

ADVISORY TASKFORCE ON
WOMAN AND GIRLS

SEPTEMBER 13th, 2023

Advisory Council Members Present:

☒ Ana Negrete
☐ Jeff Spies
☒ Sara Thomas
☒ Corey Sherman
☐ LaToya Wilson
☐ Yolonde Lee
☐ Open Seat

☒ Vicki Hunter
☒ Lois Mineau
☒ Latonya Reeves
☒ Paula Shaefer
☐ Kaylee Griffey
☐ Cecelia Viel
☐ Open Seat

☒ Angela Thompson
☒ Kilo Marie Granda
☐ Jessica Wildermuth
☒ Artika Roller
☒ Amber Jochem
☐ Open Seat

Community Guests: David Boehnke, Tana Welter

Representative from Department of Corrections: Guy Bosch, Eddie Miles, Paul Schnell, Shahna Fredrick

AGENDA

Notes indicated in blue

Follow up Items indicated in red

10:00 to 10:10 (10 Mins): Welcome/Roll Call/Oath of Office Reminder

10:10-10:30 (20 mins): By-Laws and Recruitment Discussion

- Review of task force make-up
 - We are missing some demographics for system involved folks on our team
 - 3 open seats
 - Confirming Tana
 - Chelsey to follow up with Commissioner.
 - Ideas for recruitment
 - Where to post?
 - Check with commissioner needed to be off of paper in order to serve on
 - Often don't have the time to attend the meetings, they may be in jobs that do not allow for time off to participate or have the flexibility to do so.
 - When asked, Commissioner indicated he did not have an issue with folks being on probation/on paper, being involved and serving as members.
 - Do we need to amend the by-laws that state this?
 - Stipend for people to take time off?
 - Barriers for providing a stipend include:
 - No budget
 - Criteria- would this just be for systems involved members?

- Shakopee has unit reps would they be able to participate?
 - Per Warden Bosch he has not seen a process where unit reps are involved in this way.
 - Bosch will follow up with Eddie Miles
 - Taskforce members went into the facility and did a listening session in the past.
 - Listening sessions would be beneficial for goal setting.
 - Juvenile facilities as well as Shakopee
 - Follow up with Commissioner on what would be required to hold a listening session.
 - How many can attend?
 - Who is Interested?
 - What questions will be asked?
 - Schedule date and time.
 - Supervision agents may have suggestions for women system involved.
 - Should we do a community listening event?
 - Youth Councils to announce for justice involved as a leadership opportunity.
 - Minneapolis has a Youth Council
- How can we get the word out/publicize the opening?
- Attendance requirement
 - Missing more than two-consecutive meetings
 - Standing meeting on calendar to be sent out
 - Expectations if you will be absent
 - Notify Ana or Vicki ahead of time via email
 - Exception on unforeseen circumstances
- Link sent for Community Participants to be added to distribution list
 - Ana will add to future agendas the Wednesday before the meeting.

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

- Girls
 - Staffing crisis, not aware of what's happening in the juvenile world.
 - Who can we meet with to learn about:
 - What is the required staff compliment?
 - What is the actual staff compliment?
 - What are staff doing with pivoting with policies and practices?
 - Getting the community stakeholders involved
 - Outside response
 - Report from January on staff assaulting a youth in a restrained position.
 - Hotline where staff and kids can report out.
 - Follow up Questions for DOC: Ana will send these questions to DOC staff that will present on the policy in October or November.
 - Do the abortion and transgender policy apply to the juveniles?
 - Amy will make the Oct meeting (*post meeting communication/ she will attend in November*)
 - What are the policies related to transgender and abortion for juveniles? If they're not Red Wing how does that apply?
 - How does the DOC set their licensing requirements?
 - What is the legal process to create such standards?
 - Licensing rules Paul will send to Ana
 - Ask Amy to touch on the rule making process
- Holistic Health:
 - Lack of data on pregnant outcomes tracked nation wide
 - How is this tracked in Minnesota?

- Will continue to look request body scanner data regarding utilization and barriers.
- Reentry
 - Shift focus from housing to provide meaningful insight to implementation of MRRA and guidelines associated with it
 - Concerns about supervision staff getting accurate information
 - Enough staff for supervision
 - Issues related specifically to women
 - Follow Up for Team: (Vicki or Ana to send this out)

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

Notes listed above. Subcommittee groups met for a shortened time period due to Chair asking Warden Bosch to speak which was not on the agenda.

