

COUNCIL ON MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS (COMIO)

<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/comio/index.html>

MINUTES

July 25, 2013

**LOCATION: 1515 S. Street, Kern Conference Room, North Building
Sacramento, CA 95814**

IN ATTENDANCE AT 1515 S. Street, Kern Room

COMIO Council Members

- **Chairperson:** Jeffrey Beard, Ph.D., Secretary, State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
- **Vice Chairperson:** Manuel J. Jimenez, Jr., Director, Merced County Mental Health
- David Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Ret), Humboldt County (via conf line)
- David Meyer, J.D., Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California (via conf line)
- James W. Sweeney, J.D., Principal, James W. Sweeney & Associates
- Mark Grabau, California Department of State Hospitals, representing Cliff Allenby, Acting Director
- The Honorable Stephen V. Manley, Judge, Santa Clara Superior Court

CDCR Staff

- Dr. Diana Toche, D.D.S., Undersecretary (A), Administration and Offender Services, CDCR
- Tim Belavich, Ph.D, Director (A), Division of Health Care Services (DHCS), and Deputy Director (A), Statewide Mental Health Program, DHCS, CDCR (via conf line)
- Fu Yiu, Statewide Mental Health Program, Division of Health Care Services (DHCS), CDCR
- Pamela Michel, Statewide Mental Health Program, DHCS, CDCR
- Nicholas Weber, Staff Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, CDCR
- Robert Storms, Executive, Division of Adult Parole Operations, CDCR (via conf line)

Invited Presenter

- Darby Kernan, Representative from office of California Senate President Pro Tempore, Darrell Steinberg

Interested Parties

- Brenda Grealish, Chief, Mental Health Services Division, California Department of Health Care Services
- Brian Jones, News and Review
- Erika Barrow, Contra Costa County Behavioral Health Services
- James Kenshalo, LCSW, Contra Costa County
- Joseph V. A. Partansky, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
- Marvin A, Contra Costa County, CCS
- Molly Willenbring, Executive Director, Forensic Mental Health Association of California
- Sarah Thomas, Quality Group Homes, Inc., Contra Costa County, CCS

AGENDA ITEM 1 & 2 -Introduction/Welcome – Vice-Chair

The meeting was called to order at 11:10am. Introductions and welcoming were done by Manuel Jimenez.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Senator Steinberg’s Plan for Action 2013

Darby Kernan, a representative from the office of Darrell Steinberg, California Senate President Pro Tempore, gave a presentation to the Council about the Senator's "Call for State Action" for how to achieve more accessible, less costly, more effective mental health services for California citizens. Ms. Kernan provided two documents to the Council members and those present: (1) A Call for State Action: Invest in Mental Health Services for Community Wellness, Senator Darrell Steinberg; and, (2) Investment in Mental Health Wellness, an Issue Paper from Michelle Baass, Senate Budget and Fiscal review Committee.

The plan for action proposed adding twenty-five Mobile Crisis Support Teams and at least 2,000 Crisis Stabilization and Crisis Residential Treatment beds over the next two years to expand community-based resources and capacity. It is believed that these resources will provide a comprehensive continuum of services to address short-term crisis, acute need, and the longer-term ongoing treatment and rehabilitation opportunities of adults with mental disorders. The objectives of the Senate proposal also include adding at least 200 triage personnel over the next two years to specifically assist several thousand high-need individuals to access medical, specialty mental health care, alcohol and drug treatment, social, educational, and other services. Ms. Kernan emphasized that early intervention and treatment to achieve recovery and reduce costs, efforts to mitigate stigma and discrimination, and facilitate people in need into assistance were the main parts of the plan.

