

# Tri-Branch Task Force on Justice and Co-Occurring Disorders

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

**Attendees:** Chairs Chief Justice Paul Reiber, Alice Emmons Dr. Harry Chen and Karen Gennette, AJ Ruben, Hon. Amy Davenport, Ed Riddell, Keith Clark, Kim Bushey, Kim Owens, Michael Mrowicki, Paul Dupre, Hon. Brian Grearson, Laura Dolgin, Stephen Von Sitas

Guests:

Discussion Notes	
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>Discussion began about the 2016 State of Vermont budget and the 100 million dollar deficit in budget. Chief Justice Reiber stated that Matt Riven the financial manager for the Judiciary is helping with the budget process and that the 8% vacancy savings rate will not make up the shortfall in the budget. Chief Justice Reiber also discussed the rescission in the next budget year and highlighted the importance of discussing perspectives on how to level the budget.</p> <p>It was shared that this is one of the toughest legislative sessions in recent memory. In the past reserves were used to level the budget; however this is not an option now. DCF highlighted the issues and what has happened to the social structure with budget cuts.</p> <p>Dr. Chen shared that approximately 50 million would be coming from the AHS budget and AHS is looking into where the 50 million will be made up and what resources can be used. The budget cuts will be difficult and we should look into building resiliency in the children and community as that will have a long term effect.</p>
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>Discussion of using evidenced based practices to look at programs and if a program is cost effective through research. The group discussed the 9 month analysis done by CRG that was based on research done in Washington State and by the Pew Trust. CRG developed cohorts of groups within the criminal justice system and the costs of each co-hort. Karen Gennette will provide a copy of the report to the group.</p> <p>The group also discussed previous studies that were completed on how much time a felony takes to process and the cost associated with this. The group discussed the importance for funding of research as it is expensive and should be built into the budget.</p> <p>Keith Clarke shared that areas lacking data should have attention paid to them as well. He is keeping this in mind with a pilot project and is using an independent researcher up front so that he will have quality data to build on.</p> <p>The Task Force discussed that there may be very good evidenced based practices and programs that do not make the cut due to budgetary constraints and one should be mindful of the core mission as sometimes you have to back up the core mission when making decisions.</p>
<b>Discussion:</b>	

The Task Force discussed Act 195 as it moves forward with pre-trial services. Services will include Mental Health and Substance Abuse Screening as well as a risk assessment. Assessments will be conducted by pre-trial monitors throughout the state. The state has contracted with Community Justice Centers and Court Diversion Network.

Pre-trial monitors will make contact with the participants and the program is targeting non-listed crimes. It is thought that the program will start slowly and ramp up. It is believed that there will be 11 pre-trial monitors for the State and they will be allocated based on need for each county. Some pre-trial monitors will cover more than one county.

There was discussion about assessments and entry into the program. The Judge may have the option to order it as a condition of release but it is less clear if a Judge can order a risk assessment.

A training was provided on 12/5/14 for Judges, Public Defenders and States Attorneys. Annie Ramniceanu, the pre-trial services director, discussed the pre-trial services program with the group. The training included an overview of the ORAS risk assessment tool.

It was shared that the Community Justice Network contracts and budget are drafted. The Community Justice network is hiring the pre-trial monitors and there is a training scheduled for 1/7/15 for the pre-trial monitors. There has also been outreach to ADAP preferred providers to have assessment slots available to make easy referrals for assessments.

**Discussion:**

The Task Force discussed the Criminal Justice Capable Core Team. The Sequential Intercept chart was sent to field service directors throughout the state for review. The field service directors updated the chart and sent them back to the CJCCT. The CJCCT will look through the 14 charts to make sure that they are consistent. There is also a statewide Sequential Intercept chart being reviewed to identify what the core services are around the state. The finished charts will be sent out to the Tri-Branch team.

**Discussion:**

The group discussed tools that were created by George Mason University and the feasibility of collaborating on a Jurisdictional tool. A suggestion was made to look at demographics from the risk assessments and then look at the services that are provided to see if they meet the needs of the outcomes from the assessments. George Mason University's suggestion was to start with the Jurisdictional survey.

