

# Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC16-44

IN RE:       TASK FORCE ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL  
              HEALTH ISSUES IN THE COURTS

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The purpose of the Task Force on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in the Courts is to continue addressing the needs of individuals with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders who become involved in the justice system. In carrying out that purpose, the Task Force on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in the Courts shall perform its responsibilities consistent with The Long-Range Strategic Plan for the Florida Judicial Branch 2016-2021, including but not limited to Goal 1.5 (Encourage the use of consistent practices, procedures, and forms statewide), Goal 2.4 (Collaborate with justice system partners and community organizations to deliver appropriate services), and Goal 2.6 (Promote the use of innovative and effective problem-solving courts and alternative dispute resolution processes).

Over the next two years, the Task Force shall perform the following tasks:

1. Monitor the implementation of recent legislative changes relating to the Baker Act and Marchman Act as well as any future changes made by the Legislature to those laws. Upon request, the Task Force should provide training and technical assistance regarding how the changes should apply to the judicial processing of these cases.
2. Pending this Court's consideration and action on the Task Force's draft Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards and related proposals, finalize the draft standards and develop a process to assist drug courts in operating with fidelity to the standards. The Task Force should begin researching evidence-based best practice standards for juvenile and family dependency drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts.
3. Monitor proposed legislation and provide input to the Legislature, upon request, to help ensure consistency with the recommendations outlined in the report entitled Transforming Florida's Mental Health System.
4. Research the prevalence of non-violent felony offenders in Florida's prison system who have a mental health and/or substance use disorder and make recommendations on how appropriate non-violent offenders

could be diverted from prison into community-based treatment and supervision.

The Task Force is authorized to propose rule changes that are necessary to fulfill the charges in this administrative order. Should the Task Force recommend amendments to the rules of court procedure and/or forms, it shall file such recommendations in petition form with the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court. The Task Force is also authorized to propose, in accordance with the applicable state court system protocols, statutory changes that are necessary to fulfill the charges in this administrative order.

Should the Task Force make recommendations that require additional funding or resources to implement, the Task Force is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationship with the District Court of Appeal Budget Commission or the Trial Court Budget Commission, as appropriate. At a minimum, the Task Force shall provide the chair of the respective budget commission with copies of committee reports and recommendations that reference the need for additional court funding or resources, prior to the finalization of those reports.

Should the Task Force make recommendations that impact on court technology, the Task Force is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationship with the Florida Courts Technology Commission. At a minimum, the

Task Force shall provide the chair of the Florida Courts Technology Commission with copies of committee reports and recommendations that reference court technology, prior to the finalization of those reports.

Should the Task Force make recommendations about the education and training needs of judges and court staff, the Task Force is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationships with the Florida Court Education Council. At a minimum, the Task Force shall provide the chair of the Florida Court Education Council with copies of committee reports and recommendations that reference court education, prior to the finalization of those reports.

The Task Force shall submit its reports to the Chief Justice through the State Courts Administrator.

The following persons are appointed to serve on the Task Force for a term to begin on July 1, 2016, and expire on June 30, 2018:

The Honorable Jeri B. Cohen  
Circuit Court Judge  
Eleventh Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jerry L. Demings  
Sheriff  
Orange County

Mr. Mark Fontaine  
Executive Director  
Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association

The Honorable Frederick J. Lauten  
Chief Judge  
Ninth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Steven Leifman  
County Court Judge  
Miami-Dade County

Ms. Martha Lenderman  
Consultant  
Baker Act and Marchman Act

The Honorable T. Patterson Maney  
County Court Judge  
Okaloosa County

The Honorable Janeice Martin  
County Court Judge  
Collier County

The Honorable Melanie May  
Appellate Court Judge  
Fourth District Court of Appeal

The Honorable Melissa McKinlay  
Commissioner  
Palm Beach County

The Honorable James McCune  
County Court Judge  
Marion County

Mr. Paul Poland  
Assistant State Attorney  
Twentieth Judicial Circuit

Ms. Silvia Quintana  
Chief Executive Officer  
Broward Behavioral Health Coalition

Ms. Ita M. Neymotin  
Regional Counsel  
Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel  
Second District

The Honorable Linda L. Nobles  
Chief Judge  
First Judicial Circuit

Dr. Roger H. Peters  
Professor, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy  
University of South Florida

Ms. Terica Roark  
Drug Court Manager  
Fourth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Kathleen A. Smith  
Public Defender  
Twentieth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Michele Towbin Singer  
Circuit Court Judge  
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

Dr. Rajiv Tandon  
President  
National Alliance on Mental Illness – Florida

In order for the justice system to effectively address the needs of individuals with substance use and mental health disorders entering the justice system, it depends upon the collaboration among all stakeholders. Accordingly, the following representatives, or their designees, shall also serve as members to the Task Force:

Executive Director, Disability Rights Florida

Secretary, Florida Department of Children and Families

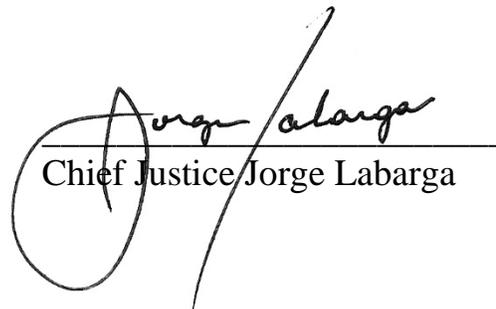
Secretary, Florida Department of Corrections

Secretary, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

President/CEO, Florida Council for Community Mental Health

The Honorable Steven Leifman shall serve as Chair to the Task Force through June 30, 2018. Staff support shall be provided by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on June 30, 2016.

  
Chief Justice Jorge Labarga

ATTEST:

  
John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

