

# DOC Task Force on Justice Involved Women and Girls Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2017

Present: Taskforce: Karmen McQuitty, Corey Sherman, Scott Behrends, Renee Louck, Nicole Hertel, Dana Abrams, Gwen Lerner, LuAnn Buck, Julie Stanton, Roxanne Sanderson  
DOC: Mary Dombrovski, Lori Korts  
Guest: Safia Khan (MN Coalition for Battered Women)

Next Meeting: February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (DOC-Central Office, Afton Room, 1<sup>st</sup> level, West Entrance)

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### 1. Welcome

- Karmen welcomed the attendees and introduced the agenda
- Karmen recapped December's meeting (Winter Social/Kahlee's baby shower)

### 2. Check Ins/Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves and discussed how the TF can have the most impact and ideas on area the TF should focus on or concerns. Some of the topics or concerns discussed were:

- Lack of meaningful programming that targets the needs of women
- Concerns related to the changes that the new legislation will make
- TF should spend more focus on re-entry strategies
- Healthcare changes and the effect on women
- Wants more exploration on the female's pathway to crime
- More programming for "non-violent" offenders
- Explore programming for children and families of offenders
- Housing for offenders when they are released
- Lack of programming for offenders who are housed out of the facilities
- How with the criminal justice system respond to incarceration increases
- How will education be impacted by the new legislation
- TF can advocate for more diversion programs in the beginning (before women are incarcerated)
- Focus to expand beyond pregnant mothers to include those who have rights to their children
- Alternatives to prison and preventing the "projected numbers" from entering prison
- TF to join DOC initiatives in place or preventative efforts taking place in the community for females. What is DOC doing now and how can the TF help?
- Lack of resources and funding for new programming
- Offenders are victims too-what services are available?

### 3. Other Business

- Upcoming TF Presentation at MACCAC Conference. Location: Crown Plaza Hotel. March 2, 2017 @ 1-3pm. For more information: 651.789.4345

- Women's Writing Project (WWP): Gwen reports that the WWP has written 3 books. Washington County reading is in the newspaper. A writing program is in the works for Ramsey County.
- Member and TF updates: there are still open seats available on the TF that need to get filled. Gabre will send out application link. Please review the website and contact Gabre if there are any changes that are needed. Gabre is working on getting membership information updated and appointment letters.

#### **4. Annual Conference**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Justice Involved Women and Girl's Conference is set for April 17, 2017. It will be held at Wilder Foundation. Karmen is finalizing the details on the keynote speaker, presentations and group discussions. Registration information will be available soon. Please see attached flyer and share with your network.

#### **5. Other/Closing:**

The 2017 TF Initiatives have been tabled to February 2017 meeting. Karmen thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Task Force

*(All meetings will be held at the DOC-Central Office, unless otherwise noted)*

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017: 10am-12pm**  
Afton Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (West Entrance)

**Wednesday, March 8, 2017: 10am-12pm**  
Pung Rooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (West Entrance)

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017: 10am-12pm**  
Afton Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (West Entrance)

SAVE the DATE

Task Force on Justice Involved  
Women & Girls presents:

13th annual conference on Justice Involved Women & Girls

# Families & Children of Incarcerated Mothers

Acknowledging systemic pathways, honoring lived experiences,  
and creating grassroots approaches

April 17, 2017 | 8:00am-4:30pm

Wilder Foundation | 451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul, MN

Presented by MN Department of Corrections Task Force on Female Offenders, Robina Institute,  
Wilder Foundation, MN Community Corrections Association, and Volunteers of America

# DOC Task Force on Justice Involved Women and Girls Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2017

Present: Taskforce: Corey Sherman, Scott Behrends, Vicki Hunter, Renee Louck, Amber Jochem, Andrea Hoffman, Nicole Hertel, LuAnn Buck, Jan Scott, Kristi Cobbs, Tracy Zabel, Gwen Lerner, Roxanne Sanderson  
DOC: Ron Solheid, Mary Dombrovski  
Guest: Christa Perkins (YWCA)

Next Meeting: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (DOC-Central Office, Pung Rooms)

