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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 | **TERRENCE M. REIDY**  Secretary |

**PANEL ON JUSTICE-INVOLVED WOMEN**

**Date**: December 6, 2021

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

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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:05AM.

Roll call vote taken:

*Present:*

Chairwoman Allison Hallett

Rebecca Brink

Dr. Nancy Connolly

Corinn Nelson

Senator Cindy Friedman

Hema Sarang-Sieminski

Patty Murphy

Sarah Ruiz

Michelle Wetherbee

Daisy Hernandez

*Absent:*

Representative Chynah Tyler

Nicole Bell

Delia Vega

**May 2021 Meeting Minutes**

There was a motion by Senator Friedman to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Corinn Nelson. A roll call vote was taken and all members voted in favor. The motion carried and the May 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.

**Pre-Trial Services Presentation (PowerPoint Embedded)**

Presenters:

*Corinn Nelson, Statewide Manager of the Victim Services Unit, Massachusetts Probation Service*

*Vincent Lorenti, Director, Community Justice Support Center*

*Pat Horne, Deputy Director, Community Justice Support Center*



Senator Friedman asked for a further data breakdown of the women being referenced in the presentation. Corinn responded that she will follow up with her data team to provide that information.

Senator Friedman acknowledged senate bill S5143 and encouraged Panelists to read the bill. She asked Corinn and her team what barriers exist in delivering programs to the women. For instance, staffing/workforce challenges, appropriate program access, etc. Vincent responded that there is a workforce concern. He expressed that Bay State has expressed difficulty in attracting candidates for the counselor and treatment manager positions. He has been concerned about the cost of the contract and as part of the trial court, the procurement process allows them to consider how the salary matches up with the position rather than award to the lowest bidder.

Sarah Ruiz asked if it is allowable for a person to choose a location for their treatment or if the program chooses the location for the individual. More specifically, can individuals choose a treatment location that is more culturally specific to them? She asked about how to train staff on the power control dynamics in a healing environment and how you can see addiction as a behavioral health and medical issue as opposed to criminogenic. Vin responded that in cases of acute need, he would not suggest these venues for those individuals. He clarified that this program is to understand substance use level disorders and direct participants to other services. Their office works with the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services and making sure that individuals are getting into the right treatment venue. Pat Horne stated that the community justice support centers primary focus and purpose is to reduce recidivism in folks at high risk of reoffending. It is a case management and referral system individualized for each person at the center.

Daisy Hernandez asked about the treatment models and about the possibility of partnering with an outpatient organization that can help with RSNs and CSPs to help those out in the community instead of in an office setting. Pat responded that they contract with community-based agencies already as they are the ones providing the services. This fiscal year they plan to put out an RFP for recovery coaches at the centers where they will be able to engage the services of them to work with the participants.

Corinn reiterated these are pretrial which is why they have a lot of probationary services.

Senator Friedman asked whether Probation knows that these individuals are getting services and progressing in those venues of treatment (is there a waitlist?, etc.). What is the connection between the Probation Service and where folks are going? What are you gathering in terms of statistics in terms of outcomes? Pat Horne responded that those coming to the center are coming for whatever programming the risk need assessment showed. They have a case manager assigned at the center. The staff is delivering services in the center and making referrals out in the community and help set up those services. They routinely check on progress and attendance at services outside of the center. Vin responded that they are statutorily required to file a report every year called the “Utilization of Office of Community Centers” and it includes quantified data and measures how many people have made a transition to a lower level of supervision, education progress, job placement etc. Vin offered to send the annual report to Senator Friedman.

**DCAMM Letter Discussion**

Chairwoman Hallett stated that as the Ripples Group was hired by DCAMM, and she does not have an exact timeline for the final report. She noted that the Group spoke to stakeholders, and she believes some of the members of the Panel were among those consulted. Senator Friedman and Dr. Connolly asked if we invite DCAMM to speak directly about what the update is to the Panel at a future meeting. Hema stated that in addition to that, being on the record with a letter would be helpful. Sarah stated that the letter still appropriate and relevant to send out. She suggested inviting Ripples and DCAMM to the Panel to provide an update. Senator Friedman offered to add that to the letter. Attorney Arielle Mullaney (EOPSS) edited the letter to reflect the Panel’s desire to invite both parties to a future meeting. Hema requested the Panel be provided a copy of the final letter once it is sent out.

Senator Friedman stated that she was interviewed by the Ripples Group. Chairwoman Hallett acknowledged that she was also interviewed along with other members of the DOC. Chairwoman Hallett stated that support staff to the Panel will send the letter as soon as possible and send everyone a copy.

**2022 Meeting Schedule and Next Steps**

Patty asked about exploring new representation on the Panel to achieve a quorum at future meetings. She asked about Nicole Bell’s assistant director potentially coming in, so we still have the representation from LIFT. Patty offered to speak to Nicole Bell further. Senator Friedman said we need to look at the enabling language to see if we have the right people on the panel as well and asked what we need to do moving forward to ensure we are making progress. She asked everyone to look at the Panel makeup and see if we need additional representation and petition to the legislature if we would like to make changes. Daisy asked about reaching out to the Justice Involved Women of Massachusetts as well. Senator Friedman requested that we set a monthly 1.5-hour meetings on the last Monday of every month. Michaela agreed to send a poll to ensure that worked for all members.

Member Comment

Sarah asked about the status of the Panel’s report. Senator Friedman noted that we need to assess what we’ve learned, etc. and do an assessment of where we are as a Panel.

Attorney Mullaney suggested an agenda item for the next meeting to have a more in-depth conversation about it.

**Adjourn**

Senator Friedman made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Connolly seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:55PM.