

Justice Involved Women and Girls Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: March 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
BREWER, ANGELA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Absent
ENGEL, NIKKI	Taskforce Member	7/29/2026	Absent
FLANDERS, LINDA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
GRANDA, KILOMARIE	Taskforce Member	1/9/2027	Online
HASSAN, NASRA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
HUNTER, VICKI	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	In-Person
	Interim Chair		
JOHNSON, SHERRY	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Absent
MASON, MAYA	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Absent
MAYS-ANDREWS, ANGELISA	Taskforce Member	3/12/2027	Online
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
WIKELIUS, ABBY	Taskforce Member	3/12/2027	Online
ZDON, LAUREN	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Online
VACANT (#1)	Taskforce Member		N/A
VACANT (#5)	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	N/A
VACANT (#14)	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	N/A
DON KLINK	Staff	N/A	In Person
CRYSTAL BRAKKE	Liaison	N/A	In Person

Welcome, Roll Call, and Announcements

- See attendance above
- No announcements

Ramsey Count Girls Report Discussion

- Presenters: Kristi Cobbs & Shakira Washington
- Two extensive reports were presented:
 - Quantitative report analyzing 8,000+ cases of youth across child welfare and community corrections from 2018-2021.
 - Qualitative report detailing lived experiences of girls, gender-expansive youth, and families engaged with systems.
- Key Findings
 - Racial disparities remain persistent with Black/African American and Native American girls significantly overrepresented in both child welfare and corrections.
 - High rates of sexual abuse, trauma, and maltreatment among girls entering systems. There are probably many cases that are not reported or underreported.
 - Approximately 50% of girls in out-of-home care experience congregate placements.
 - Absent without permission (AWP)/runaway rates are high, and girls experience increased maltreatment after AWP events.
 - Girls more often enter corrections for lower-level offenses relative to boys.
 - 20% of girls comprise a high-need group with the most severe trauma system involvement; these youth struggle most with placement instability and system responses.
 - Families report major issues with communication, crisis intervention access, caseworker continuity, and feeling stigmatized or criminalized by system.
- Implications Presented
 - Early and upstream interventions are critical.
 - Gender-responsive, culturally relevant, trauma-informed services are needed across all systems, including DOC-licensed facilities.
 - Increased coordination across counties is essential due to youth movement between jurisdictions.
 - A metro-wide planning grant (which is pending award) aims to build a continuum of care for girls.

Conference Committee Update

- Presenter: Tana Welter
- Theme Discussion

- Cycling Through the System: Is Interruption Possible?
 - Focus on full system lifecycle – law enforcement, placements, courts, probation, incarceration, and reentry.
- Support for a cross-system focus rather than siloed tracks
- Support for a lived-experience keynote.
- Assigned seating or structured mixed discussion groups to increase cross-agency collaboration.
- Venue Discussion
 - St. Cloud Event Center has capacity and suitability.
- Expected Attendance: 200+
- Follow-up Items
 - Finalize Conference Theme
 - Confirm Venue Availability
 - Determine preferred dates (coordination with keynotes and event planner)
 - Confirm Keynote Speaker
 - Shape Conference
 - Develop early out-reach plan (DOC staff, probation systems, schools, health departments, counties, and community organizations)

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Final Member Comments

- No final comments presented.

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

- DHS or PREA Video

Future Meetings

- Mapping Exercise (May)
- Conference Update (June)
- 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, April 8th, 2026 - 10 AM to 12 PM

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