

**Governor's Commission to Review and Advise on Services  
Related to At-Risk Youth in New Hampshire  
June 12, 2015  
New Hampshire Audubon McLane Center**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Geoffrey Souther, Debra DeSimone, Michael Skibbie, Karen Purse, Mike Adamkowski, Evelyn Clark-Smith, Nicole Rodler, Martha Kane, and Amy Kennedy

**Commission Members Absent:** Mary Steady, Representative Betsey McKinney, Judge James Carroll, Commissioner Nick Toumpas, and Superintendent David Dionne

**Others in Attendance:** Lorraine Bartlett, Director of Juvenile Justice, Sherri Levesque, DCYF Bureau Administrator, Organizational Learning and Quality Improvement, and Mary Ann Cooney, Associate Commissioner for the Department of Health and Human Services

I. **Call to Order:**

Chair Souther called the meeting to order at 11:06 am by welcoming the members.

II. **Approval of Minutes:**

Chair Souther asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Rodler 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. **Presentation: Status of Juvenile Justice Outcomes by Sherri Levesque, Bureau Administrator, Organizational Learning and Quality Improvement**

Sherri Levesque distributed copies of the presentation to the group, along with a January 2015 Report to Legislative Committees of the General Court Regarding Services Provided to Juveniles by the State.

Sherri highlighted three things to take away from her presentation: we currently have information and data regarding many outcomes in Juvenile Justice (JJ) in New Hampshire, we still need more information and data (which we plan to get), and what we do know and measure overall is good but not perfect.

The presentation shows that in SFY 2014, 1148 episodes of services provided (little more than half) were home and community based services. Home and community based services are substantially less costly than institutionalization.

Throughout the presentation, a wish list for evaluating outcomes was referenced. The items on that list include:

- More frequent reviews
- Follow up data at intervals after service provision ends
- Data from all ISO providers
- Quantitative results of specific outcomes
- Analysis of recidivism to adult corrections

- Drill down to offense types, services provided
- Much more analysis needed re: re-entry to Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC), qualitative file reviews, data drill down by length of stay, diagnoses, and offenses

Reviews look at compliance with rules, engagement with the family, etc. If the desired outcomes for family engagement weren't achieved, the reviews look at whether or not there was quality work to provide engagement by the provider. The information from the review is shared and discussed with the agencies, and if necessary, technical assistance is provided.

Over the next year, Juvenile Justice plans to collect data from home based providers on a regular basis, and follow up this data at intervals after service provision ends.

Juvenile Justice is working with Dartmouth Medical Center on a grant to implement trauma screening and provide EBP trauma treatment.

Data regarding timeliness of reporting abuse and neglect reflects a challenge on the child protection side, not on the JJ side. The issue is partially with resources and documentation, and partially the challenge of working cooperatively with families while still being as intrusive as possible. This is an area of constant focus. Sherri will send the group a copy of the tool used to gather this data. These outcomes are measured and published by the Federal Government. Sherri also mentioned that district offices also use the tool for practice case reviews, mirroring the intensity of the Federal review.

Some additional areas we need to work on are locational programming, and comparison of NH to other states regarding the seven national standards. Permanency is a lifelong family setting for youth that enables them to grow into a healthy and productive adult. Much of our data development plan focuses on developing this system, and soon we can monitor this national average on our own, in real-time.

We are on the beginning of a new frontier with recidivism. Juvenile Justice has spent the last year and a half working on a project to collect this data set, clean it up, and develop it until we can get some preliminary data. We need to know a lot more about whom these returning youth are and why they are back again.

Sherri would like the group to walk away from the presentation with the knowledge that we can only move so fast as data allows and that we don't have as much ability to answer questions about outcomes as we'd like. It is important to look at reintegration efforts, what's available in the community, and what can be put into place while they're there.

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

V. Next Steps and Proposed Agenda for future meetings:

**Ned Loughran** will attend the July meeting to present his report. This will be the primary source for that meeting's agenda.

We also need to talk about next steps. Our first report is due next February, but we should step back in the next couple months and hone in on some areas we want to make recommendations on and collect data. If you have thoughts, suggestions,

concerns, etc. please email them to Chair Souther. He will then collate them and distribute to the group.

VI. Other Business:

Commissioner Skibbie referenced the presentation received at the last meeting from Barbara Carpenter, a veteran of the juvenile justice parole board at SYSC. He wants to make sure this Commission is looking at that kind of assertion in context of the act of keeping children incarcerated for extended periods of time. The longer you keep a child incarcerated, the worse the outcome. Commissioner Skibbie also referenced a report from Ohio that supports his opinion that we are heading in the wrong way if we are keeping children in custody for long periods of time. Chair Souther stated that this needed more discussion, and we need to look at this data and make sure what is being presented is accurate. Mary Ann said she will look at the data and that we could do a thorough assessment of the point Commissioner Skibbie made about getting people ready for discharge. Commissioner Skibbie said it is not a problem of not keeping kids long enough; it's a problem of not doing what we need to do to help them be successful.

VII. Adjournment:

Chair Souther moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Clark-Smith seconded. The motion was adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily A. Larson  
Word Processor Operator I  
DHHS Bureau of Behavioral Health