

Running Minutes and Agendas for Task Force (most recent meeting first)

Meeting - November 2, 2022 12-2pm on Zoom

Introductions/Check-In

Attendees:

Shear Ivory (facilitator; they/them, New Pride Agenda)
Grace DeTreverah (she/her, Osborne Association)
Kandra Clark (she/her, Exodus Transitional Community)
Deborah Lolai (she/her, The Bronx Defenders)
Heather Burgess (she/her, NYC Board of Correction)
Sahar Moazami (they/them, NY City Council)
Nicole Levy (she/her, Correctional Health Services)
Chelsea Chard (she/her, NYC Department of Corrections)

New Agenda Items: N/A

Follow ups from last meeting:

- 1) Inviting Rachel Golden to join the Task Force.
- 2) Identify representatives from other public defender offices, which are not currently represented. (Brooklyn Defender Service, New York County Defender Service, Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem, Queens Defenders).
- 3) Shear and Kandra to work on inviting impacted folks to committee meetings.
- 4) Within the next week, try to have each subcommittee meet.
- 5) Thinking about drafting a data bill and other strategies to collect data from DOC.

Shear: tentative hearing at City Council in January. Will talk to Rivera's team to do outreach. Rachel Golden has agreed to be on the Task Force and will join the next meeting. Mik hasn't had time to check in with current members of TF but will follow up before next week. Asked DOC about participation of people currently incarcerated.

Chelsea: re participation - that is a question for Liz, but she is on leave, so Chelsea will check in with her before the next meeting about how we can connect folks.

Updates from DOC, CHS, and/or BOC

Shear: can DOC share anything about the data that Mik requested via email?

Chelsea: no updates. What I said last time still stands and I don't foresee there being any updates.¹

Other updates:

Deb has reached out to other public defender offices to see if they can assign a representative to the task force. The offices have agreed. The Task Force is hoping to have them join the next meeting. The PD offices Deb reached out to include: Brooklyn Defenders, Queens Defender, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, and New York County Defender Services.

Deb reported that the drafting committee will start drafting the new report in Feb 2023, after the January hearing, and the goal is to submit a finalized report by August 2023.

Shear: do we want to talk about the data bill now or in our committee meeting

Grace: I'm feeling very frustrated because I want to know what our goals are and what I can do to help.

Shear: we are trying to do that now, but it is made very difficult because DOC is not willing to share data that we need to do this work.

Grace: I don't believe this is DOC's priority because of all the deaths on Rikers Island.

Deb: Hearing Prep- can we begin preparing people to testify?

Shear: NYPA can take on part of that lift. The first thing that comes to my mind is hosting a training on what a public hearing is and how to draft a powerful testimony in under 2 minutes.

Sahar: at the hearing, Council members also will ask questions of the agencies. So to the extent we have specific questions we will want the Council to ask, we should share those questions with the City Council beforehand.

Saloni: I had a meeting with Andy Bowen, and she's working for the city. She wants to uplift these issues citywide. Deb mentioned that Andy has been working on these issues for a very long time and would be a great addition to the Task Force.

- Shear made a motion for Andy to join the Task Force.
 - All members of the meeting except Heather voted in the affirmative. Heather abstained.
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New Follow up items:

- 1) Shear will look into organizing a training for folks who want to testify
- 2) Follow up with Rivera's office for DOC/BOC to testify second at hearing, not first.
- 3) Saloni to follow up with Andy Bowen to see if she would be interested in joining, and if yes, will invite her to the next meeting.

¹ See Department response, Oct. 4, 2022 in October 12, 2022 notes.

Next meeting & facilitator: December 7th at 12:00pm

Deb will be facilitating.

Welcoming Dr. Rachel Golden.

Welcoming new public defenders.

Potentially welcoming Andy Bowen

Public hearing updates

Get a list of TF members who want to testify at the hearing

Note: this meeting lasted less than one hour.