Council member James Sweeney commented on the cutting of funding (30% to 36%) to some of the programs resulting in the laying off of staff. Ms. Kernan discussed that contracts were awarded before the budget was completed, so the funding is

there. Judge Stephen Manley made a recommendation to Secretary Beard to execute the contracts. Ms. Sarah Thomas, Quality Group Homes, Inc., the county provider, reported that their budget was cut from \$1.1 million to approximately \$707,000; as a result they were losing many slots this year. The Council members, Sarah Thomas, and Robert Storms showed concern about the various aspects, process and implications of contracts between county providers and CDCR.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – New Business

a) Specific COMIO Goals

There was a discussion regarding the specific COMIO goals that have been discussed in prior COMIO meetings.

- **Nick Weber**-discussed the letter to the Council from Secretary Jeff Beard. Mr. Weber advised the Council members that a representative from the CDCR's Parole Outpatient Clinics can come to a future meeting to talk to the Council. Also, Mr. Weber stated that a link should be established between CDCR Secretary and COMIO.
- **The Honorable Stephen V. Manley**-there are no legislative plans for the incompetency of juveniles or to provide meaningful help and need to juveniles. Judge Stephen Manley showed concern for those parolees because there is a lacking of crisis beds for those who are in need of structured mental health programs.
- **Suggestion:** Invite California Youth Correction representative to the next meeting.

b) Strategic Plan

The draft of the Strategic Plan was handed out to the Council and attendants. Mr. Jimenez stated that the Council members will review and make changes if needed.

c) COMIO Web Page Improvement

There was a discussion regarding updating the COMIO web page. A copy of web page was given out to the Council and attendants; Mr. Jimenez stated that Council will review and update as needed.

- **Molly Willenbring**-had a question about why the COMIO website is not separated from the CDCR website and is not more visible for the public.
- **Nick Weber**-there is a variety of qualities within the website of CDCR, some of the pages are well designed while some are not.
- **Manuel Jimenez**-there is a need to maintain and update the website; we (the Council) will review and make changes as needed.
- **The Honorable Stephen V. Manley**-the web page seemed to be up-to-date. Suggested that Mr. Jimenez send a letter to Secretary Beard requesting that the website be updated, maintained, independent, and more visible as a division of CDCR.
- **Secretary Beard**-informed the members that staffs that could do this update are now all dedicated to the conversion of the Strategic Offender Management System (a CDCR in-house medical appointment software program) to a newer system, and are not currently available for this type of project.

d) FMHAC

Ms. Molly Willenbring, Executive Director of the Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC), reported that her organization wants to work with the COMIO Council on a case to case basis. Per the FMHAC Board of Directors, forming a joint grant writing group cannot be accomplished informally; the Board would need to have specific details agreed on ahead of any grant writing projects with COMIO. However, the FMHAC Board is willing to work with the COMIO Council to promote accessible, effective mental health treatment in the communities. FMHAC would like to secure a grant on behalf of community mental health agencies/providers.

- **Mark Grabau**-resources and funding are needed. Also, it is difficult to establish a cooperative work relationship between two parties without a formal agreement.
- **Manuel Jimenez**-he is willing to meet with FMHAC and Secretary Beard and go over details or plans regarding how COMIO, CDCR, and FMHAC can work together cooperatively.

Request a CDCR Executive Director for COMIO

Council member Dave Lehman reiterated the Council's request to CDCR Secretary Beard to designate a permanent Executive Director position for COMIO. The Council needs someone from CDCR who is dedicated to COMIO. A Motion was made by Dave Lehman that this request be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting; Council member James Sweeney seconded the Motion and Council member Dave Meyer also seconded the Motion. Secretary Beard emphasized that the CDCR is supporting COMIO, and will consider the request.

Next Meeting

- 1) Follow up with the request for a permanent Executive Director from CDCR

- 2) Follow up with the invitation of California Youth Correction representative to the meeting
- 3) Follow up with COMIO website update
- 4) Follow up with Strategic Plan draft

***Next COMIO Meeting – September 26, 2013**

1515 S Street, Sacramento, CA

Kern Room, 1st Floor Lobby, North Building