

Meeting minutes from phone conference for the RE-Entry Substance Abuse Steering Committee

03/08/12 0900

Attendees

Rob Reardon

Virginia Williams

Dr. Tucker

James Cazalot

The attached agenda was utilized to guide the committee during this phone conference.

1. What works in drug treatment? (James Cazalot)

Jim is still trying to gather information about the Substance Abuse and Mental Health grant. Discussed ensued regarding including mental health into this steering committee. It was agreed that for the time being we focus on substance abuse primarily.

The group discussed completing a survey similar to the home incarceration study that has just been completed. Virginia stated she has been working on a report regarding the monitoring of the various drug court systems within the state. Virginia stated she would send it out the committee when she was able to. Drug courts are set up individually within their local and operate differently as a result. It was suggested that we might want to look at any outcome studies that are available and suggest specific performance measures that all entities would attempt to meet. In this way each local drug court could operate in it's own manner as long as the performance measures were met.

- 2 Review financing structures for DHH relative to substance abuse programs to determine various systems in place. (Susan Austin)

Discussion ensued regarding the Coordinated System of Care initiative. It was apparent that there are currently more questions than answers regarding this process currently. There is concern about non for profits ability to sustain existence as a result of this new initiative. Most drug courts service providers are operated by non profits.

3. Review and or set-up guide line criteria for approval of substance abuse service providers that the DOC will allow for good time credit. Such items could include: (James Cazalot)

Jim stated that he reviewed the attached links. A discussion ensued about the state prison system and local jails and whether they would be able to meet this criteria. Funding and available and personnel being an issue.

4. Suggest legislation that would provide for funding for services on a local level.

At this point we are still at the formative stages. It was suggested that a requirement be placed only to utilize licensed substance abuse counselors to facilitate treatment. This discussion will continue.

5. Review the Department of Corrections' plan for providing substance abuse treatment in adult facilities. This would include designated beds for the treatment of substance abuse in the adult facilities as well as selected parish facilities. Such items could include: : (Dr Susan Tucker)

Dr Tucker discussed Secretary LeBlanc idea regarding the setting up of designated beds both within the prison system and at the local level. Dr Tucker also discussed that her program maybe moving to Wade Correctional. Dr Tucker also discussed the possibility of setting up a drug court in Shreveport for a 90 day turn around.

No other topics areas were discussed.

It was discussed that we would all try to meet at the next state sentencing committee meeting. The next meeting for the Louisiana Sentencing Commission will take place on Thursday, **March 15, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Department of Corrections Headquarters, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA