Interagency Forensic Services Committee /Maryland Advisory Council/Planning Council

Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2013
2:00 – 3:30PM

DHMH Office of Forensic Services
Jessup, Maryland

Attendees:
Darrell Nearon, Ph.D., J.D., LCSW-C (Co-Chair) Director DHMH Office of Forensic Services
The Honorable George Lipman (Co-Chair) District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City
Julia Jerscheid, Consumer Advocate State Mental Health Planning
Marian Bland Director Mental Hygiene Administration Special Programs
Lori Mannino, LCSW-C, Director DHMH Community Forensic Aftercare Program
Leslie A. McMillan, Director DHMH OFS – Developmental Disabilities Division
Richard Ortega Ph.D., DHMH Office of Forensic Services – Mental Hygiene
Cynthia Petion, Mental Hygiene Administration Office of Planning
Sarah Rhine, Esq., Maryland Disability Law Center Inc.
Erik Roskes, M.D., Director Forensic Services Springfield Hospital
Jane Tambree LCSW-C Coordinator Forensic Alternatives Services Team
Cornelius H. Woodson Sr., Administrator DPSCS Special Programs

The meeting was called to order by Darrell Nearon Ph.D., J.D., LCSW-C Director of the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) Office of Forensic Services. Dr. Nearon shared that the agenda for the meeting included brief introductions, an overview of recent changes within the DHMH for forensic services, a review of the purpose and proposed activities of the Interagency Forensic Services Committee moving forward. There were brief introductions of the members and guest present at the meeting.

Dr. Nearon shared that Department had consolidated the forensic services personnel of the Alcohol & Drug Abuse, Developmental Disabilities and Mental Hygiene Administrations into one office in Jessup Maryland in April 2013. In addition, the DHMH OFS was developing a database for forensic services that would enhance data collection and reporting by the DHMH.

Judge Lipman shared that the Judges had presented a Report on the Activities of Problem Solving or Mental Health Courts in Maryland and Position papers to the Legislature on various issues including the Capital Project for the DHMH Secure Evaluation & Therapeutic Treatment [SETT] facility – focus on size. He indicated that Mental Health or Problem Solving courts have been very productive in identifying and working with the DHMH in serving the needs of individuals with mental disorders and/or intellectual disabilities presenting in the criminal justice system. Judge Lipman reported that the "Mental Health Procedures" Manual developed by the Honorable Charlotte M. Cooksey (Ret) is being finalized and distributed for use by District and Circuit Courts of Maryland.

There was brief discussion about the accomplishments and activities of the DHMH OFS over past several months.

Dr. Nearon indicated that he had invited Ms. Cynthia Petion, Office of Planning for the Mental Hygiene Administration to share about the Mental Hygiene Administration's State Plan which includes forensic services. Ms. Petion indicated that the Mental Hygiene Administration developed a State Plan some years ago and updates the State Plan annually. She indicated that input is solicited from various sources including consumers, providers, divisions within the Mental Hygiene Administration (i.e. Special Populations), data, Planning Council and Committees reports and recommendations. Reports and recommendations have been forwarded from the OFS and considered by the Mental Hygiene Administration. The State Plan does include goals and objectives for the provision of forensic services by the DHMH.

There was brief discussion about expansion of capacity of quality services to court involved individuals in the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 4PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Leslie McMillan
Acting as Recorder