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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/eops](http://www.mass.gov/eops) | **THOMAS A. TURCO, III**  Secretary |

**RESTRICTIVE HOUSING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Date: May 20, 2021**

**Time: 11:00AM-1:00PM**

**Place: Virtual Meeting (WebEx)**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:15am due to technological difficulties getting into the meeting.

**April 2021 Meeting Minutes Review/Vote**

The minutes were approved with one abstention from Attorney Bonnie Tenneriello.

**Bristol HOC Site Visit Debrief**

Attorney Tenneriello mentioned that the coordination was a bit off with respect to this site visit. She did not realize Committee members were going to speak with incarcerated persons without the full Committee. She would like to be more deliberate next time and said it was a little bit difficult to hear especially during the CO focus group. Michaela is going to reach out to Bristol to reschedule for another day and hold the former RHU inmate focus group and the medical/mental health group on that day. Attorney Tenneriello asked about the recording of these site visits to send to members. Dr. Brandy Henry stated she has concerns about hesitancy from folks that may not be willing to share if they are being recorded. Dr. Henry said the physical layout and Superintendent debriefing would be fine to record but not the panels or individual interviews. Chairman Andrew Peck stated the possibility of returning to in-person visits soon if there is an appetite for that. Justice Gerri Hines stated she has concerns about returning to in person visits. She asked that if in person visits do occur, she would like to maintain the virtual for members who do not feel comfortable. Attorney Bob Fleishner agreed completely saying those who believe they can safely go should go but the remote option should remain open. Chairman Peck proposed a blended hybrid model where we can have folks in the facility and folks participating remotely as well.

Dr. Henry asked if meetings for the Committee will continue to be held remotely or in person. Her preference was to continue remotely. Attorney John Melander (EOPSS) said that we are getting close to hearing some more concrete determinations with respect to that issue and should have some definitive guidance soon.

**Subcommittee Updates**

Attorney Fleischner stated that his group is drafting their sections of the report and they hope to have something to EOPSS before the other groups to stagger work with others. Attorney Tenneriello said her group still has a lot missing information from the counties and their failure to report what’s required by the CJRA has been challenging but the subcommittee approved an outline some months ago and are starting to digest the responses that have come in and put together what fits into what pieces of the outline. Folks from outside, it is probably the biggest chunk of the report so any other members are welcome to take on a piece. Attorney Tenneriello believed January was going to be the earliest this could be done. Hollie Matthews stated she met this week with her subcommittee and is going to review their draft outline and pull that together in the next month and get something to the Committee not too much longer after that. Attorney Fleischner asked about the Sheriff’s missing data they are required to send per the statute. Chairman Peck answered that OTIS and EOTSS are working on system enhancements to their case management system since it is an antiquated system. He mentioned that this group could follow up and see what they could provide without the full system upgrades. Attorney Tenneriello stated she is not satisfied they have not been able to provide any of those reports. Chairman Peck said he can check with U/S Kerry Collins at EOPSS who oversees all technology projects with agencies under EOPSS and follow up and see what the status is.

**Falcon Report Update**

Chairman Peck stated that the Falcon report is complete, and the DOC is developing a comprehensive implementation plan. The plan is not finalized, and the Department is working diligently to have it finalized as soon as possible. He noted that DOC will send the report and implementation schedule to Committee members before it is released and hopefully time it with a meeting to discuss. Attorney Tenneriello said she is unclear on how stakeholder input is going to be taken since the Committee members (as stakeholders) are going to be reacting to the plan as opposed to being involved in the creation of it. Chairman Peck responded that they can take comments back after it is published. Attorney Prichard asked who the stakeholders are and Chairman Peck noted there is currently involvement with advocacy groups and others.

**Public Comment**

Mary Valerio stated that there were more persons in support beds than prior to the pandemic and noted that restricting individuals’ movements is an issue, and we are seeing a real drop in the system with 6,000 people in physical custody and 500 restricted in some way. Mary looked at how Dr. Peterson in North Dakota was able to reduce restrictive housing in that state and noted that they have more clinicians, teachers, etc. in place. Mary stated that the Massachusetts DOC has 4,700 paid employees and 700 private contractors.

Laura Wagner from MASC (Massachusetts Coalition Against Solitary Confinement) asked if her group and members of the public are considered stakeholders as having the ear of formerly incarcerated persons. Chairman Peck responded there is going to be a large meeting where people are invited and comment.

**Adjourn**

There was a motion to adjourn from Asst. Deputy Commissioner Medeiros. The motion was seconded by Dr. Henry.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02PM.