



## **Governor's Mental Health Task Force Minutes**

November 14, 2013  
10:00-4:00 p.m.

### **Attendance:**

**Task Force Members:** Captain Bill Cochran, Dr. Rick Goscha, Dr. Rick Gaskill, Catherine Ramshaw, Les Sperling, Charlie Griffin, David Redmond, Judge Tom Webb, Dr. Karen Countryman-Roswurm, Father Richard Daise, Dr. Steve Davies, Dr. Michael Leeson, and Becky Gray.

**Agency Liaisons:** Sally Frey (KDOC), Kent Reed (KSDE) and George Williams (DCF).

**Advisor Committee/ Support Staff:** Angela Hagen (KDADS), Lea Stueve (KDADS), and Wes Cole (GBHSPC).

**Special Guest:** Secretary Shawn Sullivan

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Butler Community College Hubbard Welcome Center board room. Housekeeping issues were addressed and Secretary Sullivan was introduced as a special guest. Judge Webb moved to approve the minutes of the September meeting. It was seconded and carried.

Dr. Goscha synthesized where the group is going and outlined the plan for collecting recommendations and writing the report. He then opened up the floor for discussion and observations about the October listening session. Les Sperling mentioned that at the Hays listening session, there were 7 county Sheriff' in attendance who are planning an expanded role in crisis services rather than in jail cells. Sperling also mentioned that during the listening session, they saw the parents' vs. the schools' perspective about the same incident, which brought home the importance of communication.

Dr. Rick Gaskill observed that there is a need for integration and collaboration and that "Police Officers handle things the way they do, Schools handle things the way that they do". Wes Cole (Dodge City) mentioned that there is definitely a lack of communication. He said that there are a lot of barriers and problems we had created ourselves. If we solve those we'd move things along better. He gave the example of foster care kids that go out to SW Kansas and then bring out gangs. He noticed that there is a sense of hopelessness.

Judge Webb (Dodge City) mentioned that the Sheriff in Ford County had mentioned that suicide attempts had tripled in the last year. Why did this happen? There is a sense of hopelessness and lack of services. Captain Cochran (Leavenworth) mentioned that there is a lack of information that goes with foster care kids and oftentimes, the schools had no history. He mentioned that he recently had a meeting at Bethany College with multiple law enforcement officials where it was discovered that boundaries that we currently have are creating problems for their ability to help individuals who need help. (E.g. the different hospitals are associated with different CMHC's). It was determined that different parts of the State are really impacted by this same situation. *\*The group requested information about the Regional Plans for the mental health centers\**

Dave Redmond concurred that parents need to be given information—that the best thing that can help parents is if they know the child that they are trying to parent. Cathy Ramshaw (Wichita) mentioned that parents don't know what they are getting into and do not have access to the right information. Dr. Goscha summarized the things he was hearing from the group as the need for: Accountability, Accessibility, and Integration. Dr. Davies said that teachers are not trained to deal with many of these issues. He said his school is going to teach the curriculum MANDT training and Love and Logic and it will cost them \$12,000 a year. Captain Cochran agreed. He shared his experience of being principal for a day at Capitol City High School.

Ramshaw mentioned that there are many schools where all the kids are “at risk”. Dr. Countryman-Roswurm asked “how do we make this a larger community issue?” Becky Gray (Chanute) mentioned that providers who are on the ground have done remarkable things but now their hands are tied and they are stressed. Captain Cochran said that “it goes back to barriers—Dr. Gaskill's point. How do we break these down? How do we take what's working home and broaden the impact?”

Gray mentioned that there are true cultural differences that have to be acknowledged. Dr. Charlie Griffin (Chanute) mentioned that the message that came out was that there are more people in need and resources are less. How do you take it back to the local level? They are doing it there, but it just is often based on the local expertise. The question was posed, “What can we do to create a process that will keep working after this group is done?”

Ramshaw outlined her Topeka experience and referenced a book she'd read entitled “how to transform a city”. Goscha mentioned that we need to have sustainable solutions and wondered “how do we develop the infrastructure?” Definition: Can we at least come to the point where we can define the issue; Money: Cost vs. Societal Costs; Benefit has to do with accountability. Recommendations have to have which levers may need to be pushed.

Gaskill said that mental health was doing this in the '70's. Funding was primarily toward primary prevention. The problem is that the way funding evolved was that it focused on tertiary prevention. We need to repurpose money to get people time to talk. The only way to deal with this is to bill, bill, and bill. Gray mentioned that she'd seen that same phenomenon happen in County Action Programs, Community Health programs, etc. Dr. Gaskill commented that health care didn't improve until the issue was addressed in community health (e.g. public sewer example was given). Gray mentioned that the infrastructure already exists. They just need to be integrated.

Cochran mentioned that we need to think about something like a Director of Health. We need a strategic plan but that this would need to be reviewed every year. Angela Hagen mentioned that she would send out a SAMHSA publication called “Community Conversations”.

The larger group then broke up into the two sub-groups to work on recommendations. They reconvened for a lunch time presentation by Dulcinea Rakestraw, with the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals.

After lunch, the groups reformed and continued to work on recommendations.

### **Wrap Up:**

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting will take place on December 4 in Topeka at the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services office building.