**Survey of Specialized Housing Practices**

# Introduction

Dear Sheriff,

The Restrictive Housing Oversight Committee, a committee of the Commonwealth established by M.G.L. c. 127 s. 39G, requests your assistance in providing the following Information. These requests pertain to correctional facilities is under your control and supervision pursuant to M.G.L. c. 126 s. 16.

This request is made in furtherance of the Committee’s duty to “gather information regarding the use of restrictive housing in correctional institutions to determine the impact of restrictive housing on inmates, rates of violence, recidivism, incarceration costs and self-harm within correctional institutions.” M.G.L. c. 127, s. 39G(b).

We request that you, or a person designated by you, respond to this request within fourteen working days. If you, or your designee, do not or cannot provide the requested information, please respond in writing stating the reason the information is not not provided.

If more than one correctional facility is under your control and supervision, please provide the requested information on a separate form for each facility.

Thank you for your assistance.

1. County:
2. Correctional Facility:
3. Please provide the name and job position of the person providing the requested information.
	1. Does your Facility utilize Restrictive Housing, as defined by M.G.L. c. 127 § 1? \* (''Restrictive Housing'', a housing placement where a prisoner is confined to a cell for more than 22 hours per day; provided, however, that observation for mental health evaluation shall not be considered restrictive housing)
	2. How does your facility define Restrictive Housing?

(Original)

* 1. After the Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA) became law, did your organization cease utilizing Restrictive Housing? \*

 Yes No

Bob’s Version:

1. After the Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA) was signed by Governor Baker on April 13, 2018 did your organization cease to use Restrictive Housing? \*

 Yes No

1. If your facilty ceased to use Restrictive Housing, what steps have you taken to achieve that goal?
2. In the units in your facility with the lowest average out of cell time, how many hours of out of cell time is made available to incarcerated individuals? \*

 1 hour

 2 hours

2.5 hours

 3 hours

 4 hours

5+ hours

Original:

\*

Bob’s Version

7. What is the name of the unit(s) that provides the fewest hours out-of-cell and what is the purpose of the unit(s).

8. Not including units designated for healthcare (including for mental health watch), how many specialized housing units are there in does your facility currently?

 0

 1

 2

 3

 4

 5

More than 5

1. Before the CJRA was signed by Governor Baker on April 18, 2018, how many specialized housing units were there in your facility ?

 0

 1

 2

 3

 4

 5

More than 5

1. Does your facility operate specialized housing units for Incarcerated Individuals who are not able to be housed safely in General Population? \*

 Yes No

1. Please identify any unit(s) housing those on disciplinary confinement and provide the following data points: minimum daily out of cell recreation time, out of cell program hours per week, restrictions on privileges (canteen, visits, phones, etc.)
2. Please identify any unit(s) housing individuals on non-disciplinary confinement and provide the following data points: minimum daily out of cell recreation time, out of cell program hours per week, restrictions on privileges (canteen, visits, phones, etc.)
3. Please identify any unit(s) housing individuals in any other segregated units and provide the following data points: minimum daily out of cell recreation time, out of cell program hours per week, restrictions on privileges (canteen, visits, phones, etc.)

Original # 10:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how effective are specialized housing units in managing inmate behavior relative to Restrictive Housing? \*

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Bob’s Deletion

Joanne’s Redlined Version:

1. On a scale of 1-10, please indicate how effective new alternatives have been in managing inmate behaviors that would have have resulted in [R]estrictive [H]ousing placement previously.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

1. Do staff members who are assigned to specialized units receive specific training on the purpose and operation of specialized housing units? \*

 Yes No

Suggested additional question from Joanne:

1. Please identify what types of trainings those staff received:
2. If your facility operates one or more specialized housing units in which some privileges may be limited for some or all of the persons housed on those units, as compared to the privileges afforded to the General Population, what are the privileges that may be limited for a given individual? Please select all that may apply. \*

 Outdoor Recreation Time  Indoor Recreation Time

 Canteen Menu (what items are available)

 Canteen Possession (how many of a certain item or items they may have at a time)  Access to Electronics (TV, Tablet, Radio, etc.)

 Access to Personal Items (clothing and shoes)

 Visits

 Telephone Calls

 Other

1. Which best describes the current occupancy rate of specialized housing units at your facility?

\*

 Under 25 % Occupied  25%-50% Occupied

 50%-75% Occupied

 Over 75% Occupied Not sure

1. Has the workload increased or decreased?
2. For each of the specialized housing units in your facility please describe which departments, teams, or individuals are involved in the decision-making process for placing inmates in specialized housing units? For each of the staff listed below, please indicate the units the staff are part of the placement decision making process for.

 Administrative leadership  Security Staff

 Mental Health Staff Re-Entry Staff

1. Since the shift towards specialized housing units, how have inmate complaints or grievances changed? \*

 Significant Increase  Significant Decrease  No Change

 Slight Decrease Significant Decrease

1. How frequently does your facility conduct reviews or evaluations of the specialized housing units' impact on inmate behavior and overall facility safety? \*

 Monthly  Quarterly  Annually  Bi-Annually

Never

Security Concerns

Facility Limitations

Cost of Hiring Programming Staff

1. Any other thoughts you wish to share regarding specialized housing units and/or restrictive housing? \*

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