, Penny Gates and Carol Nesteikis
- Bryan Echols asked if there was a member of the Lieutenant Governor's office on the task force
- Gia Orr indicated that the statute did not call for
- Mary Hettel highlighted a suggestion for a recommendation that was made by member, Jennifer Vollen-Katz
- Gia Orr reminded the committee about a suggested recommendation from member, Edwin Bowen related to the upcoming Jail Standards meeting
- Kathleen Bankhead talked about her experience as the ombudsperson at IDJJ and suggested adding an advocate to the grievance process as is done in the juvenile grievance process. She also suggested that a recommendation include the right to a speedy grievance process. Mrs. Bankhead proceeded to ask if IDOC and the jails used advocates in their process or if there was a hotline used.
- Fred Chinn indicated the type of hotline that is available in jails which is related to federal standards
- Gia Orr reminded the committee that IGAC has the Human Rights Authority which has a hotline that is used in hospitals for persons in the mental health units.
- Kathleen Bankhead asked if jails/prisons could be added as an entity for hotline postings
- There was additional conversation about legislation that has passed in previous sessions
- Edwin Bowen, member joined the meeting and shared his thoughts regarding hotline posting in confinement
- Fred Chinn indicated he thought it could be posed in the unit orientation handbook and the information can be posted by the phones
- Edwin Bowen added that Equip for Equality and John Howard Association as well as GAC's Human Rights Authority could be added to the kiosk that is used in lots of facilities.
- Members indicated that they believed that they had three (3) solid recommendations
- Edwin Bowen asked that the recommendations be shared out again
- Gia Orr, task force administrator read back the recommendations with details to support each
- Edwin Bowen suggested more information related to the recommendation to review Illinois Jail Standards and persons with disabilities. He indicated a goal of the review committee is to align standards with accepted best practices from the American Correctional Association standards and the American Jail Association. He indicated in captures many of the issues with confinement. He indicated that he would email some terminology
- Fred Chinn indicated that he sent an email with an Illinois Statute (405 ILCS 5/3-100) that could be worked on and Gia Orr indicated she would pull it up and share her screen
- Edwin Bowen asked if there was anything in the recommendations that spoke to unfunded mandates that persons working in confinement areas. He indicated that he was pleased that there is a recommendation tackling the fact that confinement entities are mental health assistance deserts. He talked about making sure that smaller communities have funds to make things work. He often brings up that it is helpful to ensure that smaller departments, jails, etc. are not saddled with mandates and no funding to support implementation

- Dr. Jamil brought up the HRSA partnership and underscored that it may not solve the issue, but it would help to bring clinicians who are licensed and have a bit of experience under their belts to underserved communities
- Bryan Echols indicated that the HRSA program being kind of like Teach for America in a sense because clinicians could get loan forgiveness
- Dr. Jamil referenced that a partnership by the state with HRSA would be helpful statewide along with partnerships with colleges and universities
- Edwin Bowen talked about doing job fairs and people passing his table and the difficulty in recruiting students from universities to come work in corrections
- Fred Chinn spoke about the Illinois Statute that he sent that he believes needs to be updated related to fitness for confinement. DHS sent him this statute and he provided examples of cases that supported his recommendation that the Statute (405 ILCS 5/3-100) be amended to allow that the mentally ill or those who need help do not end up in jail unless they are getting the help that they need
- Bryan Echols agreed and referenced the issue in relation to Cook County jails. He indicated that prisons should not be used as the place for people to receive treatment.
- Dr. Jamil went over his additional suggested recommendation which was placed in the chat box. The additional recommendation centers around proper assessments for persons with disabilities or those where disabilities are suspected including instruments for testing that includes neuropsychological or neurologic testing. Testing for disabilities is impactful versus suspecting someone has needs. Testing allows for greater focus on rehabilitation and treatment and meeting the needs of the person
- Both Dr. Jamil and Edwin Bowen acknowledged that while the recommendation is a great idea, it is highly likely that it would not happen in jails due to manpower and more. Dr. Jamil indicated that though the recommendation is pie in the sky, it is helpful to suggest testing throughout the confinement community from jails to prison including IDJJ
- Kathleen Bankhead spoke to how important testing is in underserved communities considering there are those who are interacting with the criminal justice system have never been tested/diagnosed. The resources are simply not there in certain communities including rural communities. She believes the state should figure out how to make this happen
- Fred Chinn indicated that he wanted to offer another recommendation related to training for correctional officers. He believes correctional officers should have a set number of hours on de-escalation and recognition which was recently updated for local law enforcement through recent correctional reform legislation
- Edwin Bowen supported this recommendation and added details about what training is expected for correctional officers. Specialized training used to be offered through MTU (mobile training units) managed by IL Standards and Training Board. The MTU's have been shutdown for training and are just getting back going again, but not to the same level that they were prior. This is particularly important for small communities for their staff to be trained appropriately. He referenced being in Paris, Illinois where they are a large isolated community that relies on MTU's to ensure that their residents who work in law enforcement and corrections are properly trained including refreshers
- Bryan Echols queried about earmarking funding from cannabis sales
- Edwin Bowen agreed with earmarking funding and it being clear that the funding is being used for training in mental health and disabilities for correctional officers as well as other law enforcement
- Fred Chinn indicated that funding for MTU's used to come from traffic tickets, but that changed with the funding going to ISP which is what led to MTU's switching over to IL Standards and Training Board

#### 4. New business

- Putting recommendations into final format (see template provided)
  - Dr. Jamil offered to assist Chair, Mary Hettel with finalizing the first draft
  - Dr. Jamil will add to the draft and send it out to the committee via the committee email thread
  - The committee talked about working within the dates provided and that there
- Voting on recommendations
  - Voting was tabled to another meeting so that the drafts and final document could be
  - A roll call was taking to table the vote
  - Ayes have it and there are no oppositions

#### 5. Public comment

- None

#### 6. Adjournment

- Dr. Omar Jamil made a Motion to adjourn the meeting
- Fred Chinn Seconded the Motion to adjourn
- Meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm

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