

Meeting October 2, 2024

Attendance:

- Mik Kinkead (he/him) LAS
 - Rachel Golden (they/them) Golden Psych
 - Natalie Fiorenzo (she/her) NYCDS
 - Jenn Lambert (she/her) NDS
 - Lucas Marquez (he/them) BDS
 - Josh Epstein (he/him) Queens Defenders
 - Bart Bailey (he/him) BOC
 - Valerie Greisokh (she/her) DOC
 - Kimberly (she/her) Sylvia Rivera Law Project
 - Sahar Moazami (they/them) NYCC
 - Klevis Baholli (he/him) BxD
 - Matt Graham (he/him) Mayor's Office of Equity and Racial Justice
 - Brittan Hardgers (he/him) New Pride Agenda
 - Andy Bowen (she/her) DM HEDW
 - Faris Ilyas (they/them) New Pride Agenda
 - Nicole Levy (she/her) CHS
 - Dori Lewis (she/her) LAS (retired)
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- Wigs
 - Natalie: What does DOC have to say about testimony of former PIC that wigs were in custody in 2018?
 - Valerie: Wigs are not permitted at this time
 - Mik: Do you know what the rule is for religious wigs?
 - Valerie: no wigs permitted at this time
 - Mik: So for an orthodox Jewish woman, what is the substitute for her?
 - Valerie: I don't know, I will take that back
 - Mik: Bart?
 - Bart: I've seen thru the years people wearing wigs, not sure what the current policy is based on religion. I'll look and I'll review complaint system for any complaints in recent years
 - Faris: timeline for coming back with answers?
 - Bart: next meeting
 - Intro 625
 - Rachel: can we have more insight on how DOC is understanding this law? Because I'm not sure why they think 625 says trans men are automatically placed in male custody
 - Valerie: City council is discussing this with the agency, this is not my position but I will take it back
 - Mik: would it be fruitful to maybe have a joint meeting, advocates and DOC with CC?
 - Valerie: happy to pass it on, I imagine that is already in place
 - Sahar: those are typically held in a confidential setting (when a sponsor is meeting with an agency), that being said these questions are really helpful, all this will likely be brought up moving forward, so it would be helpful for advocates

to get these points, counter-arguments, data, research, etc, to committee counsel to help them understand

- Mik: we went to BOC for an edit: BOC shall or may write appeal to housing decisions
- Mik: when an agency goes to CC that's confidential, but is there another space where we can all be? That's this space, but we don't know what DOC is saying in those meetings related to their interpretation of the bills so, kind of challenging. That's just our form of democracy I suppose
- Sahar: when admin gives an edit, sponsor has to approve, they have the final call. So the "space" would be staying in contact with that sponsor. Let them know you're willing to answer questions during these negotiations
- Mik: if anyone wants to join, we're meeting with Powers office and Caban's office. We had a meeting with Hudson's office and we're working on line edits next
- Binders
 - Natalie: What's the update on DOC using their budget for binders?
 - Valerie: We're going thru an internal process to procure that internally. We do have inventory that was donated to us. We believe that it is important for DOC to purchase and supply these. We have preliminarily identified a vendor, I don't foresee any challenges, I think we are close to having these
 - Brittan: what is the process for requesting a binder?
 - Valerie: Many different ways: team of LGBT coordinators in every facility, offered by them and requested by them. Hotline set up, form on the tablets
 - Mik: bill that Hudson introduced allows these items for workers
 - Natalie: do we have an update on lgbt services available on the tablet?
 - Valerie: We have a resource guide, services, drafts of activities (uploaded soon, not yet) next time we have a call we will have an update, emergency bail fund flier. Reading materials, activities, etc. we welcome suggestions on what to add here. There's a LGBT services form, can request all types of services and items here that would be provided by this unit: i.e. talk to a team member, referral, discharge planning, housing, binder, toiletries, those go immediately to the unit and they will f/u
 - Mik: in response to a FOIL request, I got a LGBTQI+ information form, it has bubbles to fill in - is it that?
 - Valerie: yes
 - Mik: great, I'll send that around
- Task force bill
 - Rachel: DOC said this is a collaborative place, looking forward to working further. There is tension here, advocates continually ask questions that do not get answers. I just want to say that many of us would really like to be collaborative, i get there are certain things you cannot say, but i hope that as we go forward, we can hear from DOC and BOC what would make this more collaborative for you all
 - Valerie: from my perspective, we value your feedback and expertise. After task force meetings there are internal conversations and in my 13 years of service the changes I have seen are significant.
 - Rachel: from my perspective its a bit of a mixed bag. A lot of times we have these small wins, I'd love to see where we have had successes and figure out with DOC what has actually worked. I get that you work in a system that is not prone to giving out information. Would love to hear if DOC has suggestions here

