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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 | **THOMAS A. TURCO, III**  Secretary |
|  | **RESTRICTIVE HOUSING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  **MEETING MINUTES**  September 24, 2020  11:00AM-1:00PM  Virtual Meeting (Webex)  Meeting number:  171 209 7325  Password:  EPS123 |  |

**Welcome and Attendance**

Chairman Andrew Peck called the meeting to order at 11:05am and took attendance.

**Falcon Presentation and Q&A (90 Minutes)**

Dr. Timme, Scott Semple, and Rick Raimesch introduced themselves. The Falcon Group team went through the guiding principles in their research project including the Massachusetts definition of restrictive housing from CJRA and the CMRs for restrictive housing and the oversight committee. They looked at the effectiveness of RH, the least restrictive doctrine, and the purpose behind RH: deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation, and retribution. They also looked at programming and assumption of clinical or criminogenic need. They held a teleconference, workshops on various issues and small focus group by theme (programming, staffing, training, mental health, etc.). They also held site visits at various facilities interviewing incarcerated persons and DOC staff as well as Wellpath staff. They visited Souza-Baranowski, MCI-Shirley, MCI-Concord, MCI-Cedar Junction, Old Colony Correctional, and Bridgewater State Hospital. They gave their preliminary impressions and the current status of the report which is looking to be published mid-October.

Dr. Brandy Henry asked about due process and if the Falcon Group had access to data to support that it was an effective process and does the Group see the possibility of the RHOC being able to move forward in implementing change without expanding the amount of resources we spend. Dr. Timme responded that most inmates complained about due process and they are attending to that issue and have some suggestions that will be contained in the report and will impact how it will be carried out. As for resources, Dr. Timme acknowledged that restrictive housing is very expensive but there are opportunities for cost-savings. Sheriff Bowler asked how long the study took. Dr. Timme answered that it has taken months for this state-wide study but that if he conducted something at the county level, it would be less time. Bob stated he has been hearing about due process but also time out of cell. Dr. Timme said he did hear that on day two from the DDU that folks were speaking up about time out of cell. Bonnie asked if the Falcon Group looked at the practices employed at the DOC including restart chairs as out of cell time which takes people out of restrictive housing status. Dr. Timme answered that he believes in medical autonomy so they are always paying attention to that and as an ethics professional, he is also paying attention to doing no harm as a driving factor.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

All members voted yes by roll call vote on the approval of the July 2020 meeting minutes.

**Subcommittee Updates**

Bonnie stated that the information requests from her subcommittee went out. Marlene stated that her outline for their section of the report has gone out and she has received comments back and begun a draft. Bob stated that members are beginning to draft their sections.

**Member Comments**

Bob asked if the Falcon Group is looking at race as a factor and said he hopes they will include any findings in their report. Dr. Timme stated that the Group did begin looking at race early on but realized that it is outside of the scope of this specific project and that there are folks looking at racial disparities in restrictive housing units but that it is too big a question right now. Bonnie asked about the status of the county RH data and quarterly reports from the DOC.

**Public Comment**

Cassandra Bensahih stated she was disappointed racial disparities will not be looked at as it seems to be a driving force. She asked how the Falcon Group dealt with placement in RH for non-violent offenses and the training by staff and how they interact with inmates. Dr. Timme stated that he will be calling attention to training and accountability. Mary Valerio stated that she thought the presentation was outstanding and asked about the quarterly reports. Elijah Patterson also raised the issue of quarterly reports and spoke about his disappointment at race not being included either.

There was a motion to adjourn at 1:14pm by Marlene and seconded by Bob. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:14pm.