

Justice Involved Women and Girls Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13th, 2026, 10:00am-12:00pm

Purpose: The Advisory Task Force on Justice Involved Women and Girls consults with the Commissioner of Corrections regarding choice of model programs to receive funding, reviews and makes recommendations on matters affecting female offenders, identifies problem areas, and assists the Commissioner in seeking improved programming for female offender

Open Meeting Law: The taskforce is governed by [The Minnesota Open Meeting Law](#) requirements.

Location: Hybrid: Webex Webinar and in the DOC Itasca Conference Room

Attendance:

NAME	ROLE	TERM END DATE	ATTENDANCE
BREWER, ANGELA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
ENGEL, NIKKI	Taskforce Member	7/29/2026	In-Person
FLANDERS, LINDA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Absent
GRANDA, KILOMARIE	Taskforce Member	1/9/2027	Absent
HASSAN, NASRA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Absent
HUNTER, VICKI	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	Online
	Interim Chair		
JOHNSON, SHERRY	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
MASON, MAYA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
MAYS-ANDREWS, ANGELISA	Taskforce Member	3/12/2027	Absent
RIDDLE, SAVANNAH	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
SPIES, JEFF	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	Online
THOMPSON, ANGELA	Taskforce Member	3/12/2027	Online
THOMPSON, COREY	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	Absent
	Interim Co-Chair		
WELTER, TANA	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	Online
WIKELIUS, ABBY	Taskforce Member	3/12/2027	Online
ZDON, LAUREN	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	In-Person
VACANT (#1)	Taskforce Member		N/A
VACANT (#5)	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	N/A
VACANT (#14)	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	N/A
VACANT (#17)	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	N/A
DON KLICK	Staff	N/A	In Person
CRYSTAL BRAKKE	Liaison	N/A	In Person

Welcome, Roll Call, and Announcements

- See attendance above.
- Welcome to new members: Sherry Johnson and Abby Wikelius.
- Membership:
 - Several members have appointments approaching expiration. Members who wish to continue serving in the taskforce must request re-nomination (via email to the chairs or organization leads).
 - The task force will stand up an ad hoc Membership Committee to review applications for the open positions. The task force will consist of Vicki Hunter, Tana Welter, Angela Brewer, and Savannah Riddle.
 - There are four vacancies in the taskforce:
 - Lived Criminal Experience (Open Appointment).
 - Justice-Impacted Victimization Expertise (Open Appointment).
 - Advocacy for Justice Involved Women (Open Appointment).
 - DHS/MIAC Representative (Direct Appointment).

DHS Maltreatment Investigation process and intersections with DOC Inspection and Enforcement

- Presenter: Maggie Hansen, DHS Licensing, Intake & Investigations Manager and Christy Strang, DOC Director of Inspections & Enforcement.
- Key Points:
 - DHS has investigated maltreatment allegations in DOC-licensed children's resident facilities (CRFs) since 2017.
 - DHS scope includes maltreatment; all licensing decisions rest with DOC for DOC-licensed facilities.
 - Adults (18+) in DOC CRFs are not automatically considered vulnerable adults unless a functional vulnerability assessment determines otherwise.
 - DHS uses specialized assessors and investigators for DOC cases. Investigations may include interviews, document reviews, site visits (announced or unannounced), and background study checks.
 - DOC actions are limited to issuing or revoking a license. DOC is seeking legislative approval for additional licensing tools such as conditional licenses and temporary immediate suspensions.
- Questions and Discussions:
 - Only substantiated findings are public and posted.
 - DHS receives approximately 13,000 reports annually (not specific to DOC facilities).
 - Gender data is not captured in the current SSIS system; modernization is in-process.

- There is an interest in knowing gender trends and disproportionate impacts on girls.
- Request DOC provide a legislative update at the June meeting.

Conference Committee Update

- Presenter: Nikki Engel
- Venue quotes are being collected (River's Edge Convention Center and Waite Park).
- Financial management through RS Eden.
- Planning for 250-300 attendees.
- Theme Discussion: "Whole Story, Whole Person"
 - Maya is working on Save the Date materials.
 - Committee will prepare a list of taskforce-wide volunteer opportunities (e.g., registration table, table promotion, breakout coordination, etc.).
 - A standing 15-minute conference update will be included in each monthly meeting.
 - Any member interested in joining the subcommittee contact Nikki.

Next Steps for Mapping Exercise of Oversight and Responsibility for Justice Impacted Youth in Minnesota

- Purpose: Understand roles, gaps, and overlaps across DHS, DOC, counties, courts, and facilities related to youth in Minnesota's correctional and residential systems.
- Members emphasized the need for:
 - Data on where girls are placed across DHS and DOC facilities.
 - Snapshot and trend data (e.g., counts by facility type, time, offense type).
 - Understanding racial disparities, especially for black and native American girls.
 - Clear mapping of responsibilities among agencies
- Crystal Brakke (DOC) will explore what data can be gathered, looking at:
 - Snapshot of girls in DOC/DHS facilities.
 - Trends over time.
- There was an acknowledgement of the complexity of placement pathways (detention, residential treatment, foster/group homes, secure/non-secure placements).
- Suggestion to invite Dr. Brittnay Lewis (Research in Action) to present findings from recent research on Black women and girls in Minnesota's systems.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Final Member Comments

- No final comments presented.

Action Items

- Crystal will arrange for the DOC Legislative team to brief the task force in June.

Next Month

- Office of the Ombuds for Foster Care presentation
- DOC Legislative Update (June)
- Conference Update (June)
- Membership Update (June)

Future Meetings

- PREA Policy Review (August)
- PREA Policy Discussion with DOC (September)
- CSAC Subcommittee Involvement – Angela Brewer
- Discussion with Margaret Zadra, Ombudsperson, regarding relevance of Ombuds Office for girls' grievances
- Pertaining to PREA, what are the quality of resources, the source of data, and the accountability for juvenile facilities?
- Discussion on educational program tracking within Minnesota Correctional Facilities
- Discuss DOC Licensing requiring PREA at juvenile facilities.
- Accounting for educational programs completed by incarcerated persons.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm

Next Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, June 10th, 2026 - 10 AM to 12 PM

MN DOC Central Office – Itasca Training Room (Lower Level)