



## JJPOC Commissary Subgroup Meeting

JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2022

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

**THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES**

### Meeting Summary:

#### 1. Identify Subgroup Chairs

- Mark Bonaventura and Adam Yagaloff volunteered to be co-chairs

#### 2. Update on Fiscal Analysis

- Judicial sent over some of their financial information from their system of commissary
- DOC is in the process of creating a behavioral modification system
- The legal team at DOC is working on figuring out legality of switching the commissary systems
- Would like to look at what systems are used in other states, in terms of what goods are allotted
- It was noted that DOC uses TV as a part of their behavioral modification system
- Judicial is working to implement tablets with their behavior modification tablet, youth would be able to earn movies or games on the tablets
- In DOC there are tablets, however it was stated that youth have to purchase apps on the tablet, the vendor would most likely not support using it as a part of the behavioral modification system
- DOC will be using incentive lounges as a part of their new PBIS system, youth will be able to spend points to use play stations, the barber shop, and more
- DOC was still unsure about using a point system for allotting food
- Judicial explained that they have to have regular nutritious meals, youth can purchase extra snacks with their points
- A question was asked about the number of youths that will be able to use the incentive lounges at a time, it will probably be about 8 people at a time with staff supervision, but it is also based on how many youths have the points to utilize the lounge



- Judicial explained that points cannot be taken away once they are earned, but there can be a freeze placed on points, meaning youth cannot earn or use points, there are certain behaviors that warrant a freeze, the freeze is lifted once the youth has taken the correct steps to resolve the incident
  - Judicial offered to send the information about the freeze system, such as the list of behaviors that would cause a freeze, to DOC
  - DOC liked the idea of this, were unsure if they could replicate the system, it probably wouldn't be as individualized at judicial's system
  - It was asked how long freezes usually last, they usually do not last past 3 days, the wraparound service team works with the youth to resolve the behavior
  - Judicial explained how they try to make sure that their program is robust and engaging for the youth, work to meet youth where they are
  - It was noted that at CCA when restorative circles are done it is important for youth to be a part of it even if they don't say a lot, but it is important for them to be a part of the process, it was asked if youth could have input on the protocol for addressing negative behavior, at judicial youth are involved in creating a plan for resolving their behavior
  - It was asked if DOC needed anything other information from judicial to complete their fiscal analysis, the only thing that was needed was a list of the goods and prices that are currently available
3. Circling back to recommendations
- The group should revisit the recommendations that already have been talked about to get a sense of where things stand
  - It was brought up that codifying recommendations may not be necessary, recommendations can be implemented internally, which often happens in other states
  - Expanding commissary options will be difficult with the current vendor, the director of commissary feels that this has already been done, one thing that can be done if the point system is implemented is identifying which items will be available through that
  - DOC is creating a brochure that will be given during intake and will be on the tablets, this can be finalized with the workgroup
  - If the point system for commissary was implemented, it would only effect 15–17-year old's
  - Community council should give input on the point system
  - A lot of the recommendations are really based on continuing commissary, that may not be the case anymore, DOC may move to a point system for commissary
  - In terms of decreasing the markup, Keefe is raising their prices, making it hard to change the markup, but a point system for commissary would eliminate the need for a decrease



- It was asked if there was a timeline for implementing the point system, a lot of the staff came from CJTS which has a point system, the goal is to have staff meet with judicial staff so that the program is implemented similarly, hoping to have policies created by January 2023 and implementation happening in July 2023
- The hope is that the incentive rooms will help to create a sense of community among the youth and staff, a big piece of this will be staff training, many staff are used to working with adults where they are not supposed to interact in this way
- In terms of increased opportunities and incentives for education, employment, and programming, a point system would take care of finances, they would have access to incentives based on behavior
- Pay for programming and work could be converted to points, right now youth get money that can be used for commissary, DOC would need to look at policies of other states as well as their own policies to see if this is possible
- In judicial youth don't get paid for school it is an expectation, you get a check for meeting the expectation, for each expectation met you get a check that transfers into points at the end of the day
- For youth that get transferred to the adult system getting paid for school would be helpful since the money rolls over, it was asked if money could be put into a savings account for youth even if they don't need it while they are in the youth system, a fiscal analysis could be done to determine the feasibility of this
- DOC will reach out to commissary what the 15 most purchased item by the young adults are, if a point system for commissary is created this would be beneficial
- The "Cadillac" model would be money being placed into a savings account for youth or money being converted into points for youth to use for commissary, would need to know the fiscal implications of this