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### 1. Welcome

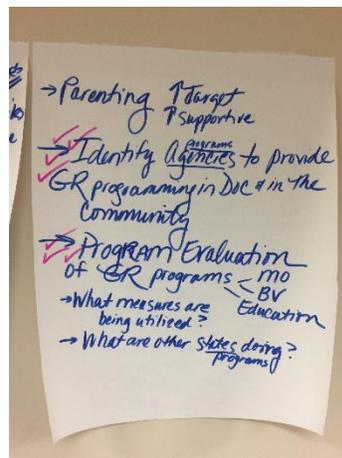
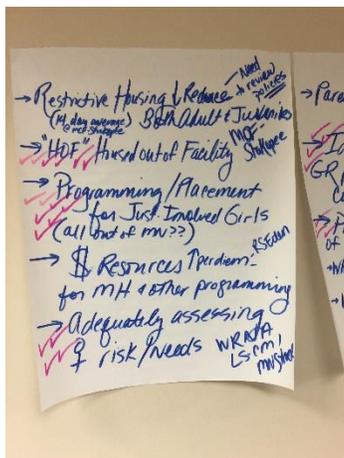
Corey Sherman welcomed everyone and briefly recapped January's meeting

### 2. Check Ins/Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves and answered the question, "what is impacting justice involved women and girls most right now? Some common themes were discussed:

- o Lack of placement for females (women and girls) in the justice system (limited resources in MN, girls are being placed out of state). Detention population is increasing. DOC or DHS needs to be approved any facility where youth are placed. Placement at non-certified facilities is concerning.
- o Lack of resources (funding) to provide adequate services to address needs
- o Lack of meaningful programming that targets the needs of women
- o Limited programming to address mental health needs (affects placement). Additionally, these MH needs go untreated
- o Women and girls released into homelessness
- o Lack of programming for HOF offenders. Is it possible to centralize where women and girls are placed to better advocate for programming?
- o Additional discussions were had around what topics the Task Force can explore that are within the control of DOC and the Commissioner of Corrections that are related to inspections and licensed facilities by DOC, Community Corrections Act Counties (with limitations) and DOC facilities (see attached).

Below are images that capture those topics (to enlarge click and drag the corner):



### 3. Legislative-Update

- Deputy Solheid reviewed the Budget narrative handout (see attached). Additionally, hearings have begun at the House and Senate. DOC has presented budget information. Legislative bills and committee information can be found/tracked here: <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis>. Deputy Solheid will update the Task Force on what budget requests the DOC has made that will impact MCF-Shakopee.
- Weston Merrick, MMB has finalized the Benefit-Cost Analysis (ROI) Adult Criminal Justice Report. This report can be found at: <https://mn.gov/mmb/results-first/adult-criminal-justice/>. The report appeared to be positive overall. DOC and Mr. Merrick will have further discussions about the findings and next steps.

### 4. Annual Conference-Update

- The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Justice Involved Women and Girl's Conference is set for April 17, 2017. It will be held at Wilder Foundation. Registration is open: [2017 Conference on Justice Involved Women and Girls](#). As a reminder, Task Force members will have to pay the conference fee. If there are questions or comments, please direct them to Karmen or Tracy.
- ET Award: The Task Force would like to see this award continue; however, with some changes. It was recommended that the award be tied to a "theme" along with the conference. Tracy, Vicki, and Gwen will review this year's process. Moving forward, the Task Force would like to see more marketing and efforts publicize it to increase the pool of nominations.

### 5. Other

- Women's Writing Project/COMPAS- the next reading is March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 at 1:00pm. This reading will be held at the Ramsey County Correctional Facility. For more information, please contact Gwen Lerner: [gmlerner@visi.com](mailto:gmlerner@visi.com). Additionally, COMPAS would like to attend a Task Force meeting to present on the writing program. An invitation for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 has been made. Gwen will follow up.
- MACCAC Conference: March 2, 2017. There will be two break-out sessions offered.
  - a. **1:00pm-3:00pm Trauma Informed Services with Justice Involved Girls and Women**  
*This workshop will include discussion of the risk and protective factors for girls and women as viewed through a gender-responsive and trauma-informed lens. Research on sexual abuse/violence trauma, the neurobiological impact of childhood maltreatment, the impact of interpersonal violence/abuse, and the incidence of self-inflicted violence. Minimally, participants will leave with an understanding of how their role as probation officers and corrections staff can be intentional to do no further harm to girls and women who have been traumatized. In addition, participants will learn how to create a safe and supportive environment to unite with girls and women to improve their overall well-being.*
  - b. **3:00pm-5:00pm Gender Responsive Interventions**  
*This workshop will introduce attendees to the concept of, and need for, gender responsive interventions when working with women and girls with a specific focus on Moving On (MO), an evidence-based, gender-responsive, cognitive behavioral intervention.*
- Task Force Vacancies: Gabre is working on updating the Secretary of State website to reflect current memberships. Applications have been received for the remaining opening chairs. Karmen and Deputy Solheid will be reviewing them and make recommendations the Commissioner in the future.

