

# Tri-Branch Task Force

June 30, 2011

**Attendees:** Representative Alice Emmons (Vermont Legislature), Chief Justice Paul Reiber (Vermont Judiciary), Secretary Doug Racine (AHS), Karen Gennette (CAO), George Karabakakis (HCRS), John Perry (Public Member), Connie Schutz (DMH), Barbara Cimaglio (ADAP), Christine Oliver (DMH), Judge Davenport (Vermont Judiciary), Ed Haak (Northwestern Medical Center), Mike Mrowicki (Vermont Legislature), Michael Sabourin (Public Member), AJ Ruben (Disability Rights Vermont), Andy Pallito (DOC), Tom Simpatico (UVM, MHISSION), Patty Breneman (CAO), Patrick Flood (AHS), Bill Young (Maple Leaf Farm), Andre Souligny (Office of Prisoners' Rights), Robert Appel (HRC), Anne Donahue (Counterpoint), Stephen Bouch (Public Member), Trish Singer (DMH), Julie Tessler (Vermont Council), Mary Martin (CAO Intern), Kathleen Weinhiemer (UVM, MHISSION), Andy Lowe (UVM, MHISSION).

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Discussion Notes

Welcomed AHS Secretary Doug Racine, Special Assistant Susan Bartlett, and DMH Commissioner Christine Oliver to the group.

#### Legislative Updates

- DOC (Andy Pallito): Success in community partnerships despite significant budget cuts. The FY12 budget is level funded. Discussed the facility switch between Chittenden and Northwest and the plan to bring inmates back to Vermont. Cited the difficulty to achieve correctional best practice when inmates are lodged in another state. Legislation around home confinement for misdemeanants has the potential to decrease the DOC population by 10-15%.
- ADAP (Barbara Cimaglio): Looking at strengthening substance abuse treatment reentry services. The geographical areas of focus include: St. Johnsbury, Rutland, Barre/Montpelier, and Chittenden County. Working on becoming a system with an integrated, cohesive approach. The DUI Bill includes a report from the Governor's Highway Safety Program with a plan for implementation of a comprehensive system of penalties, alternative sanctions, and treatment to reduce the number of persons with repeat offenses of operating motor vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. [Read Act 56](#). The Public Inebriate Task Force is targeting unserved areas and creating implementation plans to address those needs.
- Judiciary (Judge Davenport): Home confinement for qualified misdemeanants provides a challenge in regards to maintaining truth in sentencing. Judge would need to make written findings to specify that home confinement not be an option. Sentencing alternatives are a challenge for creating a system to address these misdemeanants.
- DMH (Christine Oliver): The Designated Agencies received a 2.5% budget reduction. There was also funds appropriated in the capital bill to continue design work for the Vermont State Hospital rather than implementing the 15-bed secure facility.
- AHS (Doug Racine): Spoke to the positive progress with performance-based contract writing with the DAs and the strategic planning that is occurring at all of the Departments within AHS. DMH, for instance, has a plan that focuses on early intervention and prevention.
- Legislature (Alice Emmons): The House Corrections and Institutions Committee focuses on both policy and institutions and the interrelatedness between the two. Facility issues point toward the need to change policies in order to keep people out of incarceration or drastic decisions will result.

#### Grants Supported by the TBTF

There have been two requests for letters of support recently—one from Lamoille Court Diversion Restorative Justice Programs and one from the Chittenden County Adult Treatment Court. Karen indicated that the process has been that the request would be emailed to the TBTF, and if there are no objections then a letter from the TBTF would be drafted, proofed, and signed by one of the three co-chairs.

#### SFI Update

Patrick reported of the large culture shift with DOC and the DAs that is affecting the protocols and how the systems interact. The series of trainings or "conversations" that DMH is hosting is assisting the two entities in working closer together. A meeting with advocates initiated the idea of tracking critical incidents that are

	<p>separate from law enforcement. The Criminal Justice Capable Core Team is looking at statewide strategies at intercept 1. A comprehensive approach using evidence-based strategies is currently being delivered in Hampden, Massachusetts – Kim Bushey will follow-up on inviting them to Vermont. Susan indicated that the public health nurse model has some benefits including a safe entry point into the family that doesn't involve the court or school. There was a discussion about changing the business model and building reasons for parents to not go back to jail - perhaps by means of parenting skills.</p> <p><u>DMH Training Series</u> The Department of Mental Health is hosting a series of presenters to discuss assessment, engagement, and reentry services. Trish Singer is taking suggestions for other presenters to host these conversations.</p> <p><u>Chronic Pain</u> Emergency services are an integral part of the solution to intercept 1. Chronic pain issues affect 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Americans, and 16% of people become addicted to pain medication. According to a needs assessment/survey in Franklin, Grand Isle counties, 86% of physicians did not have special training in the treatment of pain management and ~70% didn't know how to treat addiction.</p> <p><u>Maple Leaf Farm Evaluation</u> One of the main outcomes of this study is that the number of episodes in treatment seems to be irrelevant—the effect of incarceration overwhelms the treatment effect. If those offenders in the study had NOT been incarcerated in the first place, the state would have saved roughly \$4 million. If they then behaved like the offenders in the study post treatment, the savings in incarceration are approximately \$8 million, (in the next 3 years) more than offsetting the entire costs for treatment of the entire study period. Divert as many offenders from the court and corrections systems as possible consistent with public safety. Especially divert high-need prison-bound offenders to treatment instead of incarceration The population served at Maple Leaf Farm has grown much more complicated, yet program completions have risen significantly. Questions include: Where is the treatment system failure? Did we know that these folks had treatment needs?</p> <p><u>MHISSION Demonstration</u> The MHISSION project uses a cross-organizational case management system to create veteran-centric connections between police, corrections, the legal system, mental health providers, and housing providers. This system takes elements of information and blankets the siloes. It also enables cross-organizational workflow as well as enables connection to treatment and services, not the services themselves. Workflow Manager Tool: 1) automates the process, 2) enables cross-organizational_workflow, 3) enables connection to treatment &amp; services, <i>not</i> the services themselves, 4) follow-up is the key differentiator. They are working on including HMIS information.</p>
<b>Decisions Made</b>	The group has agreed that the CJC Core Team can continue to explore program options to address alternatives to the criminal justice system at intercept 1.
<b>Decisions Pending</b>	
<b>Parking Lot</b>	(ideas/ actions to be addressed later)

### ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Who's responsible	Due Date

### NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 9:30am** Supreme Court Room, 111 State Street, Montpelier