

**Governor's Commission to Review and Advise on Services Related to At-Risk  
Adolescent Youth in New Hampshire**

**July 8, 2016  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 208  
Concord, New Hampshire**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Michael Adamkowski (via phone for first half of meeting), Judge James Carroll, David Dionne, Michael Skibbie, Nicole Rodler, Michele Harlan, Jeffrey Meyers.

**Commission Members Absent:** Mary Steady, Karen Purse, Martha Kane, Representative McKinney, Representative DeSimone.

Note: the Senate member had not yet appointed by the time of this meeting, and the appointment representing the SEA is vacant.

**Others in attendance:** Gail Snow (DCYF), Lorraine Bartlett (DCYF), Amy Kennedy (Governor's Office)

**I. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am by welcoming members of the Commission and the public in attendance.

**II. Approval of Minutes (March 11, 2016)**

In lieu of a Chair, Amy Kennedy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11 meeting. Commissioner Dionne moved, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Skibbie. The motion was adopted.

**III. Election of New Chair**

Former Chairwoman Mary Ann Cooney has started a new position outside of New Hampshire, and has resigned from the Commission. Commissioner Adamkowski offered interest in serving as Chair.

Commissioner Harlan moved to elect Commissioner Adamkowski as Chair; Commissioner Meyers seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

**IV. Presentation: Analysis of SYSC Population (Commissioner Skibbie)**

Commissioner Skibbie reviewed the data which appears in the Department's quarterly reports over the last 18 months about the population at the Sununu Center. Discussion included the large increase in cases involving simple assault, the increased share of detained versus committed children, and the growth in the share of the population coming from Hillsborough County.

**V. Discussion of Final Report Process and Information Collection**

Commissioner Meyers expressed that the Commission and the Department of Health and Human Services need an analysis on what the capacity is for a range of services throughout the juvenile community, including options for at risk youth, inventory of facilities/capacity, out of state placements, and cost to maintain the system. An analysis of what funds are needed to fill any gaps would be helpful. Conducting such a study can be a recommendation of the commission with inclusion of potential funding during the legislative budget process, done independently through competitive process.

*The Commission members discussed having placement providers via their associations attend the next Commission meeting to discuss what gaps they see in the system (rates, gaps in spectrum of services, etc). The Commission discussed surveying family court judges on same topic; Judge Carroll indicated he would report on this at the next meeting.*

The Commission discussed rate increases for community based providers, lack of increases since 2009. *Director Bartlett will request a short presentation from Attorney Byry Kennedy from DCYF to provide background on rates at the next meeting.*

The Commission discussed including in the final report what services have closed or ended within the last ten years, *information that could be potentially provided by the DHHS Bureau of Licensing and Certification (DHHS will provide).*

Judge Carroll requested that DHHS report on overall themes from individual assessments from cases; *Director Bartlett offered to have Sherry Levesque present on this topic.*

*The Commission requested that Amy Kennedy distribute the 2015 Continuing Resolution Senate Finance report on options for the Sununu Youth Services Center.*

**VI. Next Steps**

The Commission discussed having the final report completed and presented to Governor Hassan on or around November 1, 2016.

The next Commission meeting will be held on Friday, August 12 from 12:10 pm to 1:30 in room 302 of the Legislative Office Building in Concord.