

ADVISORY TASKFORCE ON
WOMAN AND GIRLS

January 10th, 2024

Advisory Council Members Present:

☐ Ana Negrete	☐ Vicki Hunter	☐ Angela Thompson
☐ Jeff Spies	☐ Lois Mineau	☐ Kilo Marie Granda
☐ Sara Thomas	☐ Latonya Reeves	☐ Jessica Wildermuth
☐ Corey Sherman	☐ Paula Shaefer	☐ Artika Roller
☐ Cecelia Viel	☐ Tana Welter	☐ Amber Faulkner
☐ Open Seat	☐ Open Seat	☐ Open Seat
☐ Open Seat	☐ Open Seat	

Community Nicki Engle, Kristi Cobbs, Connie, Star Hein

Representative from Department of Corrections:

- ☐ Warden: Guy Bosch
- ☐ Commissioner: Paul Schnell
- ☐ Admin Rep: Nicole Cook

AGENDA

10:00 to 10:05 (5 Mins): Welcome

10: 05 to 11:00 (50 Mins): Vicki Hunter on Scholars Serving Time

Prof @ U of M Mankato- 18 years PHD in Sociology

Began Scholars Serving Time to empower others.

Degree through MSU Mankato

Able to support post release academic transition

Remaining costs covered through university funding.

Release Dates allow for program completion.

No recorded indication that program began in Shakopee

Some college credit is okay but cannot have a degree

In person course delivery

All students FT- all year

5 semesters to earn AA degree.

Mission: Create transformative educational experiences for students, contribute to changes in the culture and structure of prisons, shift the public narrative on prison and the people who live in them and foster healthy communities and families.

Q: Are there accommodations for students who may have disabilities. A: Yes, via zoom for people who apply for accommodation and plan for the need.

Began college shortly after being released from Prison.

Justice Involved Woman can earn an AA Degree

Financial Aid Application Assistance through FAFSA

Eligible for Pell Grants

Began in Jan 2021

Requires a HS diploma or GED to start.

Candidates vetted by DOC for serious disciplinary reports.

7 courses per semester- each take 3-4 classes per Sem

Class size up to 24- 43 total students

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

- Report From DOC Commissioner Schnell
 - Body Scanner- No update
 - DRT- No update
 - Updates from Warden- No update
 - Other: From Jeff
 - One update: Holding cell issue, past practice involved unclothed body search, wait for outcome, then to seg, second body search prior. New practice is to eliminate one of the unclothed body searches.

11:30 to 11:40 Membership

- Open Seats
- Recruitment

Attendance has been low, reached out to those who have not been in attendance. Challenge to TF and community to

invite others to attend and join. We would like to encourage membership for folks within greater MN. 5 open seats. No openings are listed on the website. We will need to get those positions open with support for DOC admin.

Tana is working on a brochure that will be updated. An onboarding process would be good to have.

Q: Are we open to members or community folks from other states? A: The meeting is open, but we do focus on MN.

11:40 to 11:45: Conference Engagement Sign Up

- Theme
- Agenda
- Logistics
- Other

Conference postponed until the fall- we will need as many TF members as we can to have a successful conference.

The theme will focus on Girls and Justice Reform Work. One full day conference.

Two keynotes morning and afternoon, plus breakout sessions. Janet Pie Espinosa plus as JJS survivor. Milika Evon- Legal Rights Center plus an JJS survivor.

Art and Poetry exhibit will need support. Specifically collecting it and helping display the work for the conference. Who it belongs to and where it should return and review the pieces. 3 submissions for each category to be paid an honorarium. This could take several people. (Kilo Marie, Nicki and VFM,)

We will need to develop a list with tasks for folks to sign up for.

Will need help with registration process/system.

There will be a lifetime achievement award that will also be sponsored. – Will need to be managed.

We will or can have the conference social media.

Q: Can we do table for system partners? A: Yes, Tana interested

Q: Is there a budget? A: The TF does not have a budget, but we have donated money for the conference held by RS Eden. Registration fees will help support this work and future work. Speakers to be covered by OJJDP funds. We will look for sponsors as well.

11:45 to 11:50 Listening Session Update

- 2-3 members to attend.
- Late Feb/ Early March
- Summary on what we are doing as subcommittee groups.
- Looking for feedback on systemic issues the task force can impact.

Ana, Jeff and Warden Bosch met last week. Three TF Members will be allowed to go into the facility for the purpose of the listening session. The purpose of the listening session will be to meet with unit representatives to talk about the purpose of the TF, what we are working on and if there is anything we should be thinking about as well or instead. We will be asking them for feedback on what systemic issues do they see that we as a TF can address within the scope of our work.

We are hoping to go into the facility in late Feb, early march. We will need to do background checks and any other forms required by the DOC.

We will need to develop specific questions to ask and present ahead of time so that the unit reps can talk to other incarcerated people who may want to bring forth systemic issues or areas of concern. Draft of question reviewed. We are looking for additional questions. We will need TF folks to weigh in on what type of issues can or should be asked. We should lead with positive statements.

This would happen in the visiting in the room on a Monday or Tuesday as those are the days the room is open.

KiloMarie, Latonya, Tana is interested in going in.

Cristy, Nicki and Tana are interested in helping with question development. Paula would like to know what we can do better by girls that are justice involved who may have had JJS. What can we do better? What can we do as youth exit JJS as it pertains to re-entry and reconnection with community.

We will do a debrief with Warden Bosch and the TF on the outcome of the listening session.

Tentative date is the 2-26-24.

Interested from TF to replicate the process in the Juvenile facility. Henn County may be an option of this. Latonya/Lois can explore this is a possibility.

Note to make sure folks know that we are not a TF that impacts just Shakopee but that our roles are clear.

11:50to 12:00 Public Comment and Closing

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

Wednesday January 10 th , 20224	Vicki Hunter to present-Scholars Serving & Time- Free Writers
Wednesday February 14 th , 2024	TBD
Wednesday March 13 th , 2024	TBD
Wednesday April 10 th , 2024	TBD

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/)