## 6. Next Meeting/Closing

- TOP TWO TOPICS FOR SUB-COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: HOF & Programming/Placement.  
Please remember to do a little research on the above mentioned topics. Bring questions, comments, and anything else you'd like to share.
- Corey thanks everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting

### Upcoming Meetings:

Task Force

*(All meetings will be held at the DOC-Central Office, unless otherwise noted)*

**Wednesday, March 8, 2017: 10am-12pm**

Pung Rooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (West Entrance)

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017: 10am-12pm**

Afton Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (West Entrance)

**DOC Task Force on Justice Involved Women and Girls Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

*March 8, 2017*

Present: Taskforce: Scott Behrends, Vicki Hunter, Renee Louck, Amber Jochem, Andrea Hoffman, Nicole Hertel, Dana Abrams, LuAnne Buck, Jan Scott, Kristi Cobbs, Tracy Zabel, Gwen Lerner, Roxanne Sanderson  
DOC: Ron Solheid, Mary Dombrowski, Kathleen Lonergan, Tracy Hosking  
Guest: La'Kisha Hollman-Griffin (YWCA), Betsy Mowry (COMPAS), Mica Lee Anders (COMPAS)

Next Meeting: April 12th, 2017 (DOC-Central Office, Afton Room-first floor)

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**1. Welcome/Check-In**

Vicki Hunter welcomed everyone and briefly recapped February's meeting. All attendees introduced themselves.

**2. Legislative update**

Kathleen Lonergan gave an update about how things are moving along at the Legislature. As discussed, there aren't any bills this session directly related to female offenders; however, the proposals related to mental health and restrictive housing may have an impact on the female population. For more up to date information, Legislative bills and reports can be found/tracked here: <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis>.

**3. COMPAS**

Betsy Mowry and Mica Lee Anders from COMPAS were present. COMPAS took over the Women's Writing Program (WWP) over a year ago. A handout was distributed and reviewed. This handout was an overview of the organization. COMPAS currently provides programming to schools and local jails (WWP); also provides services to homeless youth. For more information on COMPAS, WWP, or how to get involved please contact Betsy, Mica, or Gwen Lerner: [gmlerner@visi.com](mailto:gmlerner@visi.com). Their information is also located in the handout (See attached). Upcoming readings for the WWP are:

Sherburne County Jail: April 4, 2017, 12 pm

Washington County Jail: May 3, 2017, 1 pm

Ramsey County Correctional Facility: June 22, 2017, 1 pm

**\*Public Reading for past participants at Ramsey County Correctional Facility at Arlington Hills Community Center: July 6, 2017 exact start time TBD.**

**4. HOF Program (DOC)**

Tracy Hosking, the HOF Coordinator from DOC was present. An overview was given on the HOF program, process, and an open discussion was had around the potential impact HOF has on female offenders and programming (lack thereof). Tracy reviewed a handout on the HOF program (see attached). For more information and future questions, please contact [tracy.hosking@state.mn.us](mailto:tracy.hosking@state.mn.us).

## 5. Other

- ANNUAL CONFERENCE-Registration is open, and numbers are low. Please continue to share with your network.
- TF Vacancy update-Gabre will contact those members who need to update their information on our website. Currently, there are 3 seats available. Applications are being reviewed. More information will come as available.

## 6. Next Meeting/Closing

Vicki thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017; however, the TF will be notified if it will be canceled due to the conference.

