

Incarceration Workgroup
December 15th, 2025
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Agenda

1. DOC/MYI Use of Chemical Agent Report
2. Reentry Success Plan update from JBCSSD and OPM

THIS MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION

Incarceration Workgroup Meeting

12/15/25

1:00-2:30

Web Based Meeting- Zoom

Attendance

TYJI Staff

Brittany LaMarr	Judge Tammy Nguyen-O'Dowd	Patricia O'Rourke	Andrew Zhebrak
Catherine Foley Geib	Keisha Henry	Stella Rose Dugue	Erika Nowakowski
Chlo Bobrowski	Kelly Orts	Talia Aikens-Nunez	Paul Klee
Deivone Tanksley	Lynnia Johnson	Tammy Perreault	Ryan Connick
Dr. Glen Worthy	Martha Stone	Tasha Hunt	
Erin Williamson	Michael Pierce	Tina Mitchell	
Gary Roberge	Mirella Beltram		
Heriberto Cajigas	Neika Thompson		
Indre Fishman	Patricia Nunez		

Meeting Objectives:

The December Incarceration Workgroup meeting focused on two primary areas of discussion: (1) a comprehensive review of the DOC/MYI Use of Chemical Agent Report covering incidents from September through November, including administrative review procedures and restorative responses, and (2) implementation updates from CSSD and OPM regarding the Reentry Success Plan, including procurement progress, role clarification, cross-agency coordination, and development of a quality assurance framework.

Meeting Summary:

1) DOC/MYI Use of Chemical Agent Report

- The meeting opened with a detailed review of chemical agent usage at MYI during the fall reporting period. It was noted that the previous report had been presented in July, and this update captured four incidents occurring between late August and the end of November.
 - Four total uses of chemical agent occurred between August and November. The youth involved were primarily 16–17 years of age.
 - The majority of incidents took place during first shift, specifically during school hours when youth movement and peer interaction are heightened. One incident occurred during second shift recreation, and another took place during dinner

within a housing unit. No third shift incidents were reported, as youth are typically secured and asleep during that period.

- The group discussed whether the timing of incidents suggested environmental triggers. It was noted that school transitions and other periods of unstructured movement tend to increase peer interaction, which may elevate the likelihood of interpersonal conflict. However, no systemic shift-related concerns were identified beyond the contextual nature of school-related movement and increased activity during programming hours.

- **September School Incident**

Two youth engaged in a physical altercation in the school setting. Staff issued repeated verbal directives to cease fighting, but the youth did not comply, and chemical agent was deployed to safely separate them. No injuries were reported to youth or staff. The altercation stemmed from an unresolved argument the previous day. Administrative follow-up included review of staff reports, analysis of video footage, and post-incident discussions with the involved youth to better understand the underlying conflict. The group emphasized the importance of early mediation when prior-day disputes are identified, and facility leadership reiterated that youth are encouraged to report escalating tensions proactively, though staff are often only aware once a confrontation has already occurred.

- **November 17 School Incident**

Two sentenced youth engaged in a physical fight during school programming. Staff attempted verbal de-escalation prior to chemical deployment; however, continued non-compliance necessitated use of chemical agent. One youth sustained a minor laceration to the mouth and was evaluated and medically cleared. The dispute reportedly originated from an alleged theft-related conflict. Administrative procedures included immediate supervisory notification, video review, and documentation confirming that verbal intervention occurred prior to the use of chemical agent.

- **November 26 Recreation Incident**

Two unsentenced youth engaged in a physical altercation during recreation. Staff issued verbal commands in an effort to de-escalate the situation; however, when the youth continued fighting and failed to comply with directives, chemical agent was deployed to separate them. No injuries were reported as a result of the incident. The youth declined to provide statements regarding the origin of the conflict. Following the incident, a housing reassignment was implemented to prevent further contact and reduce the likelihood of continued tension between the individuals.

- **November 28 Housing Unit Incident**

Two unsentenced youth engaged in a physical altercation during dinner within the housing unit. Staff intervened verbally in an attempt to de-escalate the situation; however, when directives were ignored and the youth continued fighting, chemical agent was deployed to safely separate them. No serious injuries were reported as a result of the incident. Following the event, both youth participated in follow-up conversations with unit management to address the conflict and reinforce behavioral expectations moving forward.

