

Forensic Working Group Meeting

Wednesday, 8/31/2022, 9:00 – 11:00

Attendees: Samantha Sweet, Karen Barber, Matt Viens, Kelley Klein, Scott Shumaker, Laura Lyford, Jennifer Rowell [DMH], Colleen Nilsen [DOC], Margaret Bolton [Forensic Psychiatrist], Joanne Kortendick [Victims Representative], Kelly Carroll, Jack McCullough [VT Legal Aid], Zach Hughes [VPS], Jacquelyn Prue [DAIL], Matt Valerio [VT Defender General], Emma Harrigan [VAHHS], Susan Aranoff, Stuart Schurr [DAIL], Henry Mauck [DRVT], Kimberly Blake, Ludovica Brown [DRVT], Devon Green [VAHHS], Julie Parker [Blueprint for Health], Heidi Henkel [VPS], Ethan Weinstein [VT Digger], Simha Ravven [VMS President], Domenica Padula, Annie Ramniceanu [DOC], Jared Bianchi, [State's Attorney]

1. Welcome/Introductions

Overview of working group up until this point. DMH tried to narrow scope in topics. Diversion programs, competency restoration, forensic facility. DMH took a step back to see what the best way is to move forward and determined we are not going to get consensus, which is okay.

2. Presentation Sign Up

Want everyone to be able to present on what they'd like to have included in the report and who supports which items. You can also send something to us in writing instead of presenting.

Zach Hughes – This is a great idea just wondering how you came to determine how this came up? Karen - We have had feedback from different folks and internal discussions. These are really intense topics and folks have strong feelings on this.

Devon – is the format going to be a couple of presentations per meeting, how long would they be? Karen – that is still to be determined. We have one individual signed up and two folks that are going to present together. It depends on how many people want to present. Ideally there would be a presentation and some discussion after.

Annie Ramniceanu – support for this new approach. Was concerned about not reaching consensus but rather a comprehensive report.

Plan is to compile presentations in a comprehensive report so everyone is heard and represented, though there may not be consensus.

Zach Hughes – What is important to me is when we get the report to the Legislature, that we do something with it. Karen – December meeting would be to work on the report, so it is presented to the Legislature on what you want to convey.

Simha Ravven – agrees with what Annie said.

Samantha – the next meeting is September 28th, so we would need topic ideas by September COB on September 23rd so we can have an agenda formed and sent out on the following Monday.

Please reach out to Karen Barber and/or Samantha Sweet to sign up for a presentation during September, October or November.

3. Public Comment

N/A

No public comment

Follow up: Need to know who would like to present by 9/23/22. However, you want don't want to present or do a PowerPoint, and want to just talk, etc that is ok. If you don't want to present in September, but would like to in October or November, let us know so we can save a spot for you.

Next meeting 9/25/2022, 9:00 – 11:00, MS Teams