

Justice Involved Women and Girls Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: June 10th, 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	Online
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	Online
MAYS-ANDREWS, ANGELISA	Taskforce Member	3/12/2027	Online
RIDDLE, SAVANNAH	Taskforce Member	2/12/2027	Absent
SPIES, JEFF	Taskforce Member	8/8/2026	In-Person
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	Online
VACANT (#1)	Taskforce Member	N/A	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.

Office of Ombuds for Foster Youth (OOFY)

- Presenter: Misty Coonce (OOFY)
- Overview:
 - Established in 2023 and opened in May 2024.
 - Mission: investigate complaints and concerns from/or about foster youth, issue recommendations, and conduct outreach.
 - May investigate actions by DCYF, county agencies, foster homes, and licensed facilities. It has authority to request necessary information, issue recommendations, and raise potential statutory changes.
 - Conducts outreach in Minnesota and out-of-state facilities where Minnesota youth are placed.
- Themes and Trends in Complaints
 - Access to services, especially extended foster care for ages 18-21.
 - Rights violations, including unmet basic needs (e.g., clothing, belongings not being transferred during placement changes).
 - Concerns about living conditions and placement environments.
 - Anonymous reporting is used cautiously due to youth fears of retaliation.
 - High-Volume concerns from relatives of foster youth.
- Major Systemic Issues Identified
 - **Sibling Relationships:** Lack of compliance with the Sibling Bill of Rights; inconsistent notification practices. DCYF has since issued updated materials and guidance.
 - **Use of Crisis Respite Hotels:** Youth spending weeks or months in hotel placements, concerns about safety, food access, and lack of normalcy.
 - **Emergency Department Boarding:** Increased number of youths living in EDs due to lack of placement options.
 - **Inappropriate Placement in Correctional Settings:** due only to lack of alternatives.
 - **Out of State Placements:** Concerns about lack of in person visits, oversight gaps, and extended stays due to no viable return placements.
- Discussion
 - Counties report significant financial burdens when youth remain in emergency rooms for extended periods.

- OOFY emphasizes lack of a meaningful continuum of care statewide as the structural driver of these issues.
- Members expressed concern about oversight for out-of-state placements, especially around monthly visit requirements.
- No substantial gender-specific complaint trends have been identified yet, though demographic tracking continues.

DOC Legislative Update

- Presenter: Kelly Haff (DOC)
- Key Outcomes Relevant to DOC
 - Bonding Bill: \$1.24 billion statewide; DOC received: \$41.5 million for asset preservation, \$10.71 million for Dakota Building renovation (MCF-Faribault), and \$350,000 for pre-design on facility consolidation/expansion.
- DOC Policy Changes Passed
 - Mental Health Unit Authority Expansion. Allows broader, short-term use of MH beds at MCF-Oak Park Heights and future MN Health Units.
 - Substance Use Disorder Treatment Statute Update. Includes outpatient and intensive outpatient services for adults and juveniles.
 - Community Supervision Statutory Cleanup. Working group established to resolve transfer and clarity issues.
- Licensing Improvement and Simplification Act (LISA)
 - Updates and streamlines correctional licensing statutes.
 - Creates conditional licensing pathways for juvenile facilities and halfway houses.
 - Adjusts reporting requirements for juvenile separation events.
 - Removes outdated or inapplicable statutory language.
- Future Outlook: 2027 Session
 - Large legislative turnover due to 43 departures.
 - New governor and new priorities expected.
 - Budget year with limited projected surplus.
 - Session begins January 12, 2027.

Conference Committee Update

- Presenters: Nikki Engle and Maya Mason
- Fiscal sponsor relationship with RS Eden established; invoicing and account processes clarified.
- Venue options being explored; River's Edge Convention Center (St. Cloud) available Friday, April 2, 2027.
- Cross-checking potential conflicts with other corrections-related conferences.
- Branding/visual theme concepts developed—focus on “the whole story” of girls’ experiences.
- Further updates are expected after next meeting with consultant.

Membership Committee Update

- Presenter: Vicki Hunter
- Members: 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).
- 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).

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Final Member Comments

- There should be a Legislative Update every year.
- There should be an update regarding Field Services. This could be broken up over multiple months.

Action Items

- Crystal will talk with Assistant Commissioner Kelly Mitchell regarding updates on Field Services.

Next Month

- MCF-Shakopee changes
- Conference Update
- Membership Update

Future Meetings

- PREA Policy Review (August)
- PREA Policy Discussion with DOC (September)
- Field Services Updates
- 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, July 8th, 2026 - 10 AM to 12 PM

MN DOC Central Office – PUNG3 Conference Room (2nd Floor)