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PANEL ON JUSTICE-INVOLVED WOMEN

Meeting Date: June 7, 2024

Meeting Time: 1:00PM-2:30PM

Meeting Place: Microsoft Teams (Virtual Meeting)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 once a quorum of members had been established.

Present:

Kyle Pelletier, Chairwoman

Rebecca Brink

Daisy Hernandez

Hema Sarang-Sieminski

Sarah Ruiz

Senator Liz Miranda

Corinn Crowninshield

Katherine Moran

Colleen Stocks

Not Present:

Dr. Nancy Connolly

Rep. Chynah Tyler

PLAN OF ACTION FOR FOCUSED GOAL THIS YEAR: FAMILY CONNECTIONS WHILE INCARCERATED

Meeting called to order. Chair reviewed the goal of the year to focus on family connectiveness for those in custodial settings as agreed upon in earlier meetings. This will include site visits, and the dates were confirmed for MCI Framingham 6/25, Hampden County 7/29 and Bristol County 7/31. Group asked to try and attend these site visits so we can ask those who are incarcerated and staff their thoughts in this space.

Senator Miranda discussed that she and Christine Barber have been hosting talks at the State House on justice-involved women and Rep. Khan has had experience with family visitation. She also noted that the legislature has been involved in events in the past and it would be great to hear from them around women who are incarcerated. She also noted that State Rep. of Somerville Erica Uytterhoeven would perhaps be a fit on here if the current Rep. isn't able to join meetings. Sen Miranda noted that Representative Kay Khan leaves the legislature in July so perhaps we can get her to speak. Additionally, Colleen Stocks said that facilities sometimes partner with agencies so perhaps we will learn from our visits certain partners and programs and maybe bring them in to the agenda to speak. Chair Pelletier said similarly Spectrum Health Systems provides programming regarding parenting and hosts some special events at MCI Framingham and they might be a good presenter for a future agenda. Hema Sarang-Sieminski said she would be interested in the Domestic Violence Unit at DCF would be able to speak to the intersections and Hema Sarang-Sieminski knows survivors that are incarcerated oftentimes due to actions taken in order to survive in some cases and then would be good to hear about that. Senator Miranda spoke about the DCF piece and how workers may be overwhelmed with large caseloads and it would be good to hear more about those issues. Senator is going to follow up with Kay about having her join the August meeting.

**FACILITY VISITS TO INFORM UNDERSTANDING FOR GOAL THIS YEAR –
SOLIDIFY DATES & DISCUSS STRUCTURED DISCUSSION WITH STAFF AND
INCARCERATED WOMEN**

Panel discussed the site visits. Site visits would include discussions with 6-10 incarcerated women. Discussed staff that will attend and logistics surrounding attendance, including the survey previously developed. Colleen Stocks proposed that personnel from human services, security, and health services attend the visits. Chairwoman Pelletier agreed. There will be a contact address for EOPSS addressed to Michaela Martini included in the posting for the women to follow up with additional comment should they want to send a letter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURN

Colleen made a motion to adjourn. Rebecca seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:58PM.