**RESTRICTIVE HOUSING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Subcommittee on the Conditions of Confinement in RH**

**Meeting Minutes**

Date: December 18, 2019

Time: 1:00PM-2:00PM

Place: Department of Correction

50 Maple St.

Milford, MA 01747

This meeting was called to order at 1:16PM.

Bonnie said she had originally proposed speaking about documents and data today and does not intend to go over all of those but wanted to discuss mental health resources and the DMH role in oversight of DOC. She asked if there were other agenda items. Bonnie looked to EOPSS and DOC on how to get information and data the subcommittee would need. She said it would be helpful to get copies of operational audits from the institutions. Sean explained they go in a three year cycle: operational audits and ACA accreditations. Jessie White (a public member from Prisoner’s Legal Services) asked if there was something they could get that the DOC is sending to the DOJ for efficiency sake if the DOC already has that prepared. Tony asked how this would be useful for in this subcommittee. Bonnie clarified why she had each item listed. Jessie asked if the waitlists are for folks who are SMI (seriously mentally ill) waiting to be diverted into SMI units or traditional RH. DOC could request from clinical folks who is currently waitlisted for units. Bonnie said it would be helpful to collect data on cost per bed also. Sean said he is not sure we could get that information. Bonnie suggested going over the list and firming it up for data requests for the counties and the DOC. John asked if the quarterly report would satisfy the requirement for data requests. Bonnie said LGBTQI data is not required in the quarterly but that this group should look at it. Bonnie asked how IMS (Inmate Management System) records sexual orientation. Sean said he is sure there is a way we could pull it but he isn’t entirely sure. Bonnie asked if we want to get that information for a specific reason. Jessie said she has spoken to people who say LGBTQ folks disproportionally wind up in RH and that there is an overrepresentation issue. Bonnie mentioned that she thinks about conditions in the context of CJRA compliance. She said regardless of certain populations being overrepresented, she thinks it would be interesting to look at the data. Sean said that regardless of classification, all inmates receive the same treatment no matter their sexual orientation. Justice Hines said if the department does not keep data, we cannot do that. Tony said there is demographic data that we can use. Bonnie went through the rest of the list and started with rosters. It was decided that the quarterly report was better than the individual rosters for the institutions. Justice Hines said we can aggregate the quarterly reports. For documents reflecting privileges, Bonnie clarified she meant books, policies, etc. She said she would like to add privileges to STP/BMU/SAU. Sean asked why we are looking at PC units and other restrictive units. Bonnie said the CJRA requires that conditions in PC and non-disciplinary segregation privileges and canteen purchases be up to a certain standard. Tony said that makes sense. The canteen list is the same for everyone, Sean said. Tony said the wait list time would be folks waiting for diversion. Bonnie said some people cannot be safely housed and that the capacity issue needs to be addressed. Sean said their protective custody units are only half full currently. Bonnie said it would be good to check that off if there is no waiting list. Bonnie asked if they need the entire ACA accreditation or just the part on restrictive housing. She said they are cursory and we should get them. She also would like the ACA, DOC, and DPH audit (just the last one). She also requested the DOC audits for county facilities. They do a cycle a year for each and go by the 900 CMR. Bonnie said we would have to go back 4 years for the audits. It was agreed they want a full cycle to be able to see the full facility. Tony said they can provide DMH audits (the last one). Bonnie asked how we could get data on mental health watch. Bonnie asked about getting data for the last six months or the year. They wanted to see if they break out the total to individuals because the numbers of inmates on watch versus the number of watches are two different things. They decided six months was reasonable. Justice Hines said we should draft up something before the next meeting to review the data collection request to go into the Committee’s record. Bob pointed out a limitation at the last meeting between self-injurious and suicide. Tony said that a sentinel event that requires hospitalization or is infected or requires additional treatment could be useful to include. Tony said the DOC has that data because they send it to DMH. There was some discussion about the correlation between self-injurious behavior and diversion. Bonnie said the group received quarterly data and in addition for the same quarterly period she would like to have the sentinel events and suicide data and self-harm data. For grievances in the last six months, it was decided the group will at first see how many there are. They will start with six months back and while they are at facilities, they can ask for grievances from the superintendent on site visits. Most grievance coordinators track them in a spreadsheet. They look at trends. They have a grievance unit and try to see trends, Sean said. Bonnie would like to see at least a few months. Sean said these spreadsheets don’t show the difference between restrictive housing and general population. Jessie asked to see all investigations that rose to the level of superintendent. Sean said he isn’t sure if he can hand over investigations to the Committee. They agreed to start with the aggregate number and then see if they need to move forward with asking for specific data. Bonnie asked for unit logs to see how often medical and mental health visits are conducted, etc. Tony said his office monitors mental health and nursing rounds because there is a requirement by the DOC to report so DMH has this information. He said that was already in those reports and they should look at them first and see if it’s sufficient to their question. Jessie White said she had planned to see how often emergency was called but it may be tedious to look at. Bonnie mentioned requests for accommodations. Sean said every facility has an ADA coordinator and they probably have that information and could provide it. Sean said most accommodations are ambulatory and they bring them to restrictive housing so their accommodation would not change. Tony asked seeing the programming being provided for individuals with language issues or hearing issues, etc. Sean said they are getting the program tablets and they are in different languages. Justice Hines asked which languages and Sean said mostly Spanish at the present time. They also have a language line and a video phone for those who are strictly sign language. Bonnie said the reporting requires unique identifiers and that DOC needs to report on the specific disability for that quarter. Sean said physical disabilities do not go to restrictive housing but those other disabilities could potentially go. Bonnie said we could use the last quarter’s data and identify people. Bonnie asked about the best way to ask for waiting time and frame the question for the data. Sean said he knows they have identified people that are on the wait list for the STP and BMU. He said people jump that list based on their acuity. Bonnie asked if we should ask for the number of people on the list on a certain day. Tony said we can ask for a range for a six month period and see how many individuals that pertains to. They said there are not any wait lists for the SAUs. They want to finalize it next time. Gerri asked if there is a written policy on how the RH units operate. Sean said he can get local policies (deviation) and RH’s unit. Tony asked if we are looking at environmental conditions or physical environment which the ACA will note. Bonnie reiterated she will put together a data collection request for the group to review at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:46pm.