

Meeting Minutes

Justice Involved Women and Girls Task Force

Date: February 11th, 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
BIZZOTTO, LAUREN	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
BREWER, ANGELA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
ENGEL, NIKKI	Taskforce Member	7/29/2026	Online
FLANDERS, LINDA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
GRANDA, KILOMARIE	Taskforce Member	1/9/2027	Online
HASSAN, NASRA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Absent
HENSON, KAYLEE	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
HUNTER, VICKI	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	In-Person
	Interim Chair		
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
SCHAEFER, PAULA	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	Online
SPIES, JEFF	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	In-Person
THOMPSON, ANGELA	Taskforce Member	3/12/2027	Online
THOMPSON, COREY	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	In-Person
	Interim Co-Chair		
WELTER, TANA	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	Online
VACANT	Taskforce Member	N/A	N/A
VACANT	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	N/A
VACANT	Taskforce Member	3/12/2027	N/A
VACANT	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
- No announcements

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC)
 - Governor appointed body with 22 members
 - Focused on juvenile justice reform, compliance monitoring, issuing recommendations to Governor/Legislature
 - Meets monthly. Meetings are open to the public
 - Receives federal funding, which is down 80% since 2002
 - Three-Year Plan: Reduce disparities, Reduce harm, and Increase youth/community engagement
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP)
 - Core Protections
 - Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders: Youth charged with status offenses (i.e., truancy, running away) should not be held securely
 - Adult Jail Removal: Youth should not be held in adult jails beyond 6 hours (except for rural areas)
 - Sight and Sound Separation: Prevent youth from sustained contact with adults in facilities
 - Racial and Ethnic Disparities: Formerly “Disproportionate Minority Contact”
 - Compliance Monitoring
 - 581 facilities in Minnesota monitored
 - DOC assists via Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) for DOC-licensed facilities; DCYF monitors law enforcement and court holding facilities
 - Violations addressed through technical assistance, not punitive measures
 - Goal: Prevent trauma by preventing violations
- Key Issues Discussed
 - Oversight Gaps: No single statewide authority ensures safety and well-being of youth in all juvenile facilities
 - Mental Health Crisis: Severe shortage of juvenile mental health beds; youth held in ERs or detention due to lack of placement
 - Status Offense Detention: Concerns about youth held on valid court orders (VCO) for status offenses
 - Need for Cross-Agency Coordination: Suggested summit with DHS, DOC, DCYF, and DPS to clarify roles and responsibilities
 - Examples of Other States: Georgia, Florida, Maryland have integrated juvenile justice oversight models
- Follow-up Actions
 - Immediate
 - DCYF

- Share JJAC legislative platform and meeting invitation for Feb. 12 Capitol event
- Provide link to federal/state compliance comparison report
- JIWG
 - Identify major oversight gaps and prioritize issues for future meetings
 - Consider drafting recommendations for integrated oversight model
- Near-Term
 - Explore Pilot Reporting Mechanism: For real-time reporting of VCO violations by public defenders
 - Review JJAC Mental Health Subcommittee Legislative Proposal: Support efforts to address children’s mental health boarding crisis
- Long-Term
 - Develop Venn Diagram/Responsibility Matrix: Map statutory authority and duties of DHS, DOC, DCYF, DPS
 - Research Integrated Oversight Models: Gather examples and legislative language from other states

PREA Policy Update

- Policy Revision
 - Current language: “Offenders who falsely allege... will be held accountable through all means available”
 - Proposed language: “If an investigation reveals false allegations, they may be held accountable through disciplinary process and/or referral for criminal charges”
- Future Steps
 - Task Force will review current PREA Policy in August
 - Task Force and DOC will have discussion regarding updates in September

DOC Data on False Reporting Discipline Discussion

- 188 unfounded PREA cases; 35 had related discipline
- No cases at Shakopee where unfounded PREA claims led to discipline
- Future Steps
 - Confirm if video language aligns with policy
 - Share video link with taskforce; review at next meeting

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Final Member Comments

- No final comments presented.
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Action Items

- Crystal will get the information from the I&E Team about the current practices and the current way that they are asking questions

Next Month

- Ramsey County Girls Report – Christy Cobb
- Conference Update (Theme and Dates Discussion)

Future Meetings

- Conference Update (June)
- PREA Policy Review (August)
- PREA Policy Discussion with DOC (September)
- Video presentation on Hawaii's Model of Girls Residential Services
- 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, March 11th, 2026 - 10 AM to 12 PM
MN DOC Central Office – Itasca Training Room (Lower Level)