### Upcoming Meetings:

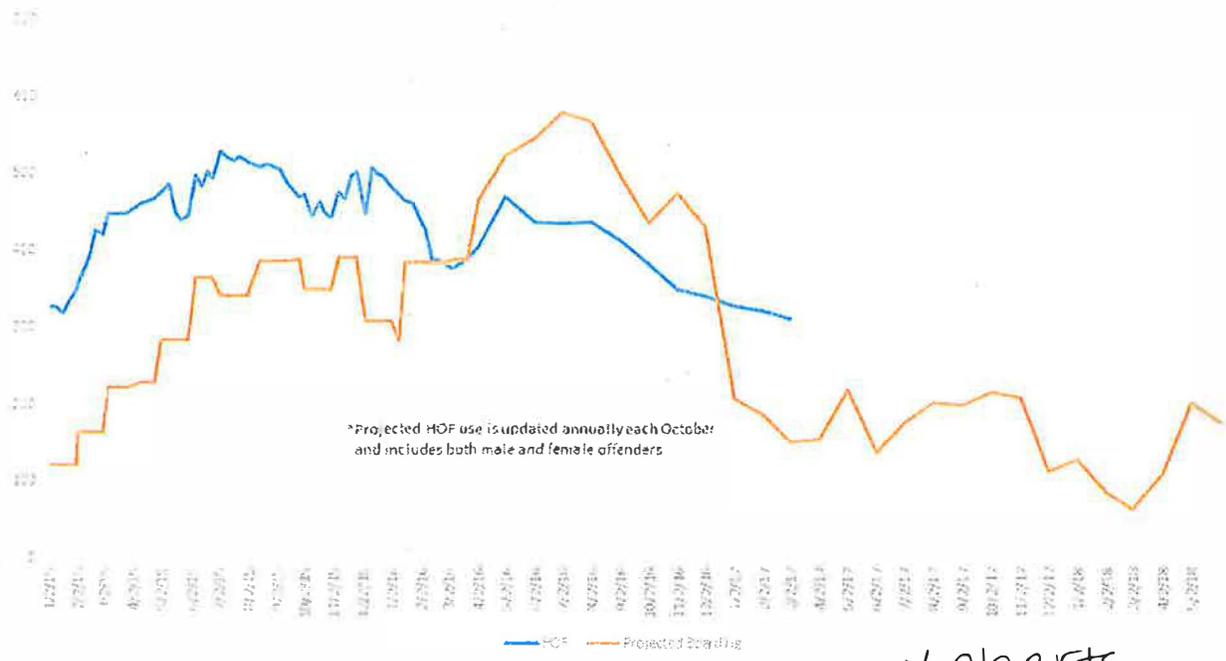
Task Force

*(All meetings will be held at the DOC-Central Office, unless otherwise noted)*

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017: 10am-12pm**  
Afton Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (West Entrance)

**Wednesday, May 10, 2017: 10am-12pm**  
Pung Rooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (West Entrance)

HOF Boarding vs Projected Boarding  
January 2015 - June 2018\*



\*charts accurate as of 3/5/17

**Current numbers:**

MALE OFFENDERS	FEMALE OFFENDERS	TOTAL OFFENDERS
257	53 (37 HOF, 16 RVs)	310

We currently contract with 18 county jails and the Bureau of Prisons in Waseca. We have 14 women at the BOP. The remaining are in 7 county jails.

Shakopee’s total capacity is 676. However, we maintain a small percentage of open beds at each facility to have the ability to manage movement, address maintenance issues and respond to incidents within the facility. Consequently, our goal is to keep Shakopee’s population at about 656. Today the population is 646 with no further scheduled releases yet more intakes anticipated through the week. Over the past 6 months, Shakopee’s average weekly intake is 16.

**General Criteria for HOF**

Healthy offenders with at least 12 months but not more than 10 years to serve who are under 60. We also screen for discipline behaviors, escape history, detainers and treatment needs.

(email: [tracy.hosking@state.mn.us](mailto:tracy.hosking@state.mn.us))  
Tracy Hosking, HOF Coordinator

In 1981, the Department of Corrections established a task force on the women offenders in Corrections. The role of the Task Force is advisory to the Commissioner on identifying the needs of women offenders, assisting in prioritizing needs, initiation of studies, identifying, analyzing and developing issues related the woman offender. The Task Force was titled, "Advisory Task Force on Female Offenders". The name has since been changed to "Advisory Task Force on Just Involved Women".

In 2011, the Task Force discovered that incarcerated women and girls had serious interest in creative writing and art submitted for prizes at its annual professional conference. As a result, in 2012, the Women's Writing Program, spearheaded by Gwen Lerner member of the Task Force, was implemented. The program started as a collaboration among the volunteer DOC Advisory Task Force on Justice Involved Women, The Saint Paul Public Library, the Ramsey County Correctional Facility and the Saint Paul Almanac to teach creative writing to women in jails. The Sherburne County Jail and the Great River Regional Library in St. Cloud came on board in 2014 when Bookmobile replaced the Saint Paul Almanac, and the successful program was transferred in 2016 to the longstanding nonprofit arts education organization, COMPAS. Washington County's jail and library have since been added by COMPAS, resulting in 7-10 writing workshops this fifth season. Professional published writers teach creative writing skills to small groups and work with them to publish handsome anthologies that are cataloged in the three library collections.

