

## **A DECISION TOOL: WORK GROUP #2**

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

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for the  
***Law and Justice Interim Committee***  
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***Study Phase II: Focus and Prioritize  
On which issues should the committee focus and  
in what order of priority?***

*The following is a menu of issues identified during the background phase of the studies. It is offered to assist the committee in choosing which issues are most important and merit more attention. The menu is not intended to be comprehensive or exclusive. However, in order to effectively manage its time and resources to develop viable recommendations, the committee should focus on a few key issues and prioritize its work.*

#### **I. Sequential outline**

- A. Crisis and intervention services -- further examine early intervention and identification at schools, how best to provide crisis services, and how to improve initial contact with law enforcement
- B. Initial intake and juvenile probation services -- further examine training and initial screening and evaluation processes
- C. Detention -- further examine youth detention and how to divert youth from inappropriate detention, how to establish linkages with community services
- D. Judicial processing -- further examine youth treatment courts and court-based diversion programs and treatment plans
- E. Disposition alternatives -- further examine sentencing alternatives for judges
- F. Secure placement -- further examine the intake and screening process and mental health services for youth placed in youth correctional facilities, such as centralized intake or regional assessment centers, providing for in-state psychiatric beds for youth
- G. Probation -- further examine youth probation services and opportunities to link youth with evidence-based treatment programs

- H. Re-entry -- further examine how to provide transitional mental health programs for youth re-entry

## II. Examine statutes

- A. Consider general revisions to the Youth Court Act (Title 41, chapter 5)
  - raised by Cascade County deputy county attorney Matt Robertson, Nov. 30
- B. Examine providing civil involuntary mental health commitment statutes applicable to youth
  - raised in panel discussions and testimony on Nov. 30
- C. Examine statutes related to the placement of a youth with a mental disorder in a youth correctional facility, specifically sections 41-5-1504, 41-5-1512, and 41-5-1513, MCA, which rely on the adult definition of a mental disorder contained in 53-21-102, MCA (**attached**)
  - raised in discussions and testimony on Nov. 30 and mentioned by Jeff Mangan (former State Senator and Executive Director of Mountain Peaks) in reference to a bill he carried by request of the Department of Corrections in 2003 (**SB 25 -- attached**)

## III. Other SJR 6 topics not already listed above

- A. Examine graduated sanctions
- B. Examine how to reduce probation violations
- C. Examine how to improve the transition between youth and adult corrections

## IV. Other references

- A. staff paper presented on Nov. 30 entitled *A Nutshell Summary of A Blue Print for Change: A Comprehensive Model for the Identification and Treatment of Youth with Mental Health Needs in Contact with the Juvenile Justice System*, which summarizes a report prepared by Kathleen R. Skowyra and Joseph J. Coccozza, PhD for the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, 2007
- B. testimony and handouts from Nov. 30

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