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JUSTICE INVOLVED WOMEN PANEL

Meeting Date: June 6, 2025

Meeting Time: 1:00-2:30PM

MPTC Milford and

Meeting Place: Microsoft Teams (Virtual Meeting)

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

On Friday, June 6, 2025, at 1:20 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	April Minutes	May Minutes
1	Chairwoman, Kyle Pelletier	X		Approve	Approve
2	Rebecca Brink	X		Abstain	Abstain
3	*Joanne Barros	X			
4	Carrie Kelley		X		
5	Corinn Crowinshield		X		
6	Rep Chynah Tyler		X		
7	*Senator Liz Miranda	X			
8	Colleen Stocks	X		Approve	Abstain
9	Meghan Winston	X		Approve	Approve
10	Daisy Hernandez	X		Abstain	Approve
11	Sunindiya Bhalla	X		Approve	Approve
12	Vacant Seat				

*Joanne Barros and Senator Miranda arrived after roll call vote.

EOPSS Staff: Board Counsel Arielle Mullaney and Lisa Caputo

2. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes:

A Motion to approve the April minutes was made by Colleen Stocks and seconded by Daisy Hernandez. A Roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

A Motion to approve the May minutes was made by Colleen Stocks and seconded by Daisy Hernandez. A Roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Justice-Involved Presentation

Chairwoman Pelletier opened the meeting with a brief overview of the panel and invited Daisy Hernandez to introduce each of the presenters. The women shared their own journey with the Panel.

The barriers of navigating the criminal justice system felt like a set up for failure. Starting with the first encounter with the Department of Children and Family, CHINS court process, foster homes, group homes, incarceration, being pregnant in jail, probation starting while in jail, and violating probation were mentioned as horrible experiences. Correction Officers' stating, I'll see you next time, and other derogatory remarks were discouraging. When released to probation not using the resources because there was a wait and everything took too long from housing, jobs, and mental health referrals. Having a record is a big hinderance from applying to college, employment and housing.

The change in themselves came because they wanted it and not because of any resources while in the prison system. Belief that in the early stages if they were ever asked about why they are doing this behavior instead of being labeled, could have shaped their path.

Closing out the presentation, it was echoed the importance of peer support and being accountable. Having resources that align with their needs, coping skills, a network, and continuing their family bond is vital. They shared their transformation and highlighted programs such as Serenity, that made them feel accepted and supported. All three justice-involved women demonstrated their support for one another and celebrated each of their own personal millstones that allows them to mentor other justice-involved women.

The panel members were thankful for the women taking the time to share their journey.

4. Member Comment

The July meeting will be virtual and scheduled for July 11 at 1:00 p.m.

Senator Miranda would like to place on the agenda for further discussion the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Open Session for Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 Hours of the Meeting
No new topics were raised.

7. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Colleen Stocks and seconded by Joanne Barros and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.