

Meeting Minutes

Justice Involved Women and Girls Task Force

Date: March 12, 2025, 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 offenders.

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

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

Attendance:

NAME	ROLE	TERM END DATE	ATTENDANCE
ANGELA THOMPSON	Taskforce Member	3/12/27	In-Person
TANA WELTER	Taskforce Member	8/8/26	In-Person
JEFF SPIES	Taskforce Member	8/8/26	Via Webex
AMBER FAULKNER	Taskforce Member	8/8/26	Via Webex
SAVANNAH RIDDLE	Taskforce Member	2/12/27	Absent
VICKI HUNTER	Taskforce Member	8/8/26	In- Person
	Interim Chair		
KILOMARIE GRANDA	Taskforce Member	1/9/27	Via Webex
VACANT	Taskforce Member		
COREY THOMPSON	Taskforce Member	8/8/26	In-Person
	Interim Co-Chair		
MAYA MASON	Taskforce Member	2/12/27	Absent
KAYLEE HENSON	Taskforce Member	2/12/27	In-Person
ANGELISA MAYS-ANDREWS	Taskforce Member	3/12/27	Via Webex
NASRA HASSAN	Taskforce Member	2/12/27	Via Webex
CECELIA VIEL	Taskforce Member	8/8/26	Absent
LINDA FLANDERS	Taskforce Member	2/12/27	Via Webex
NIKKI ENGEL	Taskforce Member	7/29/26	In-Person
PAULA SCHAEFER	Taskforce Member	8/8/26	In-Person
ANGELA BREWER	Taskforce Member	2/12/27	In-Person
MADELYN ADAMS	Taskforce Member	3/12/27	Via Webex
LUANNE BUCK	Taskforce Member	2/12/27	Via Webex
SHELBI GROATH	Staff		In-Person
WENDY SPRY	Staff		Via Webex
LIZ RICHARDS	Staff		Via Webex
MIKEAL GARLAND	Staff		In-Person
KRISTI STRANG	Staff		In-Person
MADELINE JENSEN	Guest		Via Webex
LISA ADAMS	Guest		Via Webex
CECELIA	Guest		Via Webex

Development of a Charter and Work Plan for FY26 led by Corey Thompson and Vicki Hunter

A small group (Tana, Vicki, Kilo, Angela T., Paula and Corey) are going to meet to draft a Charter and review the existing bylaws for possible revisions. They will also design a Strategic Planning Process for Task Force members to identify goals on which the group wants to focus, and desired outcomes related to those goals. Vicki will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule that meeting.

Inspection and Enforcement Director Kristi Strang and Inspector General Mikael Garland

Spoke about the 2960 dual licensing, I&E currently has one juvenile inspector, and another will start April 21st. They are in the process of trying to bring on a 3rd juvenile inspector. The DOC currently licenses 48 and out of state locations. Director Strang spoke about the need for programming for girls.

CLIPS program in Moorhead will be opening in the future, and they have been spending time renovating a space. While the final space has not been approved, the policies and procedures have been. This will be a DOC licensed facility, and it will be run by West Central. This will be specific to helping girls.

I&E is on a 2-year review program, this is standard across the board, if there are concerns, they may go to annual inspections or a corrective order. These are a prescheduled inspection, the facility is reached out to so they share their policies and procedures, staff roster, and any other information that should be shared. The inspection consists of a random sample size review or resident files, staff files, physical plant tours, looking back at prior complaints and maltreatment reports. They can interview to see the culture of the program; they could be there a day or within four days. The work has significantly changed since 2023, there is emphasis of the health and safety components of 2960. Inspectors compare practice to policy to see if they understand and follow policy. They review the past year of grievances and look at the topics as well as the responses.

Paula – stated that kids don't understand the grievance procedure, and that they will not file these. She states that the grievance procedure is “woefully inadequate.” The procedure needs to be redone, “kid-friendly,” and in alternate forms (i.e. anonymous hotline and text line for complaints so that people feel comfortable), and about the Mesabi Academy and its incidents.

Kristi Strang - Mesabi Academy was a unique situation, and the DOC did not have statute for 245 A which allowed the DOC to act against the license.

Angel – states she has worked at many juvenile programs. She states a lot of grievances get thrown away and they debate what is grievable. She states a lot of kids do not want to bring up a problem because it is not going to be solved. She also states that youth's rights have been broken because staff will downplay the situation so that it cannot be handled through a grievance.

Kristi Strang - The DOC can recommend a grievance procedure but cannot make a facility follow the procedure.