- Andy: having come from activism to city govt it's mind-bending what can and cannot be communicated, even if it's good news. The political aspect is relevant, but operating in good faith is key here
- Mik: I'm understanding of the fact that there is a certain amount of confidentiality, but for example, we found out via a FOIL request that the dept has been since 2021 making 2 daily announcements to respect people's gender identity and pronouns. That seems like something that could have been shared
- Valerie: I hear you, happy to continue to do that
- Rachel: at my practice in the structure of our meetings is "good news", maybe we can implement that here?
- Natalie: Let's start that, at the top of the meetings, shared with intros by everyone.
- Member Agreement
 - Rachel: I think it would be great to re-vamp that member agreement, maybe informed by DBT and something that may lighten the tone of these meetings and make it a more collaborative space.
 - Sahar: committing to making this a collaborative space feels like a good idea
 - Rachel: agreements should be flexible, living doc, maybe doesn't have to be signed but just a genuine commitment
 - Mik : how did BOC negotiate edits/non signing previously?
 - Bart: not sure, I was hoping there could be "membership agreement" and "community guidelines". Membership agreement is mostly to update membership on the website
 - Natalie: Can it just say "I am a member" in that case?
 - Bart: I'll work on that and let you know if there are any issues
 - Mik: updating the website would be great!
 - Nicole: For community guidelines, maybe we can begin with the doc Bart sent and keep what we want and go from there? What if someone steps out of bounds? Is there a way to handle that?
 - Sahar: another part of the update to the task force law would be having a chair, that would end up being in the responsibility of the "chair"
 - Rachel: I can see why the appointment of a chair is useful, like we've asked for administrative help, but as far as community agreements, ethical guidelines from my field: APA says if someone is doing something you think is wrong, go to them directly 1:1 first. If that doesn't work, then you bring in someone else to help you. Also, everyone who is not a note-taker and facilitator is an "observer". All observers are tasked with noticing when collaboration is breaking down. A chair could be difficult for many reasons (bias, ineffective, etc)
 - Mik: I understand that for folks from the CHS/BOC/DOC side it might be challenging to take notes, but I think working out a rotation that includes everyone might aid in collaboration
 - Rachel: agree
 - Nicole: I think this rotation is important. We are tasked here with changing policies and procedures. On the ground, when something is happening with a patient, we maybe could use some of the defender's help on this
 - Mik: maybe we can also have a confidential section of the meeting workshopping case management?
 - Nicole: we want to strengthen our gender related services team
 - Mik: Gender-related services team super responsive, I include them when we have a client with medical issues but also mis-aligned housing and they even update you sometimes! kraimerc@nychhc.org

- Nicole: The ask is, is there any way for me to flag cases, or consistent issues? I'll formulate this thought better and come back next time with an idea. Thinking about strengthening pathways of communications
- Rachel: So what are our next steps for the agreement? Ideally for me it would be the whole task force
- Natalie: Maybe set aside 30 min per meeting to work together on it? Start looking thru Bart's first draft, take notes, come ready to talk about it?
- Nicole: Rachel, can you include some of the DBT info etc that you were talking about?
- Rachel: yes
- Sahar: Do we have time for this based on getting thru these questions for drafting? Perhaps a drafting team question?
- Mik: last time drafting committee met, we decided to go thru the notes from our meetings, and get whatever was still left over and make sure we're up-to-date on everything
- Natalie: i think it be maybe a good idea to set up the meeting with the community guidelines conversation for 30 minutes, it might lend itself to more effective question section of the meeting
- Mik/Nicole: sounds good
- Securing form
 - Mik: there have been updates, LAS met with OCA at the end of August. I got an email from their ED, they met with DOC, there is an agreement to add a "x" gender marker on the securing form. I followed up by asking for guidance to judges about filling it out, letting them know they can alter it and it should be as per the person themselves, not just saying "all trans people are x"
 - Valerie: that's great
 - Andy: from the housing perspective, there are projects : "1727 amsterdam" and "just home". Just Home is in the Bronx for formerly incarcerated, facing NIMBY opposition. Haven Green is for elder LGBTQ, facing opposition "save Elizabeth St garden". City wide re-zoning to add a little more housing everywhere, un-do red-lining put in place 1961. These are all bills that are going in front of CC soon, we need your help.