

From: [Morris, Elizabeth](#)
To: [Jacobsen, Erin](#); [Etan Nasreddin-Longo](#); [Jessica Brown](#); [geoffreyjpjones](#); [Grant Taylor](#); [Morrissey, Mary](#); [Turner, Rebecca](#); [Davis, Xusana](#); [Firpo, Jennifer](#); [tsing0619](#); [Martin LaLonde](#); [Walker, Anne](#); [Lueders-Dumont, Timothy](#); [Allen, Tyler](#); [Don Stevens](#); [Miodownik, Derek](#); [Jennifer Poehlmann](#); [Kevin Christie](#); [Thompson, Julio](#); [Morris, Elizabeth](#); [Linton-EXT, Shela](#); [Carter, Laura](#); [NorthReid, Tiffany](#); [Angela Arsenault](#); [wichie](#)
Subject: Criminal Justice System Forum - Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network FW: Criminal Justice Work
Date: Friday, January 12, 2024 1:47:15 PM
Attachments: [VSARN Criminal Justice System Forum Press Release 01.09.2024.pdf](#)

Hi RDAP,

I am passing along a virtual event on January 22nd from Addie Lentzner, a youth and executive director of the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network that I work with. I wanted to pass along the attached press release from her in the chance you're interested in watching. Speakers include: Alexis Paige, Bobby Bostic, Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun, Senator Dick Sears, Jayna Ahsaf, FreeHer, and Lydia Beaulieu, Addie Lentzner, and Grace Waryas from the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network.

Warmly,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Morris

Juvenile Justice Coordinator
VT Department for Children and Families
Adolescent Services Unit, Family Services Division
280 State Drive
HC 1 North
Waterbury, VT 05671-1080
Cell: (802) 760-0650

From: Addie Lentzner <amlentzner@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 1:34 PM
To: Morris, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Morris@vermont.gov>
Subject: Criminal Justice Work

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Elizabeth!

First off, I want to apologize for not being more present in meetings. I was traveling cross country on a road trip to head back to school, got sick, and now am dealing with getting ready for school. I may need to take a step back from the council for a while just as I get geared up for college, and then I'd love to join again.

On a similar note, I am part of a student-led group, the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network, and we are hosting an event on January 22nd on Zoom at 1pm. It is highlighting

Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network

Addie Lentzner, *Executive Director*

Lydia Beaulieu, *Program Director*

Grace Waryas, *Program Director*

On Monday, January 22 from 1:00 - 3:30 pm the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network is hosting a Zoom event for Vermonters to learn about the Criminal Justice System and the issues currently facing our state.

Calling all youth, students, and impassioned community members to engage in constructive dialogue with a range of experts and perspectives. Understand the reasoning behind prison abolition, the argument for building another womens prison, and hear the stories of people who lived through incarceration. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/uxihAiwJG2tpF4sE7>

A snapshot into the breakout workshops:

ALEXIS PAIGE'S BREAKOUT

At the age of twenty-nine Alexis Paige drunkenly caused a car accident in Houston, TX, and for the first time found herself in trouble with the law. Entering a world that as a white, middle-class woman she had been only abstractly aware of, Paige spent the next two-and-a-half years fighting and beating a felony conviction. Facing ten years in prison, she was ultimately convicted of a lesser-included misdemeanor and sentenced to 121 days in the Harris County Jail, a relatively lenient outcome achieved because of her social privilege. This experience gave Paige a window into the commonplace injustice and inequality that define America's system of mass incarceration. With a second chance that so few receive, Paige vowed to use her small voice to call attention to these issues, which she now does as a writer, teacher, and activist Many Vermonters are surprised to discover that even in our seemingly progressive corner of America, troubling racial and economic disparities exist in rates of arrest, conviction, and severity of punishment.

This workshop will explore the theme of second chances in the criminal justice system—who gets them, who doesn't, and how and why it's nearly impossible to get free once ensnared by the system of social control that author and legal scholar Michelle Alexander calls the "new Jim Crow." While many believe in the fairytale that ours is a system of rehabilitation and redemption, the reality for most of the 5.5 million Americans under correctional control, including approximately 5,000 Vermonters, is that second chances are out of reach. If not for rehabilitation, what, then, is the purpose of such a system? In the workshop, we'll discuss this question and more, focusing especially on how and why the United States became the jailingest society on Earth, and what we can do about it.

