

Members

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chairperson
Rep. Ed Mahern
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Michael Young
Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Lawrence Borst
Sen. Billie Breaux
Sen. Glenn Howard



CENTRAL STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 20, 2000
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chairperson; Rep. Ed Mahern; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Michael Young; Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Lawrence Borst; Sen. Billie Breaux.

Members Absent: Sen. Glenn Howard.

Call to Order

Representative Vanessa Summers, Chairperson of the Central State Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. She then called on representatives from the Department of Correction (DOC) to discuss the written data that the DOC submitted at the Committee's first meeting.²

Data from the Department of Correction

Mr. James Wynn, Director of Classification, and Mr. James Knopp, Supervisor of

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

²See Exhibit 1.

Healthcare Services, discussed the classification system used in the DOC's statistics on the number of adult offenders with mental health medical classifications. Mr. Wynn explained that the "E" classification is used to describe mental illness or an emotional condition that prevents an individual from functioning in a standard prison environment. An "H" classification describes mental illness or an emotional condition requiring psychotropic medications or frequent monitoring by a psychiatrist. The "K" classification describes any acute or stable mental or emotional condition requiring limited psychiatric services and monitoring. Mr. Wynn explained that the "H" and "K" classes are not considered to be actively psychotic but are still monitored regularly.

Representative Behning asked about the number of mentally ill people who are incarcerated in county jails. Mr. Wynn explained that because county inmates are not under the DOC's jurisdiction, the DOC has no statistics on those people.

Representative Young asked why there were people with "E" classifications in facilities other than the Westville Psychiatric Facility. Mr. Wynn explained that although Westville houses the psychiatric unit, the data is actually a snapshot of where prisoners happened to be located on the day the data was compiled. Some prisoners may have been admitted to another facility prior to being transferred to Westville. Mr. Wynn emphasized that the Reception-Diagnostic Center does test the mental health of everyone who enters the system.

Data from the Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS)

Mr. Randy Kriebel, Assistant Deputy Director of Programs, discussed the data from DDARS concerning the number of individuals with mental retardation in Indiana and in the Central State catchment area.³ Mr. Kriebel explained that the data was based on a national prevalence rate of 1% to 3% for mental retardation. Based on this rate, the estimated number of individuals with mental retardation in Indiana is 105,288. The estimated number of individuals with mental retardation in the Central state catchment area is 15,441.

Mr. Kriebel noted that developmentally disabled people, who represent a larger group, are not necessarily mentally retarded. He pointed to the definition of "developmental disability" in the Indiana Code. That definition (IC 12-7-2-61) refers to a severe, chronic disability that: (1) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment; (2) is manifested before the individual is 22 years of age; (3) is likely to continue indefinitely; (4) requires treatment and services of a lifelong or extended duration; and (5) results in substantial limitations in several areas of the individual's life.

Representative Young asked how developmentally disabled people are currently being treated. Mr. Kriebel responded that about 12,000 individuals are being treated in residential or rehabilitative facilities. Developmentally disabled children usually are enrolled in special education classes. Mr. Kriebel noted that there is a waiting list for services for the developmentally disabled in Indiana. There are anywhere from 2,000 to 5,000 people currently on the waiting list.

Senator Miller asked whether DDARS has considered using the Central State property. Mr. Kriebel stated that DDARS has no plans to use the facility. He explained that treatment of the developmentally disabled is moving toward community-based programs. He noted that since the closing of the Central State Hospital, over 700 people have moved

³See Exhibit 2.

to community-based homes.

Proposal by Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation⁴

Next, Don Moreau, Executive Director of the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation, spoke to the Committee about the Foundation's desire to use the Central State property to house veterans who need some level of public assistance and support. Mr. Moreau explained that the Foundation currently provides housing and support services to homeless and near homeless veterans. The Foundation operates five houses in Indianapolis and will operate one apartment complex by the end of the year. Mr. Moreau noted that of the 600,000 veterans in Indiana, approximately 37,500 are homeless or near homeless.

Mr. Moreau indicated that he had already talked to the Governor's office and the Department of Administration about using the Central State property to provide housing and services to veterans. The proposed facility would provide between 500 and 700 beds. Mr. Moreau stressed that the facility would not be used as a medical center, but would be used solely to provide housing and rehabilitative services. However, the veterans served by the facility would have full access to the services of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Representative Young asked about the kind of supervision that would be provided. Mr. Moreau replied that counselors would be available and that residents would receive the appropriate supervision for their particular housing level. Representative Young then asked how the state would be reimbursed for the use of the property. Mr. Moreau explained that the method or level of reimbursement to the state had not yet been determined.

Representative Behning asked whether any cost or feasibility estimates had been prepared. Mr. Moreau stressed that the proposal was just conceptual at this point and that more detailed planning had yet to be conducted. Mr. Moreau pointed out that Wisconsin and New York have implemented similar programs that could serve as models for the proposed facility.

Representative Summers asked whether the program would require use of all of the Central State property. Mr. Moreau stated that the Foundation was considering using only the three buildings on the lower level of the property.

Senator Miller suggested that it would be worthwhile to determine estimated costs and the level of potential support from the federal government. She proposed that more complete information be gathered and presented to the Committee. Senator Miller stressed that she did not think that a formal feasibility study was necessary.

Representative Mahern suggested that the program could initially use the eight houses outside the fence on Warman Avenue. Mr. Moreau estimated that the Foundation could put those houses to use within a year. Representative Mahern suggested that the Foundation could obtain a ten-year lease from the state.

Senator Borst suggested that the Foundation collaborate with other community groups so that the facility could serve as many people as possible. He questioned whether the facility should only be available to veterans if that would mean having to turn away

⁴See Exhibit 3.

homeless people who are not veterans. Mr. Moreau pointed out that the Foundation was already working with the Salvation Army in preparing a substance abuse treatment facility. He agreed to continue discussions with various community groups and churches.

Representative Summers asked Mr. Moreau to work with the Governor's office and the Department of Administration to develop a more specific plan to present to the Committee at its next meeting. She specifically requested that Mr. Moreau look into the possibility of using the eight houses along Warman Avenue. Mr. Moreau and Jay McQueen of the Department of Administration agreed that they could come up with a plan for the next meeting.

The Committee members then scheduled the next meeting for Thursday, October 19, at 1:00 p.m. Representative Summers adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:50 p.m.