

Department of Corrections Task Force on Justice Involved Woman and Girls

Chair: Ana Negrete

Vice-Chair: Vicki Hunter

Meeting Date: Wednesday August 9th, 2023,

Time: 10:00-12:00pm

Zoom Link:

Attendance: Vicki Hunter, Ana Negrete, Latonya Reeves, Jeff Spies, Sara Thomas, David Boehnke, Mandy Fenrich, Jessica Wildermuth, Kilomarie Granda, Elizabeth Richards, Lois Mineau, Margaret Zadra, Tana Welter, Angela Thompson, Nikki Engel, Corey Sherman,

DOC: Eddie Miles, Chelsey Dively, Paul Schnell

AGENDA

10:00 to 10:30 (30 Mins): **Welcome, Roll Call for all Members and Discussion**

- Culture of Task Force- Ana
 - Met with the Commissioner to be active participants in solutions to problems
 - Respectful space to promote change
 - Review by-laws
 - Agenda for next month
 - Ana will send out by-laws
 - Discussion for how those align
- Membership: Confirmations needed and open seats
 - Open seats
 - Tana Welter
 - Missing representation
 - People directly impacted- what do we mean by this?
 - People of Color
 - Survivors of the juvenile system
 - Limitations/Exclusions Previously Identified
 - People on probation
 - If we are saying, we want to increase of folks who are systems involved what are we asking or who are we thinking of if we say no to people on active supervision? Probation Officers? Adult/Juvenile/Gender Specific?
 - Practice of previous Commissioner
 - **Discuss with Paul about this practice**
 - Exclusions at the discretion of the commissioner
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Oath of Office-Chelsey
 - Chelsey to email members with missing
 - What we are and are not.
 - Advisory Group- expectation that we can and should be advising.
 - Reviewing by-laws would help
 - As we learn about issues, how do we share those?
 - Activism as a member of the Task Force

- How do we address concerns from the community or that we learn about in the course of our work outside of the task force?
 - Formal Channels
 - Ombuds Office
 - Review Process
 - Identification of Systemic Issues
 - How to bring them to advisory group
 - Document what we see
 - Documentation
 - Data Privacy
 - Not sharing names of individuals
 - What to do if people ask for their names to be mentioned?
 - Systemic issues discussions
 - Not everyone is signing the release of information in the group and don't want to breach their privacy
 - Going through formal processes so there's documentation
 - Taskforce is not the forum for individual cases, falls under Ombuds
 - Consent to release information to which audience
 - Can't share details because of data privacy
 - Other Areas we need to discuss?
 - Attendance Expectations

10:30 to 10:50 (20 Mins): Subcommittee Breakout Session

- Girls
- Holistic Health:
 - Healthy Start
 - Transgender Policy
 - Abortion Policy
- Reentry

10:50 to 11:00 (10 mins): Subcommittee Report Out by Subcommittee Chair

11:00 - 11:30 (30 Mins): Executive Session/Reports and Updates

- Report From DOC Commissioner Schnell/Nan
 - Transgender policy
 - Moving pieces
 - Reviews
 - Have someone heavily involved to talk it through
 - Transfers of transgender women into Shakopee
 - Commissioner: Who is the DOC person who has led the transgender policy efforts?
 - Answer: Amy Lauricella and committee, W Path standards, changes from lawsuit settlement,
 - Minnesota has the most inclusive policy in terms of access
 - Internal Policy changes
 - Abortion policy
 - Protocols around the nation
 - Policy on abortion prior to 2023
 - Previously required persons to pay in certain circumstances
 - Changed substantially
 - Send former abortion policy to taskforce

- Town Hall
 - Update on legislative changes and MRRA
 - Thursday night
 - Open to the public and recorded
 - Will be shared with IP's with recording
 - Link available on Facebook page
 - Will be done on an ongoing basis
- Staffing
 - Stabilize staffing
 - Challenging retention rates
 - Pay difference with counties
 - Conversations with union partners
- MRRA
 - Tremendous amount of work
 - Moving the policy development quickly
 - Maintain viability of CIP
 - Intake model and development of case plans
 - Trying to ensure gender, culture, and race responsive
 - Can do briefings with this group
 - Secure input from the group and testing ideas within the task force
 - 18-24 months to develop policies
 - Community resources need to be in place
 - Reviewed by external third party out of state
 - No models or policies around the country to look at
 - No clear framework
 - Range of programs
 - How to develop them
 - Public trust in the process
 - Connect with Latonya on how to get two supervised release agents involved
 - When does the taskforce for MRRA start?
 - Supervision side: Work group community
 - As part of the process building in input for people on the inside
 - Input sessions for people in the community
 - Community Supervision Work Group
 - Evidence based practice
 - Retroactive?
 - No provision in the law that says it is retroactive
 - Does apply to **everyone**
 - Not about "good time"
 - Based on individual plans
 - Concerns: Timing
 - Can anything be done to adjust the amount of time?
 - Need to have a clear framework
 - Public trust in the process
 - Different from any program we have currently
 - Establish policies with informed input
 - Change like this demands something different, it's not presumptive that people get this release
 - Have an obligation to establish policies
 - Eligibility
 - Applies everyone except those with indeterminant sentences
 - Fast majority of women at Shakopee are eligible
 - Follow up Questions:

- What percentage of people in the DOC put in the work?
- Staffing crisis, having a way for people who qualify now to get their plans?

