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| Seal2**CHARLES D. BAKER** Governor**KARYN E. POLITO** Lt. 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**

Date: November 17, 2022

Time: 11:00AM-1:00PM

Place: Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:02AM by Chairman Peck and roll call attendance was taken.

*Present:*

Undersecretary Andrew Peck, Chair

Attorney Bonnie Tenneriello

Joanne Barros

Kyle Pelletier

Attorney Bob Fleischner

Kevin Flanagan

Hollie Matthews

Attorney Tatum Pritchard

*Absent:*

Dr. Brandy Henry

Justice Gerri Hines

Sheriff Tom Bowler

**OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES**

Kyle noted a few grammatical and spacing issues in the public comment section of the minutes. She also noted that in Section 5F of the minutes, Dennis’ comment, we don’t quote him, but he refers to RH as the “hole” and she asked the Committee if we want to use that term since that is not a term the Department of Correction uses.

The minutes will be revisited at the end of the meeting when Bonnie and others have had a chance to review.

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

Bonnie began in saying that their report is ready, and they need to look at criteria for placing someone in RH as well as the training folks receive that work on the RHUs. She noted that the cost as compared to general housing as well needs to be looked at. Brandy had ideas to drill down cost. Bob stated that it is difficult to determine and moot in a sense (the cost). Chairman Peck stated that we can provide an analysis with respect to cost without answering that question. Bob said that the BAUs/SAUs will be interesting to learn more about (expense wise). Bonnie noted that shallow costs could be misleading as well. Bonnie reviewed all the data and did some work on the methodology on the conditions report.

Kevin stated that the cost to house someone in a RHU vs GP is difficult to ascertain because the staffing levels are not quite the same. We need to consider nursing, programming, mental health, and escorts, instead of just correctional officers/security cost. Chairman Peck stated that it will require a deeper dive into the data, but it will be sweeping and broad to an extent, but we can put it into context and the lay out the limitations the Committee has discussed.

Kyle proposed using a baseline to compare apples to apples even with the limitations. She further stated that the analysis would not be productive if we only explore new units and programs that we implement without looking bac. Chairman Peck established a Cost of Restrictive Housing Working Group. The members are Chairman Peck, Bob Fleischner, Dr. Brandy Henry, and Kyle Pelletier. Kyle brought up counties too and noted that the Committee needs to work with them since that is another piece of this. Bob stated that he owes the final version of his report section to Atty. John Melander (EOPSS).

**CJRA REPORTING**

Bonnie stated that the Committee does not have county data for 2021 reporting and quarterly data is a heavy lift that DOC. She was hoping to get a timeline for more recent quarters to be completed. She also noted that it would be great to have censuses for the BTUs and ITUs in Framingham as well. There was discussion on what will be included in future quarterly reports prepared by the DOC. Chairman Peck clarified that future reports will be a blend of information because the BAUs were established in April 2022, and they are working on creating reporting aligning with CJRA for the last half of this year and will be out at the beginning of next year at some point in time. Bonnie said she appreciates the DOC adhering to the spirit of the law and providing data on the new units.

**FALCON IMPLEMENTATION**

Kyle stated that she had circulated the BAU policy that was approved and now publicly available. She further stated that she met with Falcon 3-4 times since the last RHOC meeting. They are looking at the connection between brain science and your diet. The second level of the SAU is now open at MCI-Concord with 6 participants. Those individuals’ needs are being met which would otherwise have been done in a more restrictive setting previously. The DOC is halfway through onboarding the SAUs and working on Recommendation #9 from Falcon for opportunities for immediate intervention and working with programming staff to help inmates with what they need in a GP setting as well. She assured the Committee that the DOC is working on each of the 11 recommendations and hoping to have more updates in the coming months. Dr. Timme and Scott mentioned that they are open to participating with the Committee site visits at the BAUs and SAUs if Committee member. Bob said it would be helpful to have them there and he would be open to that. Bonnie said that her primary concern is that RHOC has an opportunity to speak to people in these units in a setting that allows them to speak confidentially. She suggested that perhaps Falcon can join focus groups, but we need to make sure we have time with individuals to have frank conversations.

**BAUs/SAUs**

Bonnie said she wants to see the ITU and SAU and BAUs. Kyle said the ITU came about in 2012 and there’s an accountability piece to that. It was confirmed that the Committee will visit Concord and see the two BAUs there. Kyle requested that the Committee be mindful of our timing when visiting based on activities that are happening at Concord and Souza. Norfolk is also popular for their BAU. Bonnie asked if the Committee could observe groups or talk to folks when visiting. She further stated that regardless of who is in room, individual interviews are preferential to focus groups.

**MEMBER COMMENT**

Bonnie doesn’t have any corrections. She stated that the level of detail in the November minutes is sufficient. It is a summary.

There was a motion to approve the October 27, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Kevin. All voted in favor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Valerio stated that she is waiting to hear from the DOC on education in non-general housing units. She commented on Kevin’s remarks with respect to security staffing and Massachusetts having a large amount of staffing in prisons per inmate when compared to other states.

**ADJOURN**

Kevin made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Bob Fleischner. The meeting adjourned at 11:53AM.