Paula – wants the TF to help the DOC redraft the procedure for grievances. Paula wants to change the 2960 resident rights into language for children.

Kristi Strang - Some facilities do this well, they explain this to kids in their language.

As of right now, the DOC cannot revoke a license due to state statute. Currently, if I&E wanted to act against a facility beyond a corrective action plan, the language in 241.021 may not support revocation of a license. Currently trying to change the wording of statute so that the DOC can act more if a corrective action is not followed through on.

DOC would be interested in hearing how a policy can be improved, whereas rewriting it would be a long game in making new rules.

Paula – spoke that kids are unsafe because they need another inspector within the I&E department. She mentioned that there are community groups who are looking into this. She states that 3 inspectors cannot ensure the health and wellbeing of 49 facilities. She states that there needs to be 5 people, and that facilities should be adequately staffed. She states that Hennepin County should stop taking kids in if they do not have adequate staff.

Angela Brewer – states that there are not enough programs for kids and that they will end up in secure placements that they do not need to be in due to their history.

Mikael Garland and Kristi Strang are going to work together on the follow-up after an inspection takes place. Once they have received, on paper, the adequate response from the facility. They will then issue their all-clear letter. This does not mean they are 100% in compliance; this means that based on the inspection and the corrective action, this tells DOC in one way or another that they have corrected the issue. There is still follow-up action that can take place.

Paula – wants to know why the DHS maltreatment reports are not on the audit reports. She states that there is not enough clarity to show that the program is doing well. She states that Hennepin County is the first report that she has seen with a lot of detail.

Kristi Strang -Audit reports from three years ago to today look very different; they have more focus on health and safety. However, DHS information is outside of our scope and authority; this information is public record and can be accessed, but is out of the scope of the DOC.

Mikael Garland – talked about linking the DHS reports to the DOC audit report to access them if they are needed. This can serve as transparency.

I&E has no authority over PREA, this is all over the DPS. The adult facilities partially monitor their own, but this is more a forwarding of documentation. PREA is for transparency and documentation. There are PREA practices, policies, and local coordinators. The rules require any facility to have policy on PREA and to have a coordinator. There are different lanes of investigations happening regarding PREA.

The task force would like to see who would be responsible for the PREA concerns and how it would be followed up on.

The DOC has an interagency agreement with DHS, but not for 2960. It should be known that 2960 conflicts with some areas of PREA. DOC is currently working with DPS on the 2960 rules. Precious Lowry with DPS follows up on the 2960 PREA concerns. For example, the sight and sound rule with a 16- and 19-year-old cannot be housed in the same program together.

Jeff gave an example of a 17-year-old in SHK, talking about the sight and sound. If an underage IP is sight and sound separation it is when they are not under direct staff supervision.

Madelyn Adams – wants to create a policy so that the underage IP's can have less time separated from the population. Also wants to talk about how PREA intersects with the 8th amendment.

Task Force states that it is how the DOC words these items.

Jeff spoke about how SHK does not have enough youthful offenders to have a housing unit because this is not a common thing to happen at SHK, they usually only have 1 or none at a time.

Paula states that there is going to be an uptick in Juvenile delinquency, she states that this is an equal protection issue. She wants to prepare for when girls are certified as adults and sent to SHK.

Discuss Chair and Co-Chair Seats

Vicki is willing to continue to be the chair until someone else can set up and take it. Corey is also hitting the limit for work that she can take on. They are both willing to do it until someone can take it.

Girls Subcommittee Members

No discussion. They will restructure and we can circle back on this once they are organized.

JIWG Logo Discussion

TF likes the logo, and it will be resent out to revisit this next month for approval.

Body Worn Camera policy – possible policy recommendation to Commissioner

TF will try to review and provide their input to the link by the next meeting.

Action Items

ALL TF Members - Creating toolkit for the grievance rights to kids

ALL TF Members - BWC policy review and discussion

Shelbi – Reloop IG Garland and Director Strang in once DPS PREA stuff is figured out

Shelbi - send out the logo

Shelbi - Get the bill information and sponsor sent to TF members

Vicki - send out a Google pool to schedule the charter FY26 discussion

Next Month

JIWG Input on the CLIPS Juvenile facility for girls in Moorhead

Discussion on programming for girls

Chair and Co-Chair discussion

Logo circle back

Future Meetings

Policy discussion with Commissioner Schnell and Amy Lauricella at future meeting

Next Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 - 10 AM to 12 PM

MN DOC Central Office – Afton Room