Twenty anthologies have been published to date, with 146 authors, some of whom have participated in more than one of the two-week daily class sessions. Diego Vazquez, Jr., has taught throughout, with Marcie Rendon joining for the tenth program in 2015 and Karla Nweje starting in February 2017. Artistic design and class instruction in very different styles cultivate interest and talent in artistic self-expression by these women, encouraged by their achievements to believe in themselves and to try to continue writing after their release from jail. The project furthers the Task Force mission "to promote and advocate for gender and culturally-responsive services for women and girls in the criminal and juvenile justice systems" by providing a way for incarcerated women to build self-confidence and self-esteem which, based on a 2008 research report prepared with and for the DOC and the Task Force, found that in Minnesota "these needs appear to function as protective factors" in reducing recidivism.

# DOC Task Force (TF) on Justice Involved Women and Girls Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2017

Present: Taskforce: Corey Sherman, Scott Behrends, Vicki Hunter, Renee Louck, Amber Jochem, Nicole Hertel, LuAnne Buck, Tracy Zabel, Gwen Lerner, Kahlee Griffey, Roxanne Sanderson  
DOC: Ron Solheid, Mary Dombrovski  
Guest: Lisa Pederson

Next Meeting: June 14th, 2017 (DOC-Central Office, Afton Room-first floor)

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### 1. Welcome/Check-In

Corey Sherman welcomed everyone and briefly introduced today's agenda. All attendees introduced themselves.

### 2. Legislative update

Committee conferences are in progress, and negotiations are taking place related to the budget among other things. No agreements have been made; however, budgets need to be approved by May 22, 2017. For more up to date information, Legislative bills and reports can be found/tracked here: <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis>.

### 3. WWP

WWP continues. Gwen noted that COMPAS has limited funding, and will update the Task Force about any program changes that may occur. For more information on the WWP and how to get involved please contact Gwen Lerner: [gmlerner@visi.com](mailto:gmlerner@visi.com). Upcoming readings for the WWP are:

Ramsey County Correctional Facility: [June 22, 2017, 1 pm](#)

\*Public Reading for past participants at Ramsey County Correctional Facility at **Arlington Hills Community Center**: [July 6, 2017 exact start time TBD](#).

### 4. Conference Committee (open discussion)

Vicki reviewed the evaluation results (see attached) from the Annual Conference that took place on April 17, 2017 at Wilder Foundation. Approximately 150 people were in attendance. Open discussion was had and feedback was provided regarding the conference. There was an overall positive review, and kudos was given in Karmen's absence for her efforts to ensure that the conference ran smoothly and kept everyone engaged! (Way to go Karmen!). Inquiries were made about future conferences and how to get the press involved and possibilities for receiving continuing education credits.

### 5. Future TF Action Steps

- STRATEGIC PLAN
  - I. Review of strategic plan (see February 2017 minutes). Should the TF continue to pursue the HOF program? All members in attendance were in agreement to continue strategic planning around HOF (open discussion).
  - II. TF realizes that the HOF program faces many challenges, so keeping realistic goals with recommendations.

- III. What recommendations could be made to the jails that house females? Deputy Solheid will provide Corey with contact information for the MN Jail Administration to discuss what services are currently being offered, and discuss what other efforts can be made around housing and programming.
  - IV. Suggestions were made to explore policy or practices around visits (face to face vs. video or phone) at the local jails for women and their families. Discussions were also had around expanding the Work Release program.
  - V. Further questions were raised: What additional information does the TF need to make recommendations for HOF? Should the TF do some research? If so, what? What are best practices? What are some attainable goals?
- **NEXT STEPS**
    - I. The TF agreed to work on obtaining an inventory of programming offered in DOC contracted jails
    - II. Invite a representative from the MN Jails Administration (Programmers Association) and Jail Inspections Unit to a future meeting
    - III. Gather more information about the criteria for HOF & Jail Programmers Association and update at the next meeting (Assigned to Corey).

