

IOWA JUVENILE HOME PROTECTION TASK FORCE “Task Force”

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 7, 2013

TASK FORCE

Jerry R. Foxhoven, Task Force Chair, Executive Director, Drake Legal Clinic
Charles M. Palmer, Director, Iowa Department of Human Services
Dr. Mark R. Peltan, Director, Behavioral Services, Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa
Ron Stehl, MSW/LISW, Consultant
Dr. Mary Stevens, Director of Special Education, Area Education Agency 267

STAFF

Mark Day, Interim Superintendent, Iowa Juvenile Home, Girls State Training School, Iowa Department of Human Services
Eric DeTemmerman, Mental Health and Disability Services Division, Iowa Department of Human Services
Amy McCoy, Public Information Officer, Iowa Department of Human Services
Rick Shults, Mental Health and Disability Services Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Human Services

GUESTS

David Binner, Ankeny Baptist
Josh Bronsink, Senate Republicans
Linda Brundies, Office of Ombudsman
Dean Fisher, House of Representatives
Pauline Lloyd
Jim Friberg, Inspection and Appeals
Melissa Havig, Magellan
Jane Hudson, Disability Rights IOWA
Sandi Hurtado-Peters, Department of Management
Mike Husak, Piney Ridge Center
Clark Kauffman, Des Moines Register
Nathan Kirstein, Disability Rights IOWA
Gretchen Kraemer, AG Office
Sue Lerdal, In Lieu of Urbandale
Steve Michael, CJJP
Morgan Miller, AFSCME

Guests (Continued)

Scott Musel, DHR/CJJP

Kerri Nelson, South Tama County Schools

Kristie Oliver, Coalition for Family and Children's Services

John Pollak, Legislative Services Agency

Beth Rydberg, Disability Rights IOWA

Aaron Todd, Senate Democrats

Beverly Zylstra, DIA

CALL TO ORDER

Jerry Foxhoven, Chair, called the Task Force meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2013, at River Place in Des Moines. Mr. Foxhoven welcomed the Task Force members and meeting guests. September 30, 2013 meeting minutes were approved by the Task Force members. Meeting minutes were available in hard-copy to meeting attendees and can be found on the DHS facility web-site.

Iowa Department of Human Services Director and Task Force member, Charles Palmer, announced that he received an Iowa Department of Education report earlier in the day examining education services at the Iowa Juvenile Home. Director Palmer stated that the report will be followed up on by the DHS, Iowa Juvenile Home, and Area Education Agency (AEA).

ROLL CALL

All Task Force members were present.

REVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT

The Task Force reviewed each section of the draft report to the governor. The draft report was available in hard copy to everyone in attendance. Comments made are as follows:

- In Section I, Purpose of the Task Force, an incorrect meeting date was noted. The September 13 meeting date should be September 18. The meeting date will be corrected in the final report.
- In Section II, Findings, Page 4, the second to last bullet, the Task Force will add a statement clarifying the private sector funding as funding for placement in mental health settings receiving mental health services.
- In Section II, Findings, Page 4, the last bullet, the Task Force will broaden the language to reference other funding youth may be eligible for in addition to Preparation for Adult Living Services (PALS) funding.
- In Section III, Recommendations, Number 3, the Task Force will add language that states that the long range bed capacity of IJH will be based on future needs assessment.
- In Section III, Recommendations, Number 7, the Task Force will add language that states that the Iowa Code language will not be updated until the Governor's recommendations have been implemented.
- In Section III, Recommendations, Number 10, the Task Force will add language clarifying that admission of Child-in-Need-of-Assistance youth will not cease immediately, but instead there will be a transition period where capacity is built in alternative settings.

CLOSING REMARKS

Before moving to public comments, Mr. Foxhoven thanked all the Task Force members for their participation in the Task Force. Foxhoven also thanked Interim Superintendent of the Iowa Juvenile Home, Mark Day, for all his hard work and leadership. A formal motion to approve the report was made by Dr. Peltan. Dr. Stevens seconded the motion. The motion to approve the report carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Binner, a volunteer at the Iowa Juvenile Home, stated that the kids that were identified in the previous Task Force report of 2007 are not the same kids or reflective of the kids at the juvenile home today. Mr. Binner then said that there is nothing in the draft report about mentoring and that is something that is very much needed at the juvenile home.

Megan Miller, AFSCME, said that she is very concerned about relying on private facilities to take care of the boys and Children-in-Need-of-Assistance (CINA) youth that the juvenile home will no longer admit according to the recommendations in the draft Task Force report. Miller stated that the Task Force needs to look at where these children are going to be placed before doing so.

Jane Hudson, Disability Rights IOWA, began by thanking the Task Force for their work saying how impressed she was with how Iowan's work together to solve problems. Ms. Hudson agreed with the recommendation on page five of the Task Force report that called for third-party oversight or licensure of the juvenile home. Hudson then said that while it is important to reduce the use of seclusion rooms and seclusion in the cottages, it is still very important to keep data regarding their use. Also relating to seclusion rooms in the cottages, Hudson recommended comfort rooms in each cottage as opposed to seclusion rooms. Hudson referred to comfort rooms as a more comfortable alternative to the current seclusion rooms. Hudson stressed the importance of coordination with the judicial branch such as an interdisciplinary group to review placements before a judge issues the order. Lastly, Hudson recommended the Task Force meet in the future to note progress with Task Force recommendations so that progress in implementing recommendations is made.

Kerri Nelson, South Tama County Schools, stated that she has many questions regarding the potential shift of juvenile home educational services to the local school district. Nelson discussed potential funding of the education services surrounding this potential change stating that funding needs to be sustainable and not be taken away as student volumes may fluctuate.

Pauline Lloyd, who identified herself as a concerned citizen, said that would like to see domestic violence or sexual assault training provided at the juvenile home. Lloyd also identified a hospital in Iowa Falls as a potential building/relocation for the juvenile home.

Dean Fisher, House of Representatives, stated that the funding for the school should not come from/ be placed on the property taxes of the local citizens.

ADJOURN

The Task Force adjourned

Submitted by,

Eric W. DeTemmerman, DHS

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