



CHANGING
Maryland
for the Better

Forensic Services Workgroup

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Presented to: Forensic Services Workgroup membership

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Meeting 2 Review

- Review and approval of minutes
- Intermeeting communications/questions from members
- Public comments submitted by established deadline will be reviewed at end of meeting



Forensic Services Workgroup - Purpose

The Workgroup is charged with developing concrete recommendations on how to reduce unnecessary congestion in the system by way of improved efficiencies, maximizing appropriate throughput and providing for immediate system relief as well as making longer-term recommendations that may require significant system-wide changes.



Potential Recommendations for Efficiencies within the Current System

- Increase community crisis services
 - State to provide additional resources to those services that maximizes likelihood to remain in the community
 - Include community education to decrease stigma, and thus resistance to community-based care



Potential Recommendations for Efficiencies within the Current System

- Expand the outpatient forensic evaluator system
 - Increase number of evaluators
 - Explore telehealth options to allow for local differences in availability of trained professionals
 - Establish minimum training
 - Standardized report formats
 - Ongoing audits for quality and consistency
 - Must meet minimum standards to continue in the evaluator roll



Potential Recommendations for Efficiencies within the Current System

- Incentivize community providers to accept forensic patients
 - Training – make it available on-line to maximize utilization
 - Increase reimbursement rate for time
 - Include new codes to allow reimbursement for report preparation and /or court time
 - Access to legal guidance from state when necessary



Potential Recommendations for Efficiencies within the Current System

- Centralize DHMH forensic processes
 - Single admission, discharge and transfer policy
 - Based on statute/Health General
 - Coordinated amongst all hospitals within the system to maximize efficiency
 - Single point of contact for all jurisdictions
 - For use by Courts, PD, SA
 - Identify contact in each jurisdiction for two-way communication with DHMH



Potential Recommendations for Efficiencies within the Current System

- Centralize DHMH forensic processes (cont.)
 - Establish mechanism for weekly review of all cases approaching or that are already outside of statutory limits
 - Competency orders for evaluation
 - Conditional release for NCR
 - Medical necessity criteria, least restrictive criteria, appropriate placement as a function of resources



Potential Recommendations for Efficiencies within the Current System

- Centralize DHMH forensic processes (cont.)
 - Centralize decision to request extensions, return to detention, etc.
 - Consider expungement and other special circumstances to maximize efficiency at time of release
 - Identified DHMH representative with authority to make special allowances for unique case that have willing community providers.



Potential Recommendations for Efficiencies within the Current System

- Centralize DHMH forensic processes (cont.)
 - Reliable data collection that is shared
 - Discrepancies in data to be clarified in weekly meetings with use of specific cases
 - Set realistic goals with each jurisdiction to “catch-up” and then continue to meet all statutory requirements on an ongoing basis



Potential Recommendations for Efficiencies within the Current System

- Consistent with 2014 Joint Chairman's Report
 - Recommendations 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7
 - 1. Increase bed capacity within the state
 - 4. Forensic Database
 - 5. Measure performance of Office of Forensic Services
 - 6. Joint behavioral health/criminal justice system
 - 7. Recognize forensic classification



Potential Recommendations for Efficiencies within the Current System

- Additional potential recommendations
 - Medication over objection
 - Privatization
 - Other recommendations



Wrap-up

- Assignments
- Next meeting
- Deliverables and follow-up

