

Minutes

Special Commission on Substance Addictions Treatment in the Criminal Justice System

Date: Friday, June 5, 2015

Time: 10:30am

Location: Two Center Plaza, Boston, MA

Commission Members Present:

Brian Sylvester	Co-chair and Director of Inter-Agency Initiatives, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Representative
Harry Spence	Co-Chair, Court Administrator for the Executive Office of the Trial Court
Charlene Bonner	Chairman, Parole Board
Randy Hunt	House of Representatives
John Verner	Attorney General's Office Representative
Clifford Robinson	Deputy Commissioner, Department of Mental Health (DMH) Representative
Randy Hunt	House of Representatives
Katherine Chimel	Deputy Commissioner, Department of Correction (DOC) Representative
David Henderson, MD	Mass. General- Substance Addiction Treatment Representative
Jennifer Queally	Undersecretary for Law Enforcement-EOPSS Representative
Thomas Sannicandro	State Representative

Remote Participation:

Marsha Kazarosian	President, Mass. Bar Association
David Sullivan	District Attorney, Northwestern District

Visitor Attendees:

Sheila Casey	Trial Court Specialty Courts Administrator
Georgia Critsley	Trial Court Intergovernmental Relations Senior Manager
Mary Rafferty	Trial Court Sr Administrator and Communications
Linda Holt	Trial Court Research & Planning Director
Shawna Andersen	Research & Planning Specialist, Mass. Parole Board
Meghan Perry	Recovery Coach, Gosnold, Inc.
Tori McCarthy	Gosnold, Inc.
Ray Tamasi	Gosnold, Inc.
Louellyn Lambros	Scituate FACTS
Mathew Liber	Legislative Aide for Rep. Randy Hunt
Mary Hogan Sullivan	Trial Court Director of Specialty Courts
James Kelleher	Asst. Superintendent of Western MA Correctional Alcohol Center
Kristen Rogerson	Legal Intern CPCS
Marina Da Silva	Legal Intern CPCS
Pam O'Sullivan	Product Director, Vivitrol Marketing Alkermes, Inc.
Scott Lieber	Legislative Aide, Representative Tom Sannicandro

I **Call to order:** at 10:37 a.m. by Co-Chair Brian Sylvester. At such time Marsha Kazarosian and David Sullivan joined via remote participation.

II **Quorum:** April minutes will be voted upon at the next meeting in September.

Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Brian Sylvester. He provided a brief introduction for Ray Tamasi and Lori McCarthy from the Gosnold, Inc. Addiction Treatment Center. The Center serves individuals and families affected by drug addiction. They began their organization about two years ago serving 150 individuals. They provide aggressive service and evidence based practices to assist patients with stable housing, employment, life skills component and education. Their programs are designed for both inpatient and outpatient services depending on the individual patient needs, but the goal for all programs is to provide recovery concepts and prevent relapse.

Rep. Hunt raised the question, how does this program differ from 12-step program/mentoring program? Mr. Tamasi responded that their coaches are trained professionally and they are very involved with other providers. Coaches provide assistance forming life goals, accompanying individuals to their programs, developing recovery skills, coaching and checking-up. They also have a secure texting exchange. As a part of recovery and to hinder relapse, each individual has the capability to connect to their network for immediate contact with their coach, as well as gps tracking, and recovery socialization. This is a voluntary program that is generally self paid, medical insurance generally pays for medications such as Vivitrol. Vivitrol is an abstinence based medicine that along with counseling can help with the process of recovery from drug addiction. An individual must be opioid free beginning Vivitrol. Vivitrol is not addictive or considered a narcotic.

Currently, Gosnold Inc., does not service inmates, but have applied for a grant to allow such coaching, empowerment and intervention. Services are provided to patients with significant issues such as a mental disability, autism or schizophrenia. There reoffending percentage is very seldom. Coaches work and collaborate with probation officers to ensure the patients' goals are being met towards recovery.

Drug Court Session: A few members that visited a drug court session shared their feedbacks and better views on what goes on in the courtrooms along with the process of each individual. They provided very positive feedback and commended the Judges for all their hard work and dedication.

Working Group: Co-Chair Sylvester introduced Linda Holt, Trial Court Research and Planning Director. Linda provided the Commission four charts that mapped all District Courts and Boston Municipal locations along with each Drug, Mental Health, Homeless, and Veterans Court. The information showed drug court participants and the charges that bring these participants to drug courts. There is a wide variety of charges and only a small amount of drug court participants are there for a drug offense. Another survey was done with the Probation Department to provide arraignment information by a participant's offense and type of court. It showed each court and there total number of arraignments and various types of offenses they handle. There were some gaps in drug courts for some of the larger courts.

Representative Sannicandro requested a mapping be done to see what towns utilize the Quincy District Court and refine the mapping to target candidates that could be handled by specialty courts. Linda will work on a map that might help visualize which courts have the capability to share drug court sessions or personnel. For example, Salem, Lynn, Attleboro or Brockton.

Other Business: The Commission will not meet for the months of July and August, but will resume in September. In the meantime, the Working Group will continue to meet and begin developing a draft report.

Adjournment: There being no more order of business Co-Chair Spence declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.