Dear Dr. Taylor and Dr. Tribble,

This comment is meant to inform discussion of the recommendations for the Care First Jails Last Task Force scheduled for tomorrow, January 26. I appreciate how challenging it is to bring together and organize recommendation from a diverse set of people representing diverse organizations and interests.

First, I understand that Margot Dashiel sent recommendations by the Jan. 13 deadline for comments to be included for consideration in this meeting, but they do not appear to be reflected in the meeting document. I attach those here.

Second, the Care First Community Coalition is developing recommendations as well, which we plan to submit to you before the next meeting, and we hope you will discuss them then.

Third, I urge RDA to post the original documents or notes from which recommendation are drawn onto the CFJL Task Force web page. The 13-page document of recommendations cover a wide range of issues and ideas, with varying levels of development. If these are synthesized, they may well lose context.

Even more important is that the compilation show who (or what agency or organization) submitted these proposals. This could be indicated alongside each recommendation. This will permit asking those who proposed something for supporting information, and also help us identify the interests of those who proposed it. It’s one thing if a proposal comes from family members, another if it comes from the courts - they may align, but if they don’t we can begin to assess and supplement them if we know where they are coming from.

An important next step - probably more important than identifying the intercept that corresponds to a recommendation - is identifying what experience and/or data support the recommendation. This could be a collective process but adding this component will help ensure that recommendations are evidence-based, as well as to identify what other data or interviews are needed to assess a problem.

Similarly, the recommendations could include a component identifying unmet needs that the recommendation responds to, and potential costs of the recommendation.

Finally, the document is not always accessible. I notice many acronyms in the document that are not explained. I attach a list I made, with as many of them spelled out as I know. I encourage you to include such a glossary.

None of this is meant to inhibit proposing recommendations, especially those based on lived experience where there may not be statistical data (often a result of the same problem). But as the Task Force, with support from RDA, develops these proposals, the recommendations can also motivate better assessment of unmet needs.

I don’t have all emails of CFJL Task Force members, so this email is directed to those whose addresses I have. I hope you will share it with the rest of Task Force members.

Thank you for this hard work.

Attachments (click links):
  CFJL Taskforce Preliminary Recommendations
  CFJL Glossary