

Governor's Commission to Review and Advise on Services
Related to At-Risk Youth in New Hampshire
May 15, 2015
LOB Room 206-208

Final

Commission Members in Attendance: Geoffrey Souther, Mary Steady, Mike Adamkowski, Representative Betsey McKinney and Michael Skibbie. Judge James Carroll, Nicole Rodler and Commissioner Nicholas Toumpas arrived a little late.

Commission Members Absent: Debra DeSimone, David Dionne, Karen Purse, Evelyn Clark-Smith, and Martha Kane (excused).

Others in Attendance: Mary Ann Cooney, Associate Commissioner for the Department of Health & Human Services and Barbara Carpenter, member of the Juvenile Parole Board at Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC).

I. **Call to Order:**

Chair Souther called the meeting to order at 11:00 am by welcoming the members.

II. **Approval of Minutes:**

Chair Souther asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2015 meeting. Commissioner McKinney moved to accept the draft minutes and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Adamkowski. Motion was adopted. The minutes will be reposted on the website as final draft.

III. **Review of the Executive Order 2014-8 charge and duties:**

Commissioner Souther had the Governor's Order retyped and highlighted the areas that are tasks the board needs to complete. Each member was given a copy.

First highlighted section, "....engaging an independent organization to conduct a review of the Sununu Youth Services Center.....". This task has been completed by Ned Loughran, Executive Director, Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators. The report can be found on the DHHS website at [webisteshttp://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/documents/reviewofnhjuvenilejusticesystem.pdf](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/documents/reviewofnhjuvenilejusticesystem.pdf)

There was discussion about the report and whether or not it actually gave any significant recommendations or changes that need to be made at SYSC. All members present are in favor of having Mr. Loughran attend a future meeting to discuss his findings and recommendations.

The second highlighted section, “.... Commission to[shall] review and advise on the services provided in NH to at-risk adolescents, assessing policies, procedures, treatment services.....”.

There was considerable discussion about what agencies are using as tools for outcomes measurement. Commissioner Skibbie mentioned a report that was submitted to the Legislature in January 2015 that mentions some of these issues and he thinks it would be a good idea for the Commission to review it. The report “Report to Legislative Committees of the General Court Regarding Services Provided to Juveniles by the State,” can be found at: <http://governor.nh.gov/commissions-task-forces/adolescent-youth/documents/ay-03-06-2015-hb-1624-final.pdf>

Associate Commissioner Cooney requested to know where Mr. Skibbie found this report, where did the individual’s get their data, maybe we should have someone come and speak about this at a future meeting.

Commissioner Souther indicated that he would be in contact with Associate Commissioner Cooney regarding contractors and outcome measures and the possibility of DCYF Director, Lorraine Bartlett, addressing the Commission at a later date.

Commissioner Toumpas wants to look at the child’s whole life cycle and mapping out how these different areas are connected, where the inter-relationships are (schools, court, department, substance abuse, family, etc.). Articulate key principles, show the high level overview and what links are working. Commissioner Souther will set up a meeting to discuss these ideas.

There was discussion about having a broader perspective on juveniles, not just when they enter the system and exit, but what caused them to be there in the first place.

Commissioner Steady mentioned having someone from Department of Education (DOE) come and speak to the Commission.

Third highlighted section requires, “....on or before the first anniversary of the first meeting the Commission shall submit a written report...” No discussion.

The fourth highlighted section is regarding further duties of the Commission. There was considerable discussion about an internal review that previous Director Bishop did with a panel of external entities. Commissioner Adamkowski indicated that this report should be reviewed and discussed as part of the report was to see if there could be ways to reduce costs. What are they spending, what do they need, etc.

IV. Commission recommendations to execute Executive Order 2014-8 duties.

V. Next Steps and Proposed Agenda for future meetings

The Commissioners decided to continue with monthly meetings on the 2nd Friday for the remainder of the year as there is much that needs to be done in order for the report to be completed.

VI. Other Business:

Guest speaker, Barbara Carpenter is a seven year veteran of the juvenile justice parole board down at Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC). She spoke specifically about the fact that juveniles should not be automatically paroled after 6-months. Many of these juveniles need help and they almost always reoffend and have their parole revoked. Parole should not be based on time-frame/date but on treatment. Ms. Carpenter shared a report with the Board that she thought would be very helpful: The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth College, POLICY RESEARCH SHOP, New Hampshire's Juvenile Justice System, "An investigation of Current Practices for handling youth in the Criminal Justice System". 2013.

VII. Adjournment:

Chair Souther moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Adamkowski and Commissioner Rodler seconded. The motion was adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa M. Wardner
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DCYF