

**Joint Committee on Access and Forensic Services
Meeting #5 Minutes
Friday, June 24, 2016
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Austin State Hospital Campus
Building 552
Training Room 125
909 West 45th Street
Austin, Texas 78714**

Agenda Item 1: Opening remarks and introductions

The Joint Committee on Access and Forensic Services (JCAFS) meeting commenced at 9:06 a.m. Committee Chair Donald Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. John Chacón, Enterprise Facilitation Services Office, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), announced that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, and noted that a quorum was present for the meeting.

Table 1 notes Committee member attendance.

Table 1: JCAFS member attendance at the Friday, June 24, 2016 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Allison, Jim	X		Lee, Donald	X	
Burkeen, Honorable Daniel		X	Lewis, Kathryn	X	
Cusumano, Sherry	X		McLaughlin, Darlene MD		X
Davis, Lorie		X	Oncken, Denise		X
Davis, Susan JD	X		Schnee, Steven PhD	X	
Desai, Tushar MD	X		Smith, Shelley	X	
Faubion, Matthew MD	X		Smith, James	X	
Gentry, Michael		X	Suiter, Honorable Wes		X
Glazier, Stephen M.	X		Switzer, Gyl	X	
Hall, Jerry		X	Taylor, Sally MD	X	
Holcomb, Valerie	X		Wilson, Sheriff Dennis	X	
Holstein, Nicholas		X	Zamora, April		X

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting

No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

P: Indicates phone conference call

Agenda Item 2: Approval of minutes from April 29, 2016 Joint Committee meeting

Mr. Lee noted that a quorum was present and asked for a motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting.

MOTION 1:

Mr. Jim Allison moved to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2016 meeting.

Ms. Shelley Smith seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously approved the minutes by voice vote, with no nays and no abstentions.

Agenda Item 3 Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Agenda Item 4: DSHS committee updates

Ms. Tamara Allen, Executive Office, Department of State Health Services (DSHS) reviewed the document entitled *JCAFS Deliverables* and reoriented members about the timelines of the committee's deliverables. Ms. Allen also provided an overview of the allocation and utilization review protocol that the committee submitted to DSHS in March 2016. Dr. Foley noted that this utilization review protocol will be implemented in September of 2016.

Member Discussion:

During the discussion, Committee members made the following points:

- The SHAM is a guiding document and individual circumstances and factors should be considered when assessing each situation.
- When looking at utilization, it is important to take into account the differences between urban and rural areas, particularly with respect to local resources available for diversion.
- The prioritization of forensic admissions has led to longer wait times for a civil bed, and community hospital Emergency Rooms (ERs) are facing increasing numbers of patients in need of acute care with no placement alternatives.
- The JCAFS needs to discuss the unintended consequences of prioritizing forensic admissions, such as more patients being charged simply to facilitate access to an inpatient bed.
- The data collection component of the utilization review process will be important in showing the impact of implementation.

Agenda Item 5: Update on individuals waiting for inpatient services

Dr. Erin Foley provided an update on individuals waiting for inpatient services. Highlights of update included:

- Dr. Foley reiterated the role of the Allocation and Utilization Review Subcommittee and their continued work on the "Utilization Review Process," which is designed to foster collaborative problem-solving and identify barriers that exist locally, regionally, and statewide.
- Dr. Foley indicated that on the forensic side there are currently 367 people waiting in jails for inpatient hospital beds, of whom 263 are waiting for admission to a Maximum Security Unit (MSU) and 104 are waiting for admission to a non-MSU.
- Mr. Manlove stated that DSHS doesn't have good data on number of people in ERs waiting for beds.
- Mr. Best indicated that so far this year, MHSA is \$11 million over what was budgeted for the state hospitals.

Member Discussion:

The committee reiterated that there is an immediate need for inpatient beds, and that the need will continue to grow as the population increases. Committee members inquired about the number of beds currently offline and short term options for increasing the number of available beds. Discussion included the following:

- Beds are offline because of staffing and facility issues. The JCAFS requested additional information regarding the offline beds, the costs of those beds being offline (e.g., overtime and locum tenens contracts), and what is needed to bring them back into operation.
- The state hospitals are aggressively managing their budgets to reduce the existing state hospital budget deficit.
- The committee requested information about available options for increasing MSU and non-MSU capacity at the state hospitals, including the level of funding that would be needed.

- Increasing the number of contracted beds is an option that should be examined. It was noted that capacity may not be available where needed, and that most community hospitals do not accept forensic patients or individuals with charges pending. In addition, community hospitals are not equipped to treat the more complex patients and those needing extended acute care.
- To define and communicate the scope of the problem, consistent data is needed on the number of people waiting for services. The non-MSU waitlist, referred to as the Clearinghouse, provides that data for those forensic patients who have been found incompetent to stand trial, but the civil waitlist, referred to as the Inpatient Care Waitlist (ICW), is not being used by all Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs), and those that are using it are not using it consistently. It was suggested that use of the ICW be made mandatory.
- In looking at options, it will be important to identify those with the greatest return on the dollars invested. There is great interest in finding innovative, cost-effective strategies that produce good outcomes.
- The committee needs to think strategically in terms of both short-term and long-term solutions. Beyond the immediate need for more inpatient capacity, a long-term solution must reduce the demand for beds by ensuring access to appropriate levels of care in the community.
- The distinction between forensic and civil populations is not the only, or even the most important, categorization to consider when looking at options. It is critical to identify strategies for both urban and rural areas, as their needs are very different.
- The Committee discussed continuing to work on the specific amount of resources needed and incorporating the recommendation to expand capacity in the community.

Agenda Item 6: Share and spotlight best practices on KSH Specialized Treatment Programming Presentation

Don Lee and Erin Foley proposed deferring agenda item #6 and adding it to the July 29, 2016 JCAFS meeting agenda to allow the committee to focus on agenda item 7. Committee members unanimously approved by voice vote, with no nays and no abstentions.

Agenda Item 7: Prioritize forensic recommendations

Dr. Foley and Ms. Allen clarified items in each of the three categories (funding considerations, potential projects, and exploration of tasks/strategies) and suggested criteria (urgency, return on investment, and overall system impact) to guide the prioritization process. After much discussion on the funding considerations category, committee members agreed that the recommendations represented a partial listing of system needs, and it was not necessary to prioritize them. The committee used a multi-vote method using sticker dots to arrive at the priorities for the 'potential projects' and 'exploration of tasks/strategies' categories. For items with an equal number of votes, committee members voted by voice vote to reorder.

Mr. Lee asked for a motion to approve the reordering and prioritization.

MOTION 2 and 3:

Mr. Lee noted that a motion has been made and seconded to approve the reordering and prioritization of the 'potential projects' and 'exploration of tasks/strategies' categories. Committee members unanimously approved the motion by voice vote, with no nays and no abstentions.

The reorganized list of recommendations for the potential projects' and 'exploration of tasks/strategies' categories is attached.



JCAFS

Recommendations - F

Agenda Item8: Adjourn

Mr. Lee asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, a motion and second was given and Committee members unanimously approved the motion by voice vote, with no nays and no abstentions.

Mr. Lee adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.