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| Seal2  **CHARLES D. BAKER**  Governor  **KARYN E. POLITO**  Lt. Governor | The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  One Ashburton Place, Room 2133  Boston, Massachusetts 02108  Tel: (617) 727-7775  TTY Tel: (617) 727-6618  Fax: (617) 727-4764  www.mass.gov/eopss | **THOMAS A. TURCO, III**  Secretary |

**Date:** February 19, 2020

**Time:** 10:00AM-11:00AM

**Place:** DOC Headquarters

50 Maple St.

Milford, MA 01757

**Restrictive Housing Oversight Committee**

**Subcommittee on Prison Order and Control**

This meeting was called to order at 10:09AM.

**Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chairwoman Sallo moved to approve the minutes and Kevin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion of Subcommittee Report**

Hollie said she spoke to the DOC statistician about variables they looked at for the Minnesota study and which variables they can look at in the Massachusetts Department of Correction. Looking at the point-based score and placements in restrictive housing (RH) is a start. She said looking at D-report data, age, race, placement in RH, and initial point-based score as data points. Marlene asked if inmates self-identify as having a disability when they enter the system. Hollie said they ask about vision, hearing, or substantially limiting disabilities. Kevin said he believes that they are asked during the booking process and are entered into IMS. Marlene said she would like to see self-reporting data and see how many folks wind up in RH.

Marlene mentioned a NIJ report on critical research gaps that was part of Hollie’s literature review. Marlene found some research that aligned with the subcommittee’s mission and how restrictive housing affects the culture of the facility itself and how administration also sets the culture as to how RH is approached. She said this would be a good outline for their subcommittee report. She said she will send out a PDF to the group to take a look. She also noted that the bigger report could look at RH before and after CJRA reform and then the subcommittee report could focus on their specific mandate. Marlene said that the group should definitely include definitions for different units, etc. so readers can understand what they are looking at. Kevin said he has a phone interview with the Virginia DOC and is trying to get in touch with the Texas DOC. Kevin said Virginia has implemented similar RH reforms as Massachusetts. He said the recidivism rate in Virginia is one of the lowest in the country so he would like to compare to the HOCs in Virginia and to what we have implemented in MA. Marlene said the article she pulled makes an argument for more programming. The article also touched on prison order and control with mental health and medical staff. She also mentioned there was a lack of empirical evidence but that RH can impact recidivism as some studies show. Marlene found a report from the DOJ on the use of RH that referenced Hampden county as being a model program. They lay out maximum terms in restrictive housing based on disciplinary sanction. They look at how jurisdictions differ with how they implement RH. The article also looks at the impact of segregation on inmate staff and society at large. It also touched on diverting inmates with mental illnesses from segregation. Hollie said when looking at before CJRA and after, some of the data may be difficult to get at this time. Kevin mentioned other ways and units of putting inmates in segregation outside of restrictive housing for gang members and others. Marlene said one portion of the DOJ report looked at gang units. Hollie said she could look at the DOC data and possibly break up the rest of the data amongst the group. Marlene suggested dividing each section of the report based on the population they are looking at: inmates, staff, etc. Marlene said that the group could divide the different groups and pull together some research. It was decided that Kevin would look at correctional officer data, Marlene would look at inmate data, and Hollie would look at mental health staff and medical staff. They agreed to begin working on getting the data for those and re-convene at the next meeting and go from there. Marlene suggested creating an outline for the next meeting for each of the things they discovered or begin writing. Hollie agreed an outline would work. Marlene said they will start an outline with resources at the end. The Sheriff could look at facility programs. They agreed they would meet after the March 11th meeting from 1pm-2pm in Boston. There was some discussion about how their subcommittee report would reference other states and best practices and defining prison order and control. Kevin suggested looking specifically at the few states that continue to come up in the literature they have looked at as being states that have implemented some best practices with respect to restrictive housing. Marlene said that they could also look at which states have implemented CJ reform and how that plays into what they have seen. Kevin mentioned the MAT program that Hampden has been very successful. The DOJ study looked at regular status reviews and reentry programs as well. There was a survey of all states that use restrictive housing and MA was ranked is the 20s for most folks in RH and that was from 2014. Marlene also spoke about how they defined SMI and asked if they should include that in the larger report or their subcommittee.

**Public Comment**

A public member said reaching out to Virginia would be a good idea. Cassandra asked about training for correctional officers and Marlene said that would be a piece they would look at since that is related.

Hollie made a motion to adjourn and Kevin seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:48AM.