

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee January 3, 2022, Approved

Attendees:

Stephanne Thornton (Co-Chair), Brian Gallagher (Council Chair), Deb Koester, Judge James Rowe, and Tom Plymale

Opening:

Stephanne Thornton (Co-Chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this special meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Courts & Justice Involved Populations Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order at 2:47 p.m. on Monday, January 3, 2022 and was conducted by Zoom conference. The purpose of the meeting was to review previous legislation that might align with information collected from the recent Town Hall Meeting and may inform the final draft of the Year 3 (2022) Implementation Plan.

Agenda Items

Based on the last subcommittee meeting, anticipation of the upcoming session, and information collected during the recent Town Hall Meeting, the subcommittee members discussed the following to determine if there was alignment or fit to advance needed legislation:

- HB2083 – this enrolled bill provided for Department of Corrections to initiate access to State issued Identification for incarcerated individuals. It allowed up to 60 days to initiate and is valid for 90 days. However, feedback from the THM indicated this continues to be an issue, especially for those being released from regional jails and creates barriers for housing, employment, etc. The subcommittee discussed processes/strategies to accomplish this as well as capacity/resources needed. Based on the discussion next steps will include Brian Gallagher conduct outreach with key elected officials and report back to the subcommittee.
- HB2642 – this bill did not advance last session. It established a Re-Entry Task Force comprised of representatives from the Bureau of Children and Families, child abuse & neglect, State Police, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Health and Human Resources, and other Governor appointed positions. The purpose of the Task Force was to assure evidence-based programs for individuals coming back into the community having mental health, substance use, or other conditions. The question is if this bill could be reintroduced. Based on subcommittee discussion, Brian Gallagher will conduct outreach with key elected officials and report back to the subcommittee.
- HB3078 – this bill is focused on accelerated parole/parole eligibility for educational classes/coursework to be completed in the community and whether a solution for this already exists. Stephanne Thornton will conduct outreach to key stakeholders and follow up with the subcommittee to inform next steps.

Adjournment

As there was no additional discussion, Stephanie Thornton, Co-Chair, closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance. The subcommittee will meet again on Friday, January 14, 2022 and work via email between meetings.