

Governor's Task Force on Mental Health

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED JUNE 24-JULY 21, 2016

The Governor's Task Force on Mental Health received comments from several stakeholders between June 24, 2016 and July 21, 2016. Those can be summarized as follows:

- Task Force should focus its efforts
- The Task Force should frame its efforts in ways that don't under-cut other ongoing policy or project work in mental health services
- There are promising community-based partnerships across sectors that could be models for better coordinated care for people with mental illnesses, especially those involved with the criminal justice system. We should be sharing these models across the state so they are more widely implemented.
- Important issues to look at:
 - Funding challenges
 - Workforce shortages
 - People with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system
 - Lack of adequate services for people experiencing a mental health crisis who have symptoms of aggression or self-harm
 - Clarifying responsibility for developing services
 - Challenges in mental health service faced particularly by rural communities
 - Lack of inadequate psychiatric hospital beds and the inability of Emergency Departments to adequately meet the needs of people with mental illnesses
 - Boarding of people with mental illnesses in Emergency Departments and the problems that causes for everyone involved
 - The need to transport people long distances to an appropriate treatment facility
 - Need for more anti-stigma work
 - Need for more integrated treatment for people with co-occurring conditions
 - Need for better discharge planning and better coordination between inpatient providers and the person's community support system (including community-based treatment provider).
 - The need to replace payer models that do not provide incentives for providers to collaborate across sectors or levels of care. Need more coordinated care models.
 - The need for more housing with services to support people with mental illnesses; without housing, it is difficult to pursue recovery.
 - Lack of adequate specialized mental health services and the unwillingness of insurers to pay for those services
 - Need better education of mental health workers.
 - Need to ensure that people get the right diagnosis and appropriate treatment plan.
 - The importance of school-based supports in identifying and supporting school children with emotional disturbances