BOBBY BOSTIC'S BREAKOUT:

Bobby Bostic was sentenced to 241 years in prison in St Louis for a crime committed when he was 16. His case was reexamined and he got out, and now he leads a nonprofit, has written various books, and speaks out against the injustice of the criminal justice system, racially, socioeconomically, and just humanely. There are four components of his workshop:

1. Dealing with how to get legislation passed with criminal justice or any topic
2. Talking about the adolescent's brain, and how to approach teenage crime/long term situations
3. How to approach teens and parents about crime and inequality
4. How to use the tool of writing to change our communities and state and world

The rest of our speakers include: **Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun**, VT Legislature, **Senator Dick Sears**, VT Legislature, **Jayna Ahsaf**, FreeHer, and of course Lydia Beaulieu, Addie Lentzner, and Grace Waryas from the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network.

Stay tuned for more information, and sign up here to attend and get the zoom link:

<https://forms.gle/uxihAiwJG2tpF4sE7>

Register Below:



Or

<https://forms.gle/MA5xkVNuz9nRwz4Y6>

criminal justice and reform in our state, with speakers such as those who were formerly incarcerated to professors to legislators. I was wondering if you could spread the word and attend if possible? Attached is a press release.

Thank you!

Addie

From: [Dayno, Isaac](#)
To: [Smith, Kendal](#); [Livingston, Shayla \(she/her\)](#)
Cc: [Johnson, Jaye](#); [Deml, Nicholas](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [Fitch, Jennifer](#)
Subject: Flagging Advocates in Sen. Inst. Today
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 11:44:40 AM

Hi Kendal and Shayla,

Flagging the lead organizer for FreeHer, the abolitionist organization actively protesting the replacement for CRCF, is testifying in Senate Institutions today.

I can't imagine it'll be fertile ground in that committee, but wanted to flag the Department was not invited to give contextual testimony on this subject.

We'll be in Alice's committee all afternoon but let me know if you'd like one of us to pop down to monitor or if rather it's better for DOC not to be in the room.

Isaac

Senate Committee on Institutions

AGENDA

Room 7 and Zoom

January 9, 2024 - January 12, 2024

Last Updated 1/9/2024 2:41 PM

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are livestreamed at

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/senate-institutions>.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

1:00 PM **Senate Floor**

1:45 PM **New Prison Construction**

Free Her representative

Jayna Ahsaf, Vermont Campaign Organizer, National
Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated
Women and Girls - Invited

2:00 PM **Wastewater Response and Recovery**

Isaac Dayno

State of Vermont

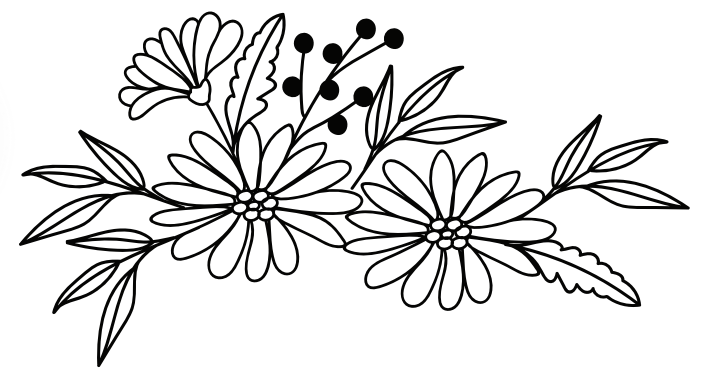
802-793-4392

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Cormier, Alan](#); [Denton, Travis](#)
Subject: Free Her
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:42:09 AM
Attachments: [Canteen Fund Program Poster.pdf](#)

Good Morning Al and Travis – Theresa made me aware of this initiative from Free Her to collect money from the community to deposit on women’s commissary accounts. Is this a violation of any of our policies or procedures?

Kathy

*Kathy Astemborski (she/her)
Women’s Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511*




CANTEEN FUND PROGRAM

A program through FreeHer VT which raises money to deposit on currently incarcerated people's commissary accounts. We make deposits as donations come in from VT community members.



