



Human Rights Authority Legal Advocacy Service Office of State Guardian

Public Notice

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

July 22, 2021 Conducted via WebEx

Minutes

Task Force Member Attendees: Bryan Echols, Mary Hettel, Omar Jamil, Jennifer Vollen-Katz, Heidi Mueller

Not present: Edwin Bowen, Donald Dew

- 1. Call to order
 - Meeting was called to Order at 10:17 am Mary Hettel, Member and Committee Chair
 - Roll Call completed with certification of number of members to constitute a quorum

2. Approval of July 2, 2021 meeting minutes

- Mary Hettel, Chair asked that the committee give some time to review the minutes before voting
- Motion to approve the minutes made by Jennifer Vollen-Katz, Member
- Second of the Motion made by Bryan Echols, Member
- Ayes have it and 0 Nays
- 3. New business
 - Mary Hettel worked to share her screen and bring up the recommendations
 - Jennifer Vollen-Katz commended the work put into the recommendations and pulling them together in the task force template. She indicated that she had two wording changes to offer. The first is in recommendation 2 and in relation to best practices and the need to include a mental health entity as well that is nationally recognized
 - Committee members signified their agreement with the addition. Bryan Echols commended Omar Jamil for pulling the recommendations together for the task force template and Dr. Jamil indicated it was a team effort
 - Dr. Jamil indicated that an additional revision was needed to add the National Health Service Corp for student loan forgiveness for practicing psychologist. There is a need to identify the targeted areas of need
 - Jennifer Vollen-Katz suggested that the juvenile team suggest utilizing the National Health Service Corp to their counterparts on the adult side
 - Gia Orr, task force administrator passed along a message from committee member Donald Dew who had recently been in a meeting with IDOC's Director Jefferies. He indicated that he had begun sharing some of the recommendations coming from the task force and Director Jefferies

was very interested in hearing about them. He suggested Director Jefferies attend the next whole task force meeting if possible. Donald Dew is also working with Director Patrick from DHS to put on a statewide disability summit. They are looking at adding the task force and its recommendations as an agenda item. The summit is slated to take place in October 2021.

- Jennifer Vollen-Katz pointed the committee to look at recommendation 3. She inquired about who is responsible for staffing the hotlines referenced in the recommendation. She used Equip for Equality as a example of how the information fits with their work. She also inquired to which committee member put this recommendation forward
- Gia Orr answered that it was put forward by Edwin Bowen who represents DOC.
- Hotlines were discussed further including IL Guardianship and Advocacy's human rights intake line. Jennifer Vollen-Katz offered to help with cleanup language
- Director Mueller inquired about Equip for Equality's ombudsperson construct and if it extended to juveniles (IDJJ). Further conversation ensued and Gia Orr included explaining how IGAC's Human Rights Authority works and what happens post investigation
- There was a call for any additional suggestions for recommendations while the members worked out verbiage to clarify a few of the recommendations
- Mary Hettel provided some additional
- 4. Roll call vote to submit recommendations to whole task force
 - Bryan Echols made a Motion to accept the recommendations as written with revisions
 - Jennifer Vollen-Katz Seconded the Motion
 - Ayes have it and 0 Nays via Roll Call vote
- 5. Public comment
 - None
- 6. Adjournment
 - Jennifer Vollen-Katz made a Motion to adjourn
 - Dr. Omar Jamil Seconded the Motion
 - Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am

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