

# Minutes

## Special Commission on Substance Addictions Treatment in the Criminal Justice System

**Date:** Friday, February 13, 2015

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** Two Center Plaza, Boston, MA

### **Commissions Members Present:**

Harry Spence- Co-chair and Trial Court Administrator

Brian Sylvester – Co-chair and Director of Inter-Agency Initiatives, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Representative

Paula Carey- Chief Justice of the Trial Court

Mark Larsen, Esq., -Committee for Public Council Services (CPCS) Representative

Randy Hunt- House of Representatives

Katherine Chmiel- Deputy Commissioner - Department of Correction (DOC) Representative

Clifford Robinson-Deputy Commissioner – Department of Mental Health Representative,

Edward Dolan- Commissioner, Mass. Probation Service

David Sullivan- Northwestern District Attorney, Mass. District Attorneys Association Representative (via remote participation)

Erin Hearn- Representative Office of Senator Richard Ross

Carol Higgins O'Brien, Commissioner-Department of Correction ("DOC") Representative

### **Visitor Attendees:**

Mary Rafferty-Trial Court Senior Assistant for Administration and Communications,

Sheila Casey-Trial Court Specialty Courts Administrator

Edward Callahan, Veterans Court Program Director

Hon. Mary Hogan Sullivan- Director of Specialty Courts, District Court Department

Linda Holt -Trial Court Director of Research & Planning

James Kelleher- Assistant Superintendent of Western MA Correctional Alcohol Center

Michael Ashe- Hampden County Sheriff, Mass. Sheriffs' Association Representative

Hilary Jacobs- Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS)

Don Purington, DVS Peer Support Specialist for the Veterans Court

I **Call to order:** at 10:45a.m. by Co-Chair Harry Spence.

II **Quorum:** 10 voting members present and 1 voting member via remote participation

**Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Harry Spence with opening remarks regarding approval of January minutes. The minutes were voted upon and unanimously approved. Co-chair Spence then asked Commission Members and guests to introduce themselves. At such time District Attorney David Sullivan joined the meeting via telephone.

As the first order of business Co-Chair Spence un-tabled the motion regarding whether the Commission should consider minimum mandatory drug offense sentencing as part of its charge. Representative Hunt seconded the motion. The Commission agreed to revisit this topic closer to the year end mark as it proceeds with drafting its year-end report to the Legislature.

**Drug Addiction Presentation:** Co-chair Spence introduced guest speaker Hilary Jacobs from Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS). She gave an overview of BSAS services which include community-based prevention programs, intervention strategies like Narcan distribution, evidence-based licensed treatment programs and support for ongoing recovery in communities. Treatment programs exist for adults, adolescents and families, and include inpatient detoxification and stabilization services, short and long term residential treatment and outpatient treatment including medication assisted treatment. All BSAS programming is aimed at the preventing, intervening treating and providing recovery support for persons at risk of or who have substance use disorders,

including alcohol, prescription medication and illegal drugs. Ms. Jacobs discussed the strong need for support of all treatment interventions, including community based, inpatient, residential and medication assisted treatment. The importance of matching the treatment need to the service provided was discussed, and in some cases a “bedded service” may not be the most effective treatment match. -+the subject of sufficient resources arose and the issue of how to access those resources. Jacobs also presented information on the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA). CHIA is a state agency responsible for collecting data in order to provide health care statistics regarding providers, organizations and payers to improve the functioning of health care systems. Hilary suggested that the reports being produced by CHIA as required by Chapter 258 could be helpful in informing the Commission on its final recommendations. There was an open discussion about a Huffington Post article “Dying to be Free,” an article about a twenty-five year old man, Patrick Cagey, from the University of Kentucky who struggled with heroin addiction and later overdosed. The discussion brought up important points regarding treatment and relapse. Patrick had gone through a 30-day drug treatment center and four days later he had relapsed and overdosed. Ms. Jacobs pointed out that substance use addiction may require multiple episodes of treatment, evidenced based treatment and medications for opioid use disorders. . Rep. Hunt agreed that more medication assisted treatment is needed in order to lower relapse rates. . The discussion turned to all three types of medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorders and the various barriers to accessing each type.

**Other Business:** The Commission members agreed to invite a representative from the Department of Corrections to attend a Commission meeting and present on Drug Treatment session.

**New Business:** The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2015. Katherine Chmiel, Department of Correction (DOC) and Sheriff Michael Ashe, Mass. Sheriffs’ Association will present an overview on Section 35 and re-entry of offenders on their department’s experience.

**Adjournment:** Court Administrator Harry Spence declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.