

January 8, 2025 meeting

Facilitator: Faris Ilyas

Notetaker: Lucas Marquez

1. Michael Griffin (CCHR)
2. Rachel Golden
3. Julian Sazo (DOC)
4. Lucas Marquez
5. Matt Graham
6. Nicole Levy (CHS)
7. Sara Gonzalez (City Council)
8. Chelsea Chard (DOC)
9. Saloni Sethi (City Council)
10. Natalie Fiorenzo
11. Dori Lewis
12. Jemarley McFarlane (BOC)
13. Alberto Santos (DOC)
14. Faris Ilyas
15. Lucas Marquez

Introductions

- New DOC members were introduced and welcomed: Julian Sazo (LGBTQIA+ Project Coordinator) and Alberto Santos

Reducing length and frequency of Task Force Meetings.

- Some entities are required to attend task force meetings per the legislation, where the minimum is 4 times a year.
- Discussed different variations, including meeting 6 times a year for 1 hour, every 2 months for 1 hour, or every 3 months for two hours.
- Attendees voted on schedule, with 7 votes for meeting every 3 months for 2 hours.
 - o DOC and BOC abstained, but agreed to support the Task Force
- Timing of new meetings:
 - o Faris will send a poll.
 - o Jemarley noted that Second Wednesday is tough for BOC
- Advocates-only/non-governmental members of the task force will meet with greater frequency in between task force meetings, to be agreed by the advocates. These will not constitute official task force meetings

BOC Maintaining Website on Behalf of Task Force.

- <https://www.nyc.gov/site/boc/jail-regulations/task-force-on-issues-faced-by-tgncbi.page>.
- It will include updated notes, meeting minutes, reporting, memberships, etc. And will update the notes.
- Question - Are we able to have a drive for documents and FOILs?

- BOC – Looked into it and were told that BOC cannot share internal file system with external parties. Sharepoint is also still connected to BOC. Drop Box is a potential idea and will look into that.

Reviewing values and principles of Task Force

- Discussion to start at advocates only meeting and will bring back to the next Task Force meeting
- Questions & Follow Up to Agencies
 - DOC reporting to CCHR: Mik Kinhead email. Questions to DOC/BOC on reporting to CCHR
 - CCHR: regarding points in email, there is an outstanding FOIL request, M. Griffin (“MG”) not on FOIL team, but there has been an exemption pursuant to the letter Mik alluded to. There is expected to be reporting.
 - DOC: This is something we have been in communication with CCHR on over the years.
 - Task Force: Do you have an idea if we can receive the documents?
 - CCHR: Will see with FOIL office, what MG can share.
 - Task Force: Why don’t we get these documents directly?
 - CCHR: This is a separate set of reporting that is required by DOC to remain exempted. It is not part of the task force reporting.
 - DOC: The task force role is outlined in local law, and any info further than that is at agency discretion; therefore that is something the task force doesn’t have access to. It is outside the scope of the task force as outlined by the law. Agency-wide/city-wide endeavor in terms of looking at out law is written and implemented.
 - Task Force: Can we have the GC come to the meeting?
 - GC will have the same response, it is a law department interpretation of the law.
 - Task Force: Policies and procedures are squarely within the task force. Are there any policies and procedures related to TGNCBI shared?
 - DOC: We have shared the policies for housing those folks with in the jails.
 - Task Force: Can we receive this information in writing rather than having to FOIL?
 - DOC: City agencies have to do this via FOIL, unless provided by law
- FY25, Q1, latest quarterly report on TGNCNBI folks in custody pursuant to Local Law 115, dated 12/2024.
 - DOC: Process for housing hasn’t changed, it’s a case by case for every person that has applied. There is a distinction between SCU vs. gender-aligned housing overall. Someone could not be placed in the SCU, i.e., separation order, but could still get housed otherwise in RMSC. Numbers are consistent with what have been reported previously.
 - Rachel: There are 50% denials for gender aligned housing. Do you have any comment or insight on that?
 - DOC: all the information is there for you
- Review spreadsheet created by Rachel Golden for organizing our Task Force.
 - Rachel: Given new reworking of the meetings, let’s hold those conversations? Hope was to create a more open and collaborative task force. So we’ll table that.

- Propose focusing the next weeks/months on completion of the next report