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JUSTICE INVOLVED WOMEN PANEL

Meeting Date: August 1, 2025

Meeting Time: 1:00-2:30PM

Meeting Place: Microsoft Teams (Virtual Meeting)

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

On Friday, August 1, 2025, at 1:00 pm, Chairwoman Kyle Pelletier called to order a meeting of the Panel on Justice-Involved Women. 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	July Minutes
1	Chairwoman, Kyle Pelletier	X		Approve
2	Rebecca Brink	X		Approve
3	Joanne Barros	X		Approve
4	Carrie Kelley	X		Abstain
5	Corinn Crowninshield	X		Approve
6	Rep Chynah Tyler		X	
7	*Senator Liz Miranda	X		
8	Colleen Stocks	X		Approve
9	Meghan Winston		X	
10	*Daisy Hernandez	X		
11	Sunindiya Bhalla		X	
12	Vacant Seat			

*Panel members Senator Miranda and Daisy Hernandez joined meeting after roll call votes.

EOPSS Staff: Board Counsel Arielle Mullaney and Lisa Caputo

2. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes:

A Motion to approve the July minutes was made by Joanne Barros and seconded by Carrie Kelley. A Roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. 2025 Report and Draft Recommendations

Chairwoman Pelletier gave an overview of the 2025 report and requested members to volunteer to draft key sections. After discussion, Colleen Stocks will update the acknowledgements and thank you section. It would be a great opportunity for Daisy Hernandez and Sunindiya Bhalla to recap the work that was done this year with the lived experience presentations. Chairwoman Pelletier is updating the data section and will have more information at next meeting. More discussion on general themes will be assigned after members review their availability with their own agencies. The entire panel will work together on crafting recommendations in September. It is Chairwoman Pelletier's hope to have the report reformatted to honor the professional work that this panel has been doing.

Also to be included in the report will be the presentation by Department of Children and Families. Rebecca Brink spoke with the Deputy Commissioner and Policy Director to confirm the presentation in September. A thorough discussion was had with the panel on the areas of interest would be for a general overview that included what DCF is charged with and their mission, highlight the specific programs and practices for justice-involved women, and how data is tracked.

After more discussion about reflecting on the panel's site visits last year and hearing comments by staff members, Rebecca Brink clarified for the panel the first goal in every case is reunification. DCF is committed to that more than ever. When it is not possible then move onto other options such as with family/kin or people with a pre-existing relationship. Rebeccas Brink also suggested this panel review the DCF annual report in preparation for the presentation. Colleen Stocks clarified that after hearing from case workers it made this panel more curious on DCF's perspective such as were women already involved with DCF and things were already determined before custody.

Senator Miranda shared she would like to work directly with the Commissioner of DCF on creating a dashboard for data and how women are connected with all these systems. Rebecca Brink will facilitate the introduction.

4. Collaborative Information Sharing- Follow-up Discussion

Chairwoman Pelletier invited Senator Miranda to start the discussion on collaborative information sharing as this panel is a broader group of justice-involved women and to explore the possibility of others doing similar work to attend on a quarterly basis to hear and share about the work that is being done for justice-involved women.

Senator Miranda shared her legislature background and that she writes a lot of criminal justice policy and highlighted three caucus', Black and Latino Legislative Caucus: Criminal Justice Caucus; and the Women's Caucus. They have had a task force that was chaired by now retired

Rep Kay Khan and now chaired by Rep Christine Barber. Senator Miranda would like the caucus to attend a meeting in either September or October with the possibility of the work that they have been doing can be added to our annual report.

Senator Miranda also stated that the Criminal Justice Reform Caucus is visiting MCI Framingham on August 8th and would like to engage in further discussion as most women are aging, some wheelchair bound and have been there a long time. Also a topic that is emerging with the legislators who do care about the prison system are kind of flipped on whether we are getting a new prison or one remodeled or alternative sentencing for women.

Senator Miranda would also be interested in working with her colleagues on a section of the report on what is happening legislatively that impacts men and deeply impacts women in carceral settings.

Senator Miranda also shared that former Rep Kay Khan was very proud to help create the family days at Framingham and that they used an actual house for family visits and questioned if that is still happening. Chairwoman Pelletier was able to provide from her own knowledge and from the earlier in the year presentation from DOC Assistant Deputy Commissioner Kristie Marchand that went over the Mommy & Me program that it still exists every August and there is a commitment to continue it. Rep Kahn was instrumental in beginning the Mommy & Me day that we started at MCI Framingham pre-Covid. It was very well participated and a fun event. Also separately, the family reunification house still does exist, visits are possible but has not been used since SMCC closed. The house is on the grounds of South Middlesex Correctional Center.

When the agenda allows, the caucus will be added for a presentation in October or November.

5. Member Comment

Colleen Stocks would like to stay up to date on pending legislation, and it is a great opportunity for like-minded groups to inform each other.

Carrie Kelley, as a new member, asked if both Parole and Probation are part of this panel. Chairwoman Pelletier confirmed that, yes, both agencies are represented on the panel, Meghan Winston, Parole, and Corinn Crowninshield, Probation.

6. Public Comment

No public comment.

7. Open Session for Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 Hours of the Meeting

No new topics were raised.

8. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Senator Miranda and seconded by Rebecca Brink and the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.