OUR PROGRAM

- Write us to be added
- No entry requirements
- Deposits can arrive
irregularly depending on
availability of funding

Contact Us 
94 Colchester Ave
Burlington, VT 05401

From: [Rice, James](#)
To: [Dayno, Isaac](#); [AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff](#); [Deml, Nicholas](#)
Cc: [Livingston, Shayla \(she/her\)](#); [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [Sprafke, Jennifer](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:39:25 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good Morning. Below is a draft response form CS. Would you like Jen to respond with this message?

Jim Rice
(he/him/his)
Executive Director, Office of Professional Standards and Compliance
Vermont Department of Corrections
1713 Industrial Parkway
Lyndonville, VT 05851
802-661-8452
James.rice@vermont.gov

From: Sprafke, Jennifer <Jennifer.Sprafke@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:33 AM
To: Rice, James <James.Rice@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Draft response

Representative Cina,

I am the PREA and Constituent Services Unit Director. I want to thank you for bringing these very concerning issues to our attention. I want to assure you that we are investigating all areas of concern that were mentioned. As soon as I have responses I will be in touch with that information. I will not be able to share any specifics about the individual, but I will be able to let you know of any issues with procedures and processes.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any further concerns.

Thank you,
Jen

From: Rice, James <James.Rice@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:22 AM
To: Sprafke, Jennifer <Jennifer.Sprafke@vermont.gov>

Subject: FW: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:48 PM
To: Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>; AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>
Cc: Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>; Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Attached.

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:33 PM
To: Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>; AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>
Cc: Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

I do not – I am asking Alice for it.

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:32 PM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>; AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>
Cc: Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Do you have the attachment?

Nicholas J. Deml (He/Him)

Commissioner

Vermont Department of Corrections

Email: nicholas.deml@vermont.gov

Phone: 802-241-0059 | Mobile: 802-904-3407

<https://doc.vermont.gov>

My working hours may not be your working hours. Please do not feel obligated to

reply outside of your normal work schedule.

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:29:00 PM
To: AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>
Cc: Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fw: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

FYSA

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:00 PM
To: jahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>; AEmmons <AEmmons@leg.state.vt.us>; Chip Troiano <CTroiano@leg.state.vt.us>; mmorrissey <mmorrissey@leg.state.vt.us>; John Arrison <JArrison@leg.state.vt.us>; Michelle Bos-Lun <MBosLun@leg.state.vt.us>; Conor Casey <CCasey@leg.state.vt.us>; Gina M. Galfetti <GGalfetti@leg.state.vt.us>; Troy Headrick <THeadrick@leg.state.vt.us>; Wayne Laroche <WLaroche@leg.state.vt.us>; Eric Maguire <EMaguire@leg.state.vt.us>; Tristan D. Roberts <TRoberts@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Philip Petty <ppetty@leg.state.vt.us>; Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you for sharing this with us. I am increasingly appalled by the violations of human rights happening in our correctional facilities. I don't know what it's going to take for people to have the courage to truly change our ways. It's too bad we could not do

anything this year that would meaningfully improve the current conditions or take steps forward to a better way of holding people accountable and providing the care needed for them to recover and rejoin society prepared to contribute and to thrive.

---Brian



Brian Cina

VT State Representative, Chittenden 15
Old North End | East District, Burlington
House Health Care Committee
House Ethics Panel

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 6:18 PM

To: Alice Emmons <AEmmons@leg.state.vt.us>; Chip Troiano <CTroiano@leg.state.vt.us>; Mary Morrissey <MMORRISSEY@leg.state.vt.us>; John Arrison <JArrison@leg.state.vt.us>; Michelle Bos-Lun <MBosLun@leg.state.vt.us>; Conor Casey <CCasey@leg.state.vt.us>; Gina M. Galfetti <GGalfetti@leg.state.vt.us>; Troy Headrick <THeadrick@leg.state.vt.us>; Wayne Laroche <WLaroche@leg.state.vt.us>; Eric Maguire <EMaguire@leg.state.vt.us>; Tristan D. Roberts <TRoberts@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Philip Petty <PPetty@leg.state.vt.us>; Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

[External]

Hello Committee Members,

I hope this email finds you well. FreeHer has received written testimony from a woman named [REDACTED] who is currently incarcerated in Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF). I have attached her testimony to this email so committee members can read through it.

It is our hope at FreeHer that you all continue to value input from those most directly impacted by the prison system in your discussions around a replacement facility and also continue to seek input from the community on this process.

Thank you in advance for your care and consideration.