**Update:**

Laura Dolgin Shared that there was a training on mental health issues completed for local Court staff. The training was funded by 3 grants. The training was facilitated by Mourning Fox and Kristin Chandler. The training will be provided to every court in the state and the goal is to be done by April 2015.

**Update:**

Judge Davenport shared that there is a decrease in detention numbers (approx. 328) which is down from the 340-350 mark. Judge Davenport also reported a decrease in the number of felony filings.

**Update:**

Sheriff Keith Clark gave an update on the pilot project for electronic monitoring - which is going well. There is case management to support participants and regular check ins with them. The project is looking to have 10-15 people per day and hoping that Sheriffs throughout the state will have similar programs. The Sheriff's department conducts background checks, checks in with employers, neighbors and supports participants throughout the process.

**Update:**

There is a reported increase in the treatment numbers around the state. There is work being done to make sure that people have access to treatment and connection to recovery centers and treatment hubs. More physicians in Chittenden County are being sought as MAT providers.

Naloxone kits are also being given out to reverse overdoses of opiates. People are able to obtain the kits and have them with them. Work is being done with the state police, municipalities and the pharmacy board to make the kits readily available. As of 11/13 there have been a reported 80 reverses of overdoses using the kits in the pilot project program.

**Update:**

Judge Grearson shared that just prior to the Tri-Branch meeting he was at 4 arraignments that involved either substance abuse or mental health issues and that this highlights the importance of the work that the Tri-Branch Task Force is doing. Judge Grearson also shared that he will continue working with the Washington County Adult Drug Court as he transitions into his new role as the Chief Superior Judge.

**Discussion:**

Discussion of pressure on the school systems due to trauma from substance abuse and mental health disorders experienced by children in their households. Children being removed from their households and placed in foster care and the schools are stating that the impact is growing.

There was discussion of the ACE's assessment that scores trauma related experiences. The group discussed how children with high scores have an increased cortisol level and this can be toxic. Some of the services being provided to children in the school system are being funded by the Race to the Top program.

**Action Plan Reviewed:**

Group reviewed

- Issue Area One: Objectives 1 and 2.
- Issue Area 2, goal 1, objective 1 and 2
- Issue Area 3

Group will review Issue area 4 next meeting.

**Issue Area One:**

Objective 1-Group discussed the Evidenced based systems and LIT meetings. The group decided that it would be helpful to have Monica come to the next meeting to discuss LIT's involvement and the Field Service Directors roles.

Objective 2-Identify gaps and make suggestions through pre-trial monitors. It was suggested to name core pieces to evaluate because evidence changes over time and focus on what has been

studied and established across systems.

The group discussed focusing to identify the best practices and looking at the top 8. Kim Bushey and Karen Gennette will identify the best practices and incorporate them into the Action Plan.

**Issue Area 2:**  
 Integrated Approach Goal 1- The group discussed integrating the hub and spoke model so it is clear where to go to get information and have a one stop shop. Kim Owens shared that Rutland is using Project Vision and has had success with this model. The Project Vision group meets regularly and is comprised of members of each stakeholder group in the community. The group discussed expanding Project Vision's model into other counties. The group also discussed reaching out to faith based communities and their importance in the Vision groups.

Kim Owens and Karen Gennette will work on re-writing issue2, goal 1 to include what Vision's model is. They will invite Scott Tucker to the next Tri-Branch meeting.

Objective 2- The group reviewed this objective and pointed out that risk need responsivity is applied to the pre-trial piece in this objective.

**Issue Area 3:**  
 The Criminal Justice Capable Core team is currently working on this now. They are looking at what the core level of services are in each community.

Action Item	Who's responsible	Due Date
Schedule 4 Tri Branch Meetings for 2015	Karen Gennette	
Completed Sequential Intercept charts to be sent out to Tri-Branch Task Force	Karen Gennette	

**NEXT MEETING:** April 2015 - TBD