## 6. Other/TF Vacancies

- Renee Louck verbally resigned from the TF at today's meeting
- There are currently 3 vacant seats open for the TF (not including Renee's resign). Applications are being reviewed by a sub-committee and recommendations will be made to Commissioner Roy

## 7. Closing

Legislative update will be available in detail at the next meeting. Corey thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Task Force

*(All meetings will be held at the DOC-Central Office, unless otherwise noted)*

**Wednesday, June 14th, 2017: 10am-12pm**

Afton Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (West Entrance)

**Wednesday, July 12th, 2017: 10am-12pm**

Pung Rooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (West Entrance)

# DOC Task Force (TF) on Justice Involved Women and Girls Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2017

Present: Taskforce: Karmen McQuitty, Vicki Hunter, Jan Scott, Kristi Cobb, Amber Jochem, Nicole Hertel, LuAnne Buck, Tracy Zabel, Gwen Lerner, Kahlee Griffey  
DOC: Mary Dombrovski  
Guest: De'Sia Demmings, Tina Rockett

Next Meeting: August 9th, 2017 (DOC-Central Office, Afton Room-first floor)

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### 1. Welcome/Check-In

Karmen welcomed everyone and briefly introduced today's agenda. All attendees introduced themselves and were given the option to provide brief updates within their organizations:

*Tracy Zabel*- Counties are making active efforts for more agents who serve female clients only. Tracy presented at MACCAC on this issue, and there has been a positive response overall.

*LuAnne Buck*- RS Eden is fully staffed and reports that they are updating their women's facility. More information to come.

*Kristi Cobbs*-Hennepin County Home School has been focusing more on gender-responsive programming. There has been notable progress made within the girl's program in the area of social/emotional skill building. Kristi also reports that Hennepin County in general has been making active efforts to explore and provide female responsive services.

*Vicki Hunter*- Currently working on an education program to be provided at Waseca. There has been some public interest in getting involved with a possible donor; however, all the details are still in the infancy stage. More information to come.

*Gwen Lerner*-Gwen was acknowledged for her 10 year commitment to the Task Force. Furthermore, her efforts continue with the Women's Writing Program (WWP), and looking at ways to expand the program. For more information on the WWP and how to get involved please contact her: [gmlerner@visi.com](mailto:gmlerner@visi.com). Upcoming readings for the WWP are:

- Ramsey County Correctional Facility: [June 22, 2017, 1 pm](#)
- Public Reading for past participants at Ramsey County Correctional Facility at **Arlington Hills Community Center**: [July 6, 2017 at 5pm \(see handout\)](#)

*Amber Jochem*-Currently MN Adult & Teen Challenge has a 70+ bed Women's facility in Rochester that will be opening this fall. For more info: [www.mntc.org](http://www.mntc.org)

*Karmen McQuitty*- Currently working on some projects at the U of M. Interested in researching how police departments came to be on college campuses. These conversations have just begun, but excited about future initiatives this information may bring about. Kudos were given to Karmen on her podcast!

*Tina Rockett* (guest)-Twin Cities Rize will begin working with the women at Shakopee on life, social and job skills. Tina is excited about this partnership.

*Kahlee Griffey*- Kahlee is no longer with DOC, and has accepted a position at ATTIC Correctional Services. Lots of training, but informative. She will continue to participate on the Task Force.

## **2. Task Force Membership/Vacancy Updates**

There are currently 4 positions open on the Task Force. A subcommittee has reviewed the applications, and made recommendations to Commissioner Roy. Additional conversations were had on how to advertise and recruit interested participants to the Task Force. Karmen will provide updates on the status of these appointments at the next meeting.

## **3. October Greater MN Meeting & 2018 Conference**

Conversations were had as a group on how to proceed with the October meeting and next year's conference. General reflections were made on the last conferences/meetings, and ideas were discussed on what to do for this fall and next year. Karmen took names of volunteers who expressed interest about getting involved to help plan the out-state October meeting and the conference for 2018. Topics that were explored: HOF, Reentry Programs for females, alternatives to prison, programs offered in the facilities, where females primarily housed outside of DOC, and issues related to special populations (LGBT, ADA, minorities, etc.) More information to come at the next meeting.

## **4. Future TF Action Steps**

Corey was not present at today's meeting to provide an update on HOF or programming offered in DOC inspected facilities. Karmen will follow up with Corey, and updates will be provided at the next meeting.

