

## **Jail & Huber Committee**

### **Minutes**

**April 21, 2014**

#### **Attendance:**

Tom Reed, (SPD) (Chair)

Dr. Theresa Boswell (Armor Correctional Health Care, Psych Admin.)

Carmella DeLucia (CJC Coordinator's office)

Sue Eckhart (J2000 Milwaukee Municipal Court)

Sup. Michael Hafemann (HOC)

Pete Koneazny (LAS)

Hon. Jeffrey Kremers (Courts)

Kerrie McKenzie (HOC)

Kit McNally (CJC Executive Committee)

Holly Szablewski (Courts)

Neil Thoresen (DOC)

Marilyn Walczak (Justice Point)

#### **1) Jail & HOC update.**

- Theresa Boswell, Armor's mental health administrator, reported on a patient who was admitted to jail w/ psychosis and frostbite on minor charges that may have been inappropriate given the patient's mental status. The Armor psych team advocated to get ch. 55 authority for treatment and transfer to St. Lukes, where the patient underwent an amputation.
- In reference to a March J & H meeting inquiry about a pregnant inmate whose situation was reported in the newspaper as to inappropriate use of restraints, Dr. Boswell noted that Armor has developed an updated protocol for pregnant inmates.
- Psychiatric provider staffing is being addressed. Armor's psych staff are working to reduce the waiting lists for psych examination at HOC and CJF. The HOC waiting list is at (100) and needs to be addressed. Increased efforts at CJF has gotten CJF list down to 50. Dr. Boswell noted that Armor may need additional provider(s) for psychiatric care. There is currently a .8 FTE (32 hours/week) psychiatrist at the Jail and a Psych NP supplements these hours. Dr. Boswell noted that the psychiatrist now staffing the Jail is a "Locum" (temporary) doctor and not permanent staff.
- Formulary: Dr. Boswell noted that there are some differences between BHD's and Armor's use of certain medications. Use of Seroquel is one such difference.
- Tom reported progress on the CJC's Mental Health Committee as to coordination between BHD and the criminal justice agencies.

- K. McKenzie reported that they have made progress in coordinating Armor and BHD electronic medical record systems. The coordinated system may go “live” as soon as the next three weeks.
- Dr. Boswell reported that there has been significant progress in providing more comprehensive services (groups, case management/re-entry, AODA, counseling) at the HOC, but there is less available at the Jail.
- Benzodiazapene (sp?) practices discussed: Dr. Boswell noted that the jail and HOC “taper” Benzos and try to use therapy and alternative medications, including SSRIs and Buspar, to address acute anxiety symptoms. She believes they have had success with their more conservative approach.
- Access to PSWs is good at the Jail; connecting clinically diagnosed anxious inmates w/ PSWs helps lower the anxiety level of inmates concerned about losing their prescription anti-anxiety meds.
- It is still best for defense lawyers, e.g., w/ concerns for inmate-clients’ medical care and/or medications to contact Dr. Boswell directly. She is also the grievance coordinator, so it useful for her to get direct feedback and to respond to people who know of individuals w/ concerns as to their care.
- Question about whether Armor is identifying any issues or patterns that should be addressed by the broader criminal justice and mental health community: Dr. Boswell noted seeing high prevalence of opiate addiction among admissions to the Jail.
- HOC – Sup. Hafemann noted that his staff and Armor have made progress in protocols and programs for re-entry planning, including case management to connect discharged inmates with housing and health care resources. He mentioned getting a grant, related to the ACA, for connecting inmates to health care upon release.
- Questions as to whether inmate warrants can be checked, for possible clearance before they are released from HOC. K. McKenzie and S. Eckhart discussed coordinating w/ MPD on warrants.
- Tom reported that mental health data has also shown a need to work on warrant clearance, to minimize re-arrests of people with mental illness.
- City’s time-served policy only applies for time immediately related to municipal charge (as opposed to giving credit for all time served on other charges).
- Commitment arrests typically go directly to incarceration and are not reviewed by judicial officers. There used to be a standing order for Huber for muni commitments, but apparently that is no longer in effect.
- Also it used to be common for muni commitments to be ordered to be served as concurrent to any other sentence, but now the practice is to issue commitments to be served consecutively.
- Holly S. reported that she asked for a one day snap shot for muni commitments. This showed the Milwaukee was responsible for a very small percentage (only 3 people): West Allis is the largest by far in contributing to muni commitments in custody, numbering 50-60. Holly also noted inconsistent reporting by Sheriff’s department –

muni commitment numbers contained about 30% that were actually on state charges (e.g. misdemeanor, not a muni commitment). West Allis commitments were for particularly high dollar amounts; \$53,000 total and average over \$1000. There was an avg. 32.4 day length of stay on commitments. Judge Kremers will review the commitment issue with W.A. and Milwaukee chief judges.

- Sheriff encourages all muni commitments to go directly to jail, so the Sheriff can bill the municipality for a booking fee.
- Tom indicated this will be on next month's meeting.
- Marilyn W. is trying to get data on muni court commitments. Asked for 5 year data from Sheriff and muni court. Still waiting for data on who actually paid tickets and on other requested information. A May 1 meeting is planned for those interested in avoidable detentions on municipal commitments. She is also trying to "map" a flow chart of cases from point of a ticket, e.g. from loitering offense, to actual to commitment.
- There is still an open RFP process for video visiting system, which was discussed at the March 2014 JH meeting. One system being considered entails a fee to have video visit from a remote location, but families would retain ability to get free video visit on-site.
- PPS still closed.
- Booking is getting inundated w/ arrests – so HOC Armor has shifted some nursing staff to jail/BKOW to cover intake medical screening.
- No Sheriff representation at meeting, so we had no report on progress w/ recommended plan to have releases from MPD stations
- Sup. Hafemann reported that work on AC still ongoing at HOC. May result in temporary closure of some units. Planned completion date is December 2014.

## **2) DOC update**

- 196 sanction beds at MSDF are close to full. The availability of sanction beds may become an issue in the future as demand may rise based on changes in practices that may increase demand.
- New legislation, e.g., will potentially result in more sanctions. One issue involves legislation making it easier for victims to testify at sanction/revocation hearings.
- In general more efficient speedy processing of sanctions may require more access to sanction beds.
- MSDF construction is still pending – air circulation system upgrade is in progress.

## **3) Population Study**

- NIC offered to do free "snap shot" study of jail and HOC populations, similar to a study which cost \$30,000 to complete in 2009.
- The request letter was sent in w/o Sheriff's signature. Other actors moving forward w/o the Sheriff.

**May 19<sup>th</sup> 8 am for next meeting - Courthouse 609.**