

**RESTRICTIVE HOUSING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Date:** December 11th, 2023

**Meeting Time:** 9:30AM-11:30AM

**Meeting Place:** Microsoft Teams (virtual)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andrew Peck called the meeting to order at 9:36AM once a quorum of members had been established.

*Present:*

Chair Andrew Peck

Hollie Matthews

Kyle Pelletier

Bonnie Tenneriello, Esq.

Kevin Flanagan

Dr. Brandy Henry, PhD

Bob Fleischner, Esq.

Joanne Barros

Justice Geraldine Hines

*Absent:*

Sheriff Bowler

**NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Justice Hines noted that she was present at the November monthly meeting and is listed incorrectly as being absent. EOPSS will amend. With that change, there was a motion by Dr. Brandy Henry to approve the minutes. Atty. Bob Fleischner seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**RHOC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW**

Justice Hines would like folks to have opportunity to explain with commentary why they dissented, etc when it comes time to vote. Atty. Melander responded that would be fine. Dr. Henry asked about the process for voting on the report and recommendations. Atty. Bonnie Tenneriello noted that this should be separate and distinct from the final report since we vote on recommendations one by one. To the extent additional recs overlap with ones in this document, that would be difficult to circle back once we have voted. Kyle Pelletier said that a lot of these have not yet been discussed yet so we need to consider these fully and not rush through any of these discussions or votes. The plan was to go through the recommendations one by one.

Chair Peck noted that the CJRA does not cover restraints and restraints are mentioned in the recommendations. Bonnie proposed alternative language or removing the sentence. Kyle stated that the RHOC did not view the BAUs and as a result, the Committee should reference its plans to do that. She noted it was confusing to read as the Committee is splitting up the DOC and county jail site visits when referenced in the recommendations document. There was discussion around which time frame to include for site visits.

Dr. Henry said she understands Kyle’s concerns regarding calling out specific DOC facilities versus separating them from the counties however we do not have a lot of site visit data to rely on due to lack of adequate note sharing, etc. so we cannot parse them out due to that.

There was discussion about repurposing the STUs, the first recommendation. They need to exist in a way consistent with their mission as an alternative to the DDU, according to Bob, in line with Falcon’s comments to this group. There was a discussion about the SMI’s expanded definition in the CJRA and if the mental health resources were adequate and appropriate in responding to that.

Bob gave an overview of how the CJRA definition was imported into the legislation. Atty. Tatum Pritchard stated that the DOC’s separation of substance use disorders from mental health disorders is a unique problem in these facilities and she regarded it as a barrier to receiving effective treatment by only discussing one issue while some have co-occurring disorders.

**MEMBER COMMENT**

There was no additional member comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Valerio commended the work of this body and asked that the Committee members call out specific educational barriers within the DOC in their report as it is an ongoing issue in units separate from general population and should be reviewed.

**ADJOURN**

There was a motion by Atty. Tenneriello and seconded by Hollie Matthews. The meeting adjourned at 11:32AM.