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

- **Warden Bosch**
 - History
 - Started as AW at Shakopee
 - Was Warden at Stillwater and is now back at Shakopee
 - Would like to be involved on what the taskforce is working on
 - Objectives are aligned.
 - His focus has been to remove obstacles to get back to normal post COVID
 - Staffing
 - 5 new Officers
 - Visiting
 - Opened up visiting another day started last week with Fridays added
 - 4 days of visiting in total
 - Body Scanner
 - Increased body scanner
 - 8 people trained.
 - 2 people training
 - Only couple times it can't be used:
 - Women that are pregnant
 - No staff trained how to use it
 - If it were to break
 - Intake
 - Seg
 - Writs
 - Bypass the holding cell eventually.
 - Holding
 - Processes reviewed more than weekly.- Task Force asked for seat at the table when policy decisions are being made in this area.
 - Brainstorming how to increase scans and decrease unclothed.
- **Report From DOC Commissioner Schnell**
 - Stillwater
 - Sunday morning response half of one housing unit came out, refusal to switch back in
 - Concern related to not as much out time, phone time, flag time
 - Frustration from IP's
 - Objective was first and foremost: life safety of staff and IP's
 - End Goal: How to get resolved safely without force which is what happened
 - Water

- Water tested on a monthly basis.
 - Always found to be fit for human consumption.
 - Stillwater utilizes well water.
 - Initiated testing done on Monday by Department of Health
 - 80 some sources within the facility
 - Samples subject to testing
 - Late this week or early next results will be identified.
 - If there are problems, water safety is the primary consideration
 - Develop a mitigation plan.
- Questions: When Still Water goes on lock down do all the other facilities automatic go on lock down? Lock down is solitary confinement.
 - ANSWER
 - Does not impact all facilities if one locks down.
 - Does not mean solitary confinement.
- Juvenile Facilities
 - Any assessment about staffing licensing?
 - Short staffing throws facilities in crisis
 - Red Wing is one of the facilities that has one of the most stable staffing along with Togo and St. Cloud. Shakopee is not far behind
 - Juvenile short staffing response is to not accept additional people into the programs.
- Staffing
 - Nothing happens within a correctional facility without staffing.
 - Hired more people in the last 3 years than the agency has hired in the previous 10 years.
 - Poor Retention
 - Mandated overtime difficult for family life
 - Not exclusively a Minnesota problem
 - Public safety jobs have been a challenge to hire and retain.
 - Working with union partners to help resolve.
 - Hoping to be competitive with wages
 - Confident we can get there and get this resolved.
 - Developing plans to manage and maximize programming access.
 - Incident management teams
 - Providing a range of options to the exec team
 - Staffing Solutions
 - 15 percent increase in prison population what is on the table for that.
 - Not interested in opening the doors without being in a place where people can be supported to succeed. Looking at all options. Without having a clear framework MRRA will not be releasing until a clear policy framework is in place.
 - MRRA
 - We will do this right. Engage with people on the inside, community groups, follow the law.
 - Work Release Expansion
 - Will look at work release but we have to be in a place to understand the capacity and the needs of the people considered for work release.
 - Data Request from 2 years ago
 - 1400 for people under MNSTAR who qualify.
 - How to reduce the prison population as a question for next time
 - May not be the forum for that.
- MRRA- How can we be involved/meeting schedule?
 - MRRA will not be rolled out until there is a clear structural framework developed.

- Body Scanner Use
 - Data Report
 - New report
 - Building this so you can see comparative data
 - Show month by month
 - Started collecting last Oct
 - Shows primary reason
 - And to showcase the reason for unclothed body search
 - Minimize unclothed body search to the lowest point possible
 - Question:
 - Can we get numbers on how often body searches still occur?
 - I know you said Commissioner that body scanners can't be used in JJ facilities, I am hoping this can be revisited and at a minimum
 - ANSWER: It's not a standard but we can pull it with Red Wing.
 - What would be the process required to make it a standard?
 - I wonder about looking at race, LGBTQ status, and individuals with repeat searches?
 - ANSWER: Collect race data, but can ask to build in other points
 - Hope to build this out as public information
 - For every facility
 - Training
- DRT
 - Opportunities to Join the Discussion/Seat at the Table
 - Welcome to have person from the Taskforce at the table
 - Rule making process will take some time
 - Amy Lauricella will be reaching out as we get to that point in the process
 - Amy will email Vicki and Ana
 - Any changes-updates?
- By-Laws
 - QUESTION: Members having to be off of paper?
 - Unit Reps Participate from Shakopee?
 - Don't need a decision right now but would like to discuss a response next month
 - ANSWER: Probation status
 - Is not a concern for Paul
- Recruitment
 - Listening sessions with Shakopee
 - Asking Paul to consider for the future having a few representatives from the taskforce
 - Questions prepared ahead of time
 - Want to be in touch with those directly impacted
 - DOC can work something out per Commissioner
- Trans Women moved to Shakopee
 - Add to the agenda for next month
 - Questions
 - How many people have been moved?
 - ANSWER: 3
- Request for Presentations from DOC on Abortion Policy, Transgender Policy for Oct/Nov/Dec dates.
- Report from Shakopee/Jeff Spies -Not present to report out

- Town Hall Meeting Mentioned in today's meeting, did not ask how it went from the commissioner's standpoint. Feedback we heard was that participation was limited and it occurred in a presentation style with chat featured disabled. There was a question about if the task force was mentioned. It is unclear if the town hall was recorded. We can request this information at our next meeting.

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

- What did we hear and what follow up do we want to request?
- Conference- Update from Vicki- Next Steps
 - Date: April 2024
 - Caroline from RSEden
 - Will be signing contracts related to conference costs
 - Email Vicki to be on conference planning committee
 - Have to set a new meeting day and time
 -
- Public comments or concerns?

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 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/)