- Body Scanner Use
 - Policy
 - Data Report
 - Launched in 4 other men's facilities
 - Numbers of scans have gone up
 - 466 total scans
 - Medical delegation
 - 120 scans first week of August
 - Unless suspicions occur the body scanner will be the base for searched
 - Unclothed body searches have dropped
 - New admits may be subject to both scan and unclothed body search
 - Tracking
 - Race, ethnicity included in data
 - Working to build a system that is easier to review data
 - Charts in development
 - Warden Bosch come in next month to provide briefing
 - Staff Trained
 - Barriers to Use
- DRT
 - Opportunities to Join the Discussion/Seat at the Table
 - Any changes-updates?
 - Interim guidance work being finalized
 - Draft
 - Rule 18 months
 - Documentation
 - How do facilities document what's happening
 - Any placement that is doing well on reducing/eliminating DRT?
- Issues Involving Juvenile Justice

- Who if anyone has replaced Curtis Shanklin? Where are they on the process of hiring if the position is being rehired?
- Report from Shakopee/Jeff Spies
 - Programing
 - First quarter of calendar of next year will be changing the
 - Quarterly scheduling will allow for logical organization and tracking
 - Access is going well
 - Fits in with MRRRA
 - Working with case managers is a key portion of how this is administered
 - Case Planning
 - Not something our case managers have done full scale
 - Develop a system that helps administration of program/process
 - Fully staffed with case managers at Shakopee
- Ombuds- Margret Z- Any barriers that she would like support on?
 - Ombuds website: <https://mn.gov/obfc/>

- Ombuds email: OBFCcomplaints@state.mn.us and my email: margaret.zadra@state.mn.us
- OBFC
 - Separate and independent from DOC
 - Investigate complaints from IP, staff, and community
 - Facilitate resolutions, make recommendations and publish reports
 - Provide education and information to help navigate
 - Jurisdiction
 - State prisons, correctional facilities licensed by DOC
 - IP Complaints
 - Grievance process followed first
 - Protects their legal rights
 - Form available at library
 - Communications with office protected
 - Protection from retaliation
 - Local facility
 - Cannot duplicate services
 - Jail inspections have primary for rule violations
 - What can we do
 - Be a resource
 - Help with communications
 - Accountability
 - Monitor processes
 - Systemic issues
 - Complaints from Community Members
 - Anyone can file a complaint
 - Will not investigate on behalf of someone without their consent unless overwhelming reason
 - Cannot share confidential info with family members but will educate on process
 - When to contact
 - Always willing to look at a situation
 - Unsatisfied with results of internal process
 - Process isn't working as it should
 - Process doesn't exist
 - Questions
 - How to complete the grievance process if staff aren't cooperating
 - Chain of command
 - Can go above the person
 - Can write to the Ombuds Office to meet with them
 - Future for reaching out and having a protected line?
 - How many youth reach out to Ombuds?
 - Not a ton
 - Youth: conversations about DRT, food,
 - Filing on behalf of an IP
 - Send something to Ombuds but need consent from the IP to dig in.
 - 50% they want involvement
 - There are posters in juvenile facilities with the Ombuds information on it

11:30 to 11:55 (25 mins) Debrief and Concerns

- What did we hear?
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- What are our concerns about what we heard?
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- Who should address the areas of concern?
 - Re-Entry
 - Shift the emphasis from housing to contribute to MRRRA policy
 - Holistic health
 - Process of PREA
 - Revisit
 - More clarity needed
 - Add to agenda
 - Ombuds poster for youth
 - Lois and Tana volunteered to help design
 - How to engage them
 - Help design a new poster
 - Reentry ideas of employment
 - Residents that volunteer for advisory council, can that be used on IP's resumes?
 - Jeff can connect Lois with Transition Center
 - Conference
 - Vicki meeting with RS Eden tomorrow afternoon
 - Date: April 2024
 - Vicki will report dates next month
- Public comments or concerns?
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11:55 to 12:00 (5 Mins): Wrap up/Take Away Actions

Next Task Force Meeting: Scheduled the second Wednesday of every month from 10AM- 12P<

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023

Wednesday October 11th, 2023

Wednesday November 8th, 2023

Wednesday December 13th, 2023

Meetings are open to the public; the link is posted : <https://mn.gov/doc/staff-partners/task-forces/advisory-task-force-on-justice-involved-women-girls/>

Agenda Items can be added by reaching out to the Chair or Vice Chair who can be reached via email at Ana.G.Negrete@state.mn.us and Vicki.hunter@mnsu.edu

Look for updates, minutes and upcoming agenda on the MN Dept of Corrections

[website@https://mn.gov/doc/staff-partners/task-forces/advisory-task-force-on-justice-involved-women-girls/](https://mn.gov/doc/staff-partners/task-forces/advisory-task-force-on-justice-involved-women-girls/)