## **5. Next Meeting/Closing**

The July Task Force meeting has been canceled, and meetings will resume on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 10:00am. Deputy Commissioner Solheid will be present to provide legislative/budget updates at the next meeting. Karmen thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Task Force

*(All meetings will be held at the DOC-Central Office, unless otherwise noted)*

**Wednesday, August 9th, 2017: 10am-12pm**

Afton Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (West Entrance)

**Wednesday, September 13th, 2017: 10am-12pm**

Pung Rooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (West Entrance)

**DOC Task Force on Justice Involved Women and Girls Meeting**  
Meeting Minutes

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Present: *Taskforce:* Karmen McQuitty (Univ. of Minnesota), Corey Sherman (Ramsey County-Public Defender), Vicki Hunter (MSU-Mankato), Amber Jochem (MN Teen Challenge), Andrea Hoffmann (Hennepin Co), Nicole Hertel (Thompson Reuters), Luanne Buck (RS Eden), Tracy Zabel (Rice County CC), Roxanne Sanderson (Ramsey Count CC), Delta Larkey (The Family Development Center), Lisa Pederson  
*DOC:* Ron Solheid (Deputy Commissioner), Kathleen Lonergan (Government Relations)  
*Guest:* None

Next Meeting: September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (DOC-Central Office, Afton Room-first floor)

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### 1. Welcome/Check-In

*Karmen McQuitty* welcomed everyone and briefly introduced today's agenda. All attendees introduced themselves and shared a highlight of their summer:

### 2. Updates

**Association for Justice-Involved Females and Organizations (AJFO) annual conferences is December 11-13, 2017 in Santa Clara, California.**

*Karmen McQuitty*- Informed task force members, if they are interested in attending the AJFO conference to make a pitch on why they should be the one to go.

*Tracy Zabel*- Training is finally being offered on WRNA (Women Risk-Need-Assessment): September 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup> in Northfield (Non-Practitioners are welcomed and it's FREE). Agent Supervisor Conference: February 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

*Amber Jochem*- Team of Jail Programmers-Olmsted Co email contact: [adcprograms@co.olmsted.mn.us](mailto:adcprograms@co.olmsted.mn.us)

*Karmen McQuitty*- University Student Legal Services (USLS) is offering broader training on revenge porn. One of her initial students, herself a victim of revenge porn, is now an advocate. Karmen also started a cyber civil rights project.

*Kathleen Lonergan*- Governor Dayton has started an initiative for young women. He is looking for women aged 16 to 24 years old who are interested. Applications are available through the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, and will be accepted through August 22, 2017.

### 3. Housing

Summary of the Problem: Groups of women who are sentenced to Shakopee are being moved to county jails due to housing. The feedback that has been received from those women being housed

out of facility is the process is very painful. The Task Force has taken on this issue in an attempt to make the lives of women better.

Corey Sherman mentioned that the task force should start with a narrow scope and suggested researching the differences between Mille-Lacs, Olmsted and Waseca, which are common places women are housed at in an attempt to help the task force better understand the issue(s) at hand. She also threw out the question: what are other things we (the task force) should be looking at?

Lisa Pederson added that looking at the handouts provided during the meeting, they do not accurately reflect the reality of things and the task force needs to look deeper into the issue. However, she did mention Waseca is one of the few good places and she currently knows women there. Lastly, Lisa mentioned women are not allowed face-to-face contact in the county jails.

Ron Solheid questioned issues regarding county jail placement, namely, what is the criteria? How is it applied? Is there a disparity? Is the criteria per program? He also added that it needs to be known, jail operations are different from prison operations.

Corey Sherman asked the task force members to submit five questions concerning housed out of facility (HOF) status. Questions should be submitted before the next meeting but preferably by August, 25<sup>th</sup>.

Questions mentioned during the meeting are:

- Do they take into consideration if women have children?
- What is the degree to which the DOC has control on discretion?
- What do other states do when they become overcrowded?
- What is preventing them from using conditional release for the women?
- Are these DOC rules or local sheriff rules?

#### **4. Task Force Membership/Vacancy Updates**

Karmen welcomed Delta Larkey, a therapist at The Family Development Center, and Lisa Pederson, formerly incarcerated and now an advocate. There are currently 2 positions open on the Task Force. Conversations were had as a continuation from last meeting on how to advertise and recruit interested participants to the Task Force. Ideas presented were:

- More robust on-boarding process
- Send out call-for articles
- Glossary of acronyms
- History of Task Force
- Database of links
- Dropbox
- Facebook page

#### **5. October Greater MN Meeting & 2018 Conference**

The Greater MN meeting is set for October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Karmen McQuitty took names of volunteers who expressed interest about getting involved to help plan and finalize the out-state meeting. The

2018 conference is set for Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Wilder Center in St. Paul, MN. More information to come.

