

Meeting Minutes: Priority Admissions Task Force

Date: 07/20/2023
Minutes prepared by: Kari Gallagher
Time: 11:15am-1:00pm
Location: Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center (AMRTC)
3301 N 7th Ave, Anoka, MN 55303

Attendance

- Jodi Harpstead
- Keith Ellison
- Dr. KyleeAnn Stevens
- Bryan Welk
- Angela Youngerberg
- Kevin Magnuson
- Dr. Eduardo Colón Navarro
- Kevin Magnuson
- Jinny Palen
- Dr. Dionne Hart
- Lisa Harrison-Hadler
- Doug McGuire
- Sue Abderholden
- Taleisha Rooney
- Heidi Heino
- Nick Rasmussen
- Miranda Rich

Action Items

- Email questionnaire form to task force members/Kari Gallagher/July 20, 2023
- Fill in questionnaire with recommendations/Task force members/August 25, 2023
- Direct Care and Treatments priority admissions before 48-hour rule/Dr. Stevens/September 18, 2023

Agenda

Introductions (Name, representing organization, impressions following AMRTC tour), 11:15 - 11:30

Opening introductions, 11:30 - 11:40

- I. Commissioner Jodi Harpstead
- II. Attorney General Keith Ellison

Overview of the Priority Admission Statute and walk-through of process, 11:40 - 11:50

Data review, 11:50-12:00

Break and pick up lunch, 12:00 - 12:15

Reflections on Tour of Anoka County Jail and HCMC Emergency Services (12:15-12:30)

General dialogue and response, 12:30-12:50

Next Steps, 12:50-1:00

Adjourn, 1:00

Next Meeting

Date: 09/18/2023

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Location: To Be Determined

Meeting Notes

Introductions (Name, representing organization, impressions following AMRTC tour)

- Task force members introduced themselves and their place in the community.

Opening introductions, 11:30 - 11:40

- I. Commissioner Jodi Harpstead
- II. Attorney General Keith Ellison
 - The first meeting of the task force will involve a lot of information and education about the current system. The agenda includes discussing the priority admissions statute and looking at data on patients in the system. There will also be reflections on visits to a county jail and hospital emergency department. The goal is to have a productive dialogue and come up with an ambitious and responsive proposal to solve the problem of the current system. Disagreements are expected, but the focus should be on staying at the table and finding a sustainable new way of addressing the current issue.

Overview of the Priority Admission Statute and walk-through of process

- Starting point of the process is in criminal court, determination made as to whether an individual is competent to proceed in criminal court. If that individual is found not competent to proceed in criminal court, then the matter at the discretion of the county attorney will be petitioned for civil commitment.
 - There is no determination in the commitment court as to competence, that's already done by the criminal court.
 - The civil commitment courts only determination is whether an individual meets requirements for civil commitment, and, if so, that person is committed with what's called Rule 20 language, in the commitment order which talks about release only to a secure or safe to the community placement and those individuals fall under the 48-hour rule.
- County is notified of a Rule 20 and that competency has been found to be an issue and the person is in need of a pre-petition screening.
 - If the person does meet criteria for civil commitment, and they qualify for admission under the priority admission statute, counties work with central preadmissions with the state to determine the most appropriate setting for the individual.
- Central Preadmissions is a 24/7 staffed call center operated by Minnesota Department of Human Services, within Direct Care and Treatment they receive the referral information, court order, and clinical information, background information, etc.
 - They compile the information and based on their assessment, it is handed off to the appropriate medical director for consideration of admission.

Data review

- Task force members reviewed [data charts](#) that show Direct Care and Treatments Priority Admissions to DCT programs, current waitlist for Direct Care and Treatment programs, admissions to Anoka Metro

Regional Treatment Center and the Forensic Mental Health Program from community hospitals, and Priority Admissions Referrals by County.

Reflections on Tour of Anoka County Jail and HCMC Emergency Services

- Commissioner Jodi Harpstead, Attorney General Keith Ellison, and Dr. KyleeAnn Stevens reflected on their tour of the Anoka County Jail and HCMC Emergency Services
 - During a tour of the Anoka County Jail and HCMC Emergency Department, observed inadequate facilities for individuals with behavioral health issues.
 - The jail had an isolation unit with a bed made of special fabric to prevent self-harm, but no toilet. The hospital also had a similar room setup.
 - This problem extends beyond these specific locations and needs a statewide solution and address the challenges faced by individuals with behavioral health issues in the justice system and healthcare facilities.
 - Hope that greater collaboration and understanding among stakeholders will lead to meaningful solutions.

General dialogue and response

- During the discussion, members raise concerns about the length of stay in facilities, staffing requirements, violence, and the need for early intervention. They suggest looking at data, seeking input from experts, and addressing funding, workforce, and parity issues in the mental health system.

Next Steps

- The task force's duties were emphasized, with the aim to analyze the impact of priority admissions and make recommendations for improvements.
- Task force members will be emailed a questionnaire to fill in with their recommendations by August 25, 2023; recommendations will be collated and provided at the next meeting.