- The group discussed the importance of early mediation when prior-day disputes are identified, noting that youth are encouraged to report escalating tensions proactively, though staff are often unaware of conflicts until a confrontation occurs.
 - Discussion emphasized that chemical agent deployment remains a last-resort safety measure, used only after verbal directives and de-escalation efforts fail, and administrative review confirmed that procedural requirements were followed.
 - The group further explored whether housing-based incidents present different supervisory challenges compared to school-based settings, observing that dining periods, like school transitions, are high-interaction environments that may increase the likelihood of interpersonal conflict.
- Every chemical agent deployment is subject to administrative review, with staff reports compared against video footage to ensure accuracy and compliance, and documentation required to demonstrate that verbal directives were issued prior to use.
 - If discrepancies or concerns arise during this review, the matter is referred to the appropriate security or investigative division for further examination.
 - For the current reporting period, no policy violations were identified, and the Workgroup underscored the importance of transparency and documentation integrity, emphasizing that consistent review safeguards both youth welfare and staff accountability.
- Following each incident, unit managers meet with the involved youth to engage in restorative follow-up conversations focused on identifying root causes, reinforcing conflict resolution strategies, and encouraging behavioral reflection.
 - Staff attempt mediation between youth when appropriate and safe, recognizing that some restorative dialogue may occur immediately, while other situations require a cooling-off period before meaningful engagement can take place.
 - The group discussed the balance between immediate safety intervention and long-term rehabilitative engagement, noting that while chemical agent use addresses urgent safety concerns, sustained behavior change requires continued follow-up and skill development.
- The discussion then shifted to holiday and furlough considerations, clarifying that MYI does not maintain a furlough policy for sentenced youth and that release for unsentenced youth requires court authorization.
 - It was noted that residential placements outside secure detention may permit home passes depending on treatment phase and clinical recommendation.
 - Members raised questions about structured holiday engagement opportunities that could promote family connection within operational constraints, and facility representatives acknowledged the importance of maintaining family bonds while reiterating the security limitations inherent in secure detention settings.

2) Reentry Success Plan Update

- The second portion of the meeting shifted to implementation updates related to the Reentry Success Plan, with discussion centered on procurement progress, role clarification, systems coordination, and development of a formal quality assurance framework.
- CSSD reported that an RFP was released to procure reintegration mentors and family support specialists, a bidder conference was held to clarify scope and expectations, proposals are due December 18, and implementation is anticipated for March 2026.

- Members discussed the importance of equitable geographic coverage to ensure youth across regions receive consistent and structured reentry support, particularly for those in residential placements who historically lacked comprehensive transition services.
 - The Workgroup then clarified the reintegration mentor role, emphasizing its focus on employment readiness and long-term relational continuity.
- Responsibilities include resume and cover letter development, assistance obtaining state identification and vital documents, support completing job applications and preparing for interviews, and connection to vocational exploration and workforce training programs.
 - Mentors may remain involved for up to one year post-discharge, and members emphasized that continuity of credible adult support during reentry is critical to promoting stability and reducing recidivism risk.
- Discussion then turned to the family support specialist role, which centers on caregiver engagement and household stabilization.
 - Responsibilities include navigating public benefits and healthcare enrollment, assisting with housing resources, supporting caregiver employment needs, and coordinating clinical continuity such as reinforcement of DBT skills.
 - Engagement may extend up to 90 days post-discharge, and members noted that reentry success depends not only on youth preparedness but also on caregiver capacity and home stability.
 - The conversation expanded to education transition supports through Pupil Services Specialists (PSS), who are assigned upon youth placement in detention or residential settings.
 - PSS obtain and review academic records, verify transcript accuracy and credit accrual, coordinate credit recovery when needed, communicate with school districts to prepare for reentry, and participate in PPT meetings when applicable.
 - Services for pre-adjudicated youth remain voluntary and coordinated with parents or guardians, and the Workgroup emphasized the importance of minimizing educational disruption, particularly for youth returning mid-semester or transitioning into alternative school placements.
 - Broader cross-agency alignment was also discussed, particularly the role of probation in reviewing discharge workflows to better align with the overall reentry framework.
- Collaboration continues with DSS to ensure timely benefits activation at discharge, and coordination with healthcare partners is underway to prevent medication or treatment interruptions.
 - Agencies are exploring improved data-sharing protocols to strengthen transition continuity, with members emphasizing that reentry coordination must function as an integrated system rather than parallel agency efforts.
- OPM provided an update on development of the quality assurance framework for the Reentry Success Plan.
 - Agencies have been engaged to identify measurable implementation benchmarks, and the first report is anticipated within approximately one month, with an initial focus on implementation progress and infrastructure development rather than long-term outcome metrics.
 - Expanded data capacity and standardized reporting metrics are under development to support future evaluation cycles, and members discussed the importance of distinguishing early implementation fidelity from long-term outcome measurement, noting that sustained evaluation will require consistent cross-agency data capture.



Making connections. Informing solutions.

Next Meeting: 2/9/2026