**6. Future TF Action Steps**

Corey informed the group that more information on HOF must be collected before any policy proposals can be drafted. Updates will be provided at the next meeting.

**7. Next Meeting/Closing**

The next meeting is as scheduled. Karmen thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Task Force

*(All meetings will be held at the DOC-Central Office, unless otherwise noted)*

**Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017: 10am-12pm**  
Pung Rooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (West Entrance)

# DOC Task Force on Justice Involved Women and Girls Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Present: *Taskforce:* Karmen McQuitty (Univ. of Minnesota), Corey Sherman (Ramsey County-Public Defender), Vicki Hunter (MSU-Mankato), Amber Jochem (MN Teen Challenge), Melissa Toavs (Hennepin Co), Nicole Hertel (Thompson Reuters), Luanne Buck (RS Eden), Jan Scott (Ramsey County CC), Kristi Cobbs (Hennepin Co), Tracy Zabel (Rice County CC), Lisa Pederson, Kelly Mitchell, Devyn Wallace, Alana Anderson, Roxie Zenker  
*DOC:* Ron Solheid (Deputy Commissioner), Kathleen Lonergan (Government Relations), Mary Dombrovski (Grants), Nan Roberts (Grants)

Next Meeting: December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (DOC-Central Office, Afton Room-first floor)

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### 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

#### a. Personal/Agency

Introductions by everyone.

#### b. Housing fund update

Nan Roberts gave an update on the housing fund. Summary of the results from the questionnaire were passed out. There was funding for 26 women out of 34 approvals. Housing that was used was 14 motels, 5 non-profit transitional treatment residences, 7 apartments. These housing funds would be better used if they were in supportive housing, discussed how to make supportive housing available and the issues women face when requesting housing. The funds are limited for emergency housing (\$50,000 total), DOC tries to give as many people as possible the opportunity for transitional housing. Discussion made about reconsidering the eligibility requirements. This is a topic that will need to continue to talk about and meet again in the spring to discuss.

#### c. Women's Writing Program

Last issue passed around, from Washington County in October. Article was printed in the newspaper on Monday about the program. There was a fundraiser done in October for the program. The Washington County program will be in December/late November with the reading set for December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm, Washington County Law Enforcement Center. Let Gwen know if you are able to attend to be added to the list.

#### d. 2018 Conference

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018, Wilder is reserved. Conference committee to meet after meeting.

#### e. Membership Ad-Hoc Committee: Vacancies & Onboarding

There are currently four (4) vacancies, three (3) with a spot being held for Lisa Pederson, for the task force. There are two (2) applicants, with an additional two (2) that were not passed on initially. Karmen is considering going back to the pool from a couple of years

ago when there were a lot of applicants. Still looking for more out-state members, people from law enforcement, county attorney's office, and/or the bench.

The website will be updated in the near future.

## **2. Housing out of Facility (HOF)**

### **a. Update from Olmsted Visit**

Tour of Olmsted County Jail in October. Summary of Task Force Olmsted County Visit was handed out. A lot of good information and connections made through this visit. Many concerns to follow up on, which will include creating subcommittees to address the concerns/issues. See handout for the specific issues that were brought up during this tour.

### **b. Next Steps**

Creation of subcommittees; one to devise criteria that the DOC should consider when transferring women to HOF, including criteria for who will go, and other recommendations. The criteria will be a recommendation from the task force to the Commissioner of what we would like to see. Another for how to support women that are in HOF through programming, including reaching out to potential volunteer organizations in the Olmsted area to get them connected with the jail to create more programming options for the facility. Another for long-term issues. Sign-up sheet was passed around to assist on these subcommittees.

## **3. Others?**

Need to set up quarterly meetings with the commissioner to discuss these items. Potluck list and list for the subcommittees will be sent out by Karmen.

Association for Justice-Involved Females and Organizations (AJFO) conference is December 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> in Santa Monica California, Amber Jochem will be attending.. There is also a preconference on December 10<sup>th</sup> that is free.

## **4. Next Meeting/Closing**

The December meeting will be a potluck at the DOC, in the Afton room, 1<sup>st</sup> level. The conference committee will meet after the meal.