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JUSTICE INVOLVED WOMEN PANEL

Meeting Date: October 4, 2024

Meeting Time: 1:00-2:30PM

Meeting Place: Microsoft Teams (Virtual Meeting)

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

On Friday, October 4, 2024 at 1:15 pm, Chairwoman, Kyle Pelletier called to order a meeting of the Justice Involved Women Panel. Advance notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with the open meeting laws. A quorum of the membership was present, and roll call was taken.

	Membership	Present	Absent	Minutes
1	Chairwoman, Kyle Pelletier	X		X
2	Rebecca Brink	X		X
3	Dr. Nancy Connolly		X	
4	Sarah Ruiz	X		X
5	*Corinn Crowinshield / Dianne Fasano	X		Abstain
6	Rep Chynah Tyler		X	
7	Senator Liz Miranda		X	
8	Colleen Stocks	X		X
9	Katherine Moran/Meghan Winston			Abstain
10	Daisy Hernandez		X	
11	Vacant			
12	Vacant			

EOPSS Staff: Arielle Mullaney and Lisa Caputo

2. April and June Meeting Minutes Review

A Motion was made by Colleen Stocks and seconded by Sarah Ruiz to approve the minutes of April and June meetings. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Site Visit Debrief (Hampden and Bristol)- Attendees

Chairwoman Kyle Pelletier provided an overview of the Hampden, Bristol and Framingham site visits noting the different opportunities. The group at Framingham were all state incarcerated women under state sentence. It was a little bit different just in terms of the length of time that they are in custody. The different opportunities at each (Hampden, Bristol, and Framingham) stood out. Hampden and Bristol facilities and acknowledged the turnover as a result of the briefer stays.

Colleen Stocks added her general impressions and themes of the visits and also noticed the differences. Aside from the major differences of the custody level, the other thing the members did see in both DOC and HOC settings was a real willingness to share their experiences. Both panels were pleased to hear that this was happening and there were inquiries that they wanted to share their feedback.

Chairwoman Pelletier added that she also thought that was true of staff. At each facility, the members heard from women and then staff separately. Bristol was a very different setting. The women were prepared. Really helpful to hear from staff what they thought could be improved.

There has been a lot of effort in this space from the women at various times and then for whatever reason it stops. The numbers of the women in these settings have gone down in every system that the members visited, which is a good thing. With the numbers down, it is a challenge to bring different opportunities in because it is difficult just to do with one person or two people. The population has embraced the video visitation being able to connect remotely.

Chairwoman Pelletier highlighted some specific things that were gathered on these visits. All phone calls, virtual visits, and emails are free for those that are in our custody. They all welcomed that. They all acknowledged that email was the preferred means of communication for general things. There is a delay getting those emails, which is true in all systems. The women understood the delay was for security reasons. Bristol did not have video visits, but is working to getting video visits. Framingham does have it, but it was treated like a phone call.

The women stated at least one program that they liked. Framingham was the Chaplains programs and at Bristol it was the True Course. They all acknowledged there was some program they enjoyed, whether it had to do with parenting or re-notification.

On the site visits, the members looked at the built space and visiting space. Lobby and waiting areas would be an opportunity for this panel to look at.

Sarah Ruiz shared the topics of dress code and children coming to visit. She expressed the desire to make it not traumatic for the children and also how to maintain safety. These might be areas that this Panel could explore. Also, the availability of visits and accessibility was a common theme. The disconnect between what is offered and what the women understand to be offered is also another theme to explore.

4. 2024 Report and Recommendations

The draft report for review and edit will be distributed to the Panel before the November meeting. A request for updated data points and any recommendations was asked of the Panel.

5. Schedule of November Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2024, at 1:00 pm.

6. Member Comment

Sarah Ruiz shared that the post for the procurement for Women and Non-Binary Re-Entry Services has been opened for bid.

7. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.