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| Seal2**MAURA T. HEALEY**Governor**KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL**Lieutenant Governor | The Commonwealth of MassachusettsExecutive Office of Public Safety and SecurityOne Ashburton Place, Room 2133Boston, Massachusetts 02108Tel: (617) 727-7775TTY Tel: (617) 727-6618Fax: (617) 727-4764www.mass.gov/eopss  | **TERRENCE M. REIDY**Secretary |

**RESTRICTIVE HOUSING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Date:** October 19th, 2023

**Meeting Time:** 11:00AM – 1:00PM

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andrew Peck called the meeting to order at 11:05AM once a quorum of members had been established.

*Present:*

Chair Andrew Peck

Hollie Matthews

Kyle Pelletier

Bonnie Tenneriello, Esq.

Kevin Flanagan

Tatum Pritchard

Dr. Brandy Henry, PhD

Bob Fleischner, Esq.

Joanne Barros

*Absent:*

Sheriff Bowler

Hon. Gerri Hines (Ret.)

**JULY 2023 (previously tabled) and SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES VOTE**

Dr. Henry motioned to approve the July minutes. Kyle Pelletier seconded. All were in favor with one abstention by Kevin Flanagan. The minutes were approved.

Kevin Flanagan made a motion to approve the September mutes. Joanne Barros seconded. All members voted in favor and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**COUNTY/DOC UPDATES**

There were no comments on any reporting updates from DOC or the counties.

**DOC FALCON IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

Director of Special Programs, Kyle Pelletier, updated the group that the Falcon Group is confirmed to attend the November meeting and answer any questions on the implementation at the DOC.

Atty. Bonnie Tenneriello stated that she has concerns about a hunger strike within SAU 4 at Souza-Baranowski and that she has shared these concerns with the Superintendent at SBCC. She offered to share a letter that her office received from someone that is housed at SBCC outlining what is taking place there. Atty. Tenneriello stated she is going to share the letter with Michaela Martini at EOPSS. In addition to the alleged conditions in the unit, Boston College Law School and Prisoners Legal Services (PLS) have received reports of staff assaults in both June and August. She noted that restraints are being used at SAU 4. Director Pelletier confirmed that while there are restrictions in SAU 4 it is absolutely not restrictive housing and goes well beyond the definition set out by the law, ACA standards, and the Mandela rules. She suggested members request the presence of the DOC operations staff who are better equipped to respond to this at the next meeting if they would like to discuss this issue in depth. She also shared that the Falcon Group visited SAU 4 for two days recently and could speak about that at the next meeting.

Atty. Tenneriello suggested perhaps having the Boston College attorney she referred to earlier discuss what they have been seeing at the next meeting. Kevin Flanagan noted that we need the perspective of the officers and an understanding of the difficulties they face to look at this issue impartially. Atty. Bob Fleischner responded that this body should look at this issue in some manner. He agreed that the group should hear from Falcon and that it would be valuable to hear from the inmates/staff/administration as well.

**REPORT UPDATE**

Chair Peck anticipated sending out a report within the next week or two. He clarified for folks that there will be a report and a set of recommendations that will be voted on separately. He instructed members that the goal is to vote on each recommendation and subsequently vote on the entire report.

Atty. Fleischner said there is a substantial report section on the use of RH internationally and it goes through 2022. He was planning to update it to bring it up to date using data from the UN and self-reporting of other countries. Chair Peck agreed that was a good idea and said EOPSS will send Bob his section for updating sometime this week.

**MEMBER COMMENT**

Chair Peck suggested adding two additional meeting dates, one at the end of November and one in December, in addition to the regularly scheduled monthly meetings to go over the report and recommendations.

Director Pelletier asked that everyone continue to be mindful and vigilant that some counties still have restrictive housing and that is still within this body’s purview.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Valerio asked about body worn cameras and wanted to know if those are being worn at Souza-Baranowski to show what happens during any given incident at the facility. Cassandra Bensahih stated that she agreed with an earlier suggestion to have those actively involved in the hunger strike issue attend an upcoming meeting to offer their insight. Cassandra stated that the big picture should focus on changing our perspective to look at healing.

**ADJOURN**

There was a motion to adjourn from Kevin Flanagan. Joanne Barros seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:53AM.