**Call to order**

Brandy absent

Sheriff absent

**Minutes**

Chris motion

Tatum second

Minutes approved – Bonnie asked we take out word small on Bob’s part and that he is working on the SMI part of the report – Bob abstained. Everyone else approved minutes.

**PRISON ORDER AND CONTRL PRESENTATION**

Make PP available per Gerri

Dr Grasian report out of presentation

Hollie looking into Gerri Hines question about 1983 policy change occur at DOC as a result of the study?

Kevin’s presentation: Kevin was tasked with looking at nursing/mental health staff. Not a lot of literature is available. Most lit review is centered around inmates and their mental health and conditions of RH. Nothing has been done anywhere in the country to ask similar questions of those officers who work in RH. Kevin said he talked to staff and the reduction of RH in prison and jails would become less secure. 2 years ago, we heard from Colorado DOC who had down a tiered step down program of RH and with their most violent offenders they said that they send them out of state. If we are looking to close RH, it needs to be done in a methodical way so as to not disrupt the entire prison system. Nursing and MH staff said the implementation of CJ with the increase of SMI in out of cell time, their workload has in some cases quadrupled which causes tension with staff. We are still having issues trying to hire folks to work in RH. Whether or not to use RH is always going to be up for debate but we must look at the entirety of the system before making any changes. If we open up other units, this is going to necessitate a lot for staff, not just COs. The training and support is needed to keep order and control in the prison system.

Andy asked the group about any data around health and wellness of COs that work in RH specifically as opposed to men and women in general housing. There is no difference according to Kevin.

**Subcommittee Updates**

Bob stated that his subcommittee is pretty much done, and sections of the report are written and were sent to John. The whole thing needs to be put together but they are done.

Bonnie stated that the Conditions drafting is going well. We just received a lot of data from the counties which we will need to analyze and think about. That will need to be incorporate and there are issues around that which will be discussed later in the agenda.

**Letter to the Judiciary**

Andy Acknowledged we received data this morning and asked if we should table the letter for another month. Bonnie said we need to look into that and take stock of missing data points and it may not rise to the point of sending a letter out. She acknowledged that while the DOC and a number of counties consider 22 houors to be RH, a number of counties do not. There are 6 counties that say they do not have any RH because they restrict people 22 hours. She said that is a big problem for being able to say anything about practices in the counties as a result. She suggested making sure there are no other issues we want to bring to the Judiciary with the data that was reported and if not, focus the letter on the discrepancies on the interpretation of the definition of RH and how it inhibits the RHOC’s mission. Chris said he is not clear on how we are going to tackle the definition question. He said they may say something about the spirit of the law but the black and white of the law is what they are following. He said us tackling this without defining what we think, can be problematic. Bonnie said we are only talking about in-cell. She said the statute is not that unclear and is just badly worded. If you take the existing over 22 hours in cell wording and say that 22 hours itself, there is no line and there needs to be a line somewhere. The sponsors and Committee who passed the legislation would be interested in hearing this since there needs to be a line to assess practices in order to do our job. We can only draw the line where DOC and most counties have drawn in which is 22 hours and we should say that. Gerri said she agrees with Bonnie and thought that this was resolved when we decided to send the letter since the 22 hours is the line given the position we have already taken. Gerri would like to include that paragraph in the letter and would be willing to wait and see what the data is to press the non-compliance. On specifics of the letter, it is not right to say a majority of members voted, we should say it was a vote. We shouldn’t hedge on the position that this was a committee vote but it was by everyone. Bonnie said we voted on this last time, can we send this letter since we have a paragraph drafted. If no one has any concerns, can we just get that paragraph out or do we have to go to the Committee. Bonnie said we should send it now.

Bob said all the Judiciary Committee can tell us is what they were thinking when they wrote the statute which doesn’t mean much legally. Bonnie proposed that we give Committee members til the new year to review the letter and give Andy/John additional concerns but absent that, we be authorized to send the letter. We look at last paragraph, vote on language and send just about intent issue and stick with that paragraph. Everyone agreed to take it offline and work on the letter and then send around with a deadline to respond and if Committee members do not respond, the Committee will send the letter.

County Site Visits

Michaela going to send a poll and talk to Norfolk/Hampden to schedule virtual after new year

DOC and County data

No one had anything further to add.

Falcon Implementation

Chris and Kyle

Kyle said they are still working with Falcon, and they are not just talking about removing RH but hhow this affects all levels. There is no deadline at this point but they are working with them on how to meet their goals with the department over the next year. Andy asked about the focus groups they developed. Kyle said that they had about 4-5 focus groups done virtually. They set them up looking at very pointed groups so one with administrators/superintendents, one with MH team (practitioners and administrators), policy and development and training, and program and classification and what their concerns would be in developing the next stage plan. There have been many data gathering meetings so they can get more information on the system. Asked about any focus groups with other stakeholders. Kyle said they have not discussed that yet but she can bring back having those with this Committee. Her understanding was the work they did in the review of the system was where they gained the formerly and currently incarcerated information from. Andy asked how Covid has impacted this process. Chris said no, they have been able to do a lot virtually and they have physically come out as needed. Romilda said if we are going to bring more formerly incarcerated people, let’s wait to bring them on until we are ready to hear from them. She said that Victories and other places. Make sure we bring in people who will come in with not just complaints but solutions. Bonnie said her understanding was that the Committee was going to be part of implementation and she wanted to make sure we can have meaningful input before it’s too late. Kyle said she will certainly do that but they are being deliberate in how they are focusing. She will keep that in mind and will make it a point to keep them aware of that and don’t get too far along. Dennis said that his perspective is prioritizing institutions and to him, Gardner and other places it feels unnecessary to him because it is a different culture. He would hone in on Plymouth, Shirley max, as hard camps and the change there would trickle down. He said we need to start at Souza. Bonnie said with input, she knows there is a lot to be worked out since RH cannot be looked at in isolation and one thing we should be considering is these new units being designed pursuant to Falcon can hold people and she waned to get those concerns out to work out a dialoge in the future.

Member Comment

No member comments

Public Comment

Cassandra is glad we are working with the Falcon group. She’s sad it has taken so long to make it to work. She knows there is data out there when people are exposed to violence all the time and the COs are people are affected. There is knowledge about incarceration and how RH destroys people. It is torture and does not make the community better. Cassandra said we know that this is not working, we need to step up and make something change. We cannot be pushing back on holding onto something so violent. When I think about Souza, O’Reilly, was accused of all kinds of brutality. He was laid off and brought back. He shouldn’t be allowed to work there. She said theres only a small percentage of those in RH that are the most dangerous and need to be separated and officers are not equipped to take care of them.

Mary thanked everyone on subcommittees and RH is not working for some individuals There are other ways to deal with people. Certain individuals really should have a different approach. Positive approach, mediation, etc. If someone is going back into RH, clearly RH is not working. If you look at how low the numbers are getting, if you take out the people you barely have over 200 people spread out over all the counties. A better approach to reach out to the small number would resolve the issue rather than repeating the same thing. She brought up that in the general public, she has seen those with Covid now have long-haul Covid and within the prison, so many people have had covid. If any long haul effects start to develop, it could result in bad behavior and they could wind up at RH. Dennis wanted to add infrastructure to our thinking. When these places were designed, they weren’t having programming in mind. If logistically we wanted to go to a more MH place, is there the infrastructure to do that? Chris said there are uphill challenges with building and a lot of advocacy groups are against that.

Adjourn

Chris seconed adjourn. All in favor. Ajouorned.