

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

**September 11, 2015  
Legislative Office Building  
Rooms 206-208  
Concord, New Hampshire**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Geoffrey Souther; Mary Steady; Michael Adamkowski; Representative McKinney; Mary Ann Cooney.

**Commission Members Absent:** Judge James Carroll, Commissioner Nick Toumpas (ex-officio); David Dionne; Karen Purse; Evelyn Clark Smith; Martha Kane; Michael Skibbie; Nicole Rodler; Note: the Senate member had not yet appointed by the time of this meeting.

**Others in Attendance:** Amy Kennedy, Office of Governor Maggie Hassan; Lorraine Bartlett, DCYF, DHHS.

**I. Call to order**

Chair Geoff Souther called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm by welcoming members of the Commission and the public in attendance.

**II. Approval of Minutes (August 14, 2015)**

Chair Souther asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14 meeting. Commissioner McKinney moved, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Adamkowski. The motion was adopted.

**III. Election of New Chair**

Chairman Souther has started a new position, as Chief Operating Officer for the NH Hospital, and will continue serving as the designee for the Bureau of Behavioral Health. However, due to additional time constraints, he has asked to step down from the position of Chair. Mary Ann Cooney expressed interest in serving as Chair.

Commissioner McKinney moved to elect Commissioner Cooney as Chair; Commissioner Adamkowski seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

**IV. Overview of Previous Work**

Chair Cooney gave an overview of the presentations the Commission has received thus far, and discussed the letter sent to Governor Maggie Hassan regarding the possible budget reduction to the Sununu Youth Services Center.

Chair Cooney gave a summary of the Continuing Resolution Working Group on the Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC) meeting held on 9/10/15 at SYSC. The working group asked DHHS to present their vision on the facility, as well as how to achieve the reductions outlined in the proposed SFY16/17 budget that passed prior to Governor Hassan's veto. Chair Cooney reviewed the options presented:

1. Closing facility, moving youth residents to community based residential facilities.
2. Privatizing certain services, including food service and maintenance.
3. Establishing a psychiatric residential treatment facility

There was discussion among members of the benefits of option #3, including decreasing the numbers in the waiting queue for NH Hospital, plus the steps and processes needed for this recommendation.

**V. Discussion of Strategic Planning**

The Commission discussed items for further review and recommendation to the Governor. It was decided that diversion services was a topic for further consideration, including standards around diversion in other communities, reimbursements, statewide partners, and law enforcement.

It was decided that Commission members would connect with Commissioner Rodler on law enforcement practices. Commission members agreed that there is a need for a deeper dive into diversion and pre-diversion with law enforcement, including an understanding of what law enforcement needs to provide services with an understanding of limited resources.

Chair Cooney offered to discuss in further detail the public health approach on primary preventions.

**VI. Public Comment**

No discussion from the public.

**VII. Next Steps**

Commissioner Souther moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Adamkowski seconded. The motion was adopted and the meeting was adjourned.