



JJPOC Commissary Subgroup Meeting

MARCH 8TH, 2024

9:00 AM- 10:00 AM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Attendance:

Craig Washington

Mia Scafe

Eulalia Garcia

Michael Pierce

Katherine Iozzia

Toni Walker

TYJI Staff

Brittany LaMarr

Paul Klee

Eirka Nowakowski

Meeting Summary:

1. Introductions

2. Announcements

3. Commissary Implementation Update

- The new commissary plan was officially implemented November 1, 2023, as directed. The first two months (November and December), youths were able to use both the points that they have accrued as well as their personal funds to make purchases from the commissary.
- January, 2024 was the first month where personal funds were no longer accepted.
 - There was notable frustration with this transition with youths upset about the limited amount they were able to spend (\$25.00).
 - Prior to this, the average amount a youth would spend was \$40.00.
 - Reported incidents for the month of January increased to 29.
 - Incidents reported in November and December were 4 and 10 respectively.
 - 16 reported incidents in February.



- The intent behind restricting the usage of personal funds towards commissary was to allow the money the youths obtain to be redirected to a savings account that they will have access to upon release.
 - Points are accrued through good behavior. If a youth is not granted any points for good behavior, they are still provided the minimum amount necessary to purchase hygiene products.
 - Besides hygiene products, youths would purchase shoes, electronic items, religious items, additional clothing, snacks, and more, from commissary.
 - Under the new commissary plan, youths are still able to purchase these items with the use of their personal funds.
 - Through CSSD, youth are provided evening snacks and are able to purchase additional snacks by using their points. Youth are limited on the number of snacks they can purchase due to health concerns.
- Discussion was held regarding youth being able to purchase snacks with their personal funds, in addition to the points they gain through good behavior.
 - Efforts are being made to supplement DOC's budget to underwrite additional commissary items. At the moment, only hygiene products are able to be supplemented.
 - Following this meeting, youths will be able to use their personal funds to purchase commissary products.
- DOC intends to have further meetings with the State Education Resource Center (SERC) to provide technical assistance.
 - Future planning was briefly discussed about what the relationship between MYI and SERC technical support will look like, including set intervals of time to discuss quality assurance needs.
- There are currently no indigent youths at Manson Youth Institute (MYI).
- A fiscal analysis is being performed to determine what the average amount spent at commissary was prior to implementing the new points system in order to ensure youths are provided a comparable amount.
 - Another component to this analysis is to understand the impact of increasing the indigency threshold from \$5.00 to \$20.00.
 - This fiscal analysis will be provided to the Commissary Subgroup following this meeting.
- A point of clarification was made regarding existing funds that were appropriated last year for the new commissary plan.