



JJPOC Commissary Subgroup Meeting

MAY 18TH, 2022

1:00 PM- 2:00 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Attendance:

TYJI Staff

Agata Raszczyk- Lawska	John Saccu	Karrol-Ann Brown	Brittany LaMarr
Emily Leen	Kristina Baldwin	Amy Vatner	
Erica Bromley	Jill Bourbeau		

Meeting Summary:

1. Review of Feedback from DOC Recommendations

- Expanding commissary options
 - It was noted that there is not a specific commissary manual because it is for profit and for purchase, everyone has weekly opportunities to purchase products if they do not have any infractions
 - It was asked why there is no document or manual for how to utilize the commissary service, it was clarified that the information was in the inmate handbook which could potentially be updated
 - What is wanted is a written document that provides clear and updated information, since currently information seems to be inconsistently given out, to form this document, it would be beneficial to look at policies of other states
 - Since everyone digests and reads information differently having a document that clearly outlines information would help to better disseminate information
 - It was stated that commissary restrictions are one of the ways of behavioral control for youth especially since they don't often restrict other things such as visitation or recreation time



- There was a survey sent out to get input from youth on the commissary services, for this next phase feedback is wanted from youth on the new plan since they are the population these policies will affect
 - Instead of implementing policies for 15–21-year old's all at once, the process would be phased starting with the 15–17-year-old population
 - It was brought up that there is a community council run with young adults with in one of the facilities and potentially the committee could meet with this group to review the policies and get feedback
- Decrease in mark-up on prices on commissary goods
 - Changes cannot be made to prices without formal legislation, this would need to be navigated through the JJPOC
 - The ideas of providing youth with a month stipend or providing a month package of goods were brought up, it was noted that a plan should be created to reduce costs
 - It was proposed that narrowing it down to 15–17-year-olds for the first phase to see what it would take to reduce costs then moving on to other age groups
 - It was asked what is most needed for the youth, some options were brought up of ways that commissary could be provided, it was stated that it is very important to look at how other states are doing it
 - Some of the programs that were proposed were a free option, a monthly stipend, a hybrid option, tiered or track system, a package of goods, or potentially an incentive program
 - It was noted that some general hygiene items and items that are medically necessary are provided for free, which is something that should be clear to the youth
- Improve options for feminine products
 - CCA went to York to talk to the warden, the warden expressed that she felt strongly about offering feminine wash, it currently is not offered
 - Those are York are not represented in this group currently, so it is important to include them in this process and that practice should be the same for MYI and YCI
 - It was clarified that this was not about just having the service but making it clear for the youth to read and understand so they can understand how to access these products
 - Refining the language within the policies to make it clear was proposed, mainly for youth friendly language
 - It was asked about what DOC is doing in terms of connecting with donations or partners with organizations to provide feminine hygiene products, however it was stated that DOC cannot reach out to organization the organizations would have to come to them



2. Establish plan for next steps

- The request was made for DOC to take this feedback and draft revisions of the handbook to then reconvene with this committee to talk about the revisions, currently the plan would be to go over this the week of June 13th to then update the incarceration workgroup
- In regard to prices, the process would go through the JJPOC to be proposed to the legislator which would be a lengthier process than implementing the other proposed policies
- It was proposed that in July having the community council could review the revisions that were made before moving to the next step