Warm regards,
Jayna Ahsaf

--

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

94 Colchester Ave

Burlington, VT 05401

(802)324-9534

<https://nationalcouncil.us/>

Together, we can end incarceration of women and girls as we know it today. Become a National Council [member](#) today for only \$5 per year. #FreeHer

This message has originated from an **External Source**. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

From: [Sommer, Haley](#)
To: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
Subject: Fw: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 10:30:54 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-bblvzljg.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Haley Sommer (she/her)
Director of Communications & Legislative Affairs
Vermont Department of Corrections
802-793-9075

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:46 AM
To: Sommer, Haley <Haley.Sommer@vermont.gov>; Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>; Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fw: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Tristan D. Roberts <TRoberts@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Angela Arsenault <AArsenault@leg.state.vt.us>; Ela Chapin <EChapin@leg.state.vt.us>; Brian Cina <bcina@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Angela, Ela, Brian –

I love this dialogue and want to second and third much of what has been said about doing better for the women in CRCF.

I would also like to voice discomfort I feel about which the manner in which this woman's story has been shared to the entire women's caucus.

As I'm sure you also are, I am regularly approached by constituents with horror stories about correctional facilities or other aspects of state government. When that occurs, my immediate response is to encourage them to utilize resources such as the following:

Vermont Department of Corrections Constituent Services Unit
<https://doc.vermont.gov/information-inmate-families-and-friends>

and

Defender General Prisoners' Rights Office

<https://defgen.vermont.gov/staff/central/prisoners-rights>

In addition to these public resources, I sometimes as a legislator contact the Superintendent or Asst. Superintendent at a correctional facility if there is a serious or time-sensitive issue. These folks are in the best position to understand both the full nature of a concern and how to most effectively address it within a facility. As a member of the House Corrections & Institutions committee who interacts often with DOC, I am happy to assist with any legislator or Vermonter who needs assistance in connecting with someone who can help them.

When we invite individuals to testify in our committees, we pay attention to their emotional safety in broadcasting raw stories not only to us in the room but also to the whole world.

House Corrections & Institutions has taken testimony from both currently and former incarcerated individuals at CRCF. When we did so, it was clear that these individuals intended to speak about a topic before the committee (the replacement facility) and to do so on the public record.

In other cases, myself and numerous committee members and legislators have visited correctional facilities and spoken directly with incarcerated individuals. These conversations inform us as policymakers and are making progress in addressing key issues this session. While those firsthand stories are so valuable in informing policy development, I question whether it would be also be in that person's interests to return from such a visit and publicly state incarcerated persons' names and identifying information without careful consideration of process.

I feel uncomfortable that this individual's detailed story has been platformed by the Women's caucus email list that includes dozens of state legislators and others without either FreeHer or someone on the legislative side providing some check and transparency about whether a) constituent service and advocacy has been provided to this person, and b) this individual has provided their informed consent to testify publicly, and to understand how their testimony is being wielded by advocates.

A person incarcerated is in a vulnerable position, even more so than a free person who walks into our committee rooms. Their case may be in adjudication, and there may be family court issues, custody issues, representation issues, etc. Without having any knowledge of this background, I think we all need to offer extra care in considering what consent means when it comes to a letter like this being emailed to a large and very public group, one that is monitored by the media.

Having spoken with formerly incarcerated individuals whose cases have been covered in the media, individuals in this situation often have mixed feelings about their stories being out there in this way. Someone going through the criminal justice often has little agency in how their story is presented, and individuals have told me of the harm of this as they want to rebuild their lives and move on.

Will this letter to the Women's caucus lead to any negative consequences for this individual? I hope

not and I have no specific reason to think that will happen. Perhaps the result will be a total positive in terms of drawing attention to serious issues. Even so, I remain concerned that we should not forget about process -- have they been informed about the 92 people on our email list who are hearing their story, the others who may then view it, and what it might mean for them?

All we have in this letter is "I am writing this letter through FreeHer VT."

If that sole sentence represents a process of informed consent on testifying to legislators, I would appreciate hearing about it. If I am misunderstanding something here, I would love to be corrected. This email is not intended to "tone police" or to question the validity of someone expressing herself. I intend to offer honest and constructive feedback about process.

I am addressing this email to you as caucus co-chairs and to Rep. Cina in request that we have a thoughtful conversation about use of the Women's Caucus as a platform for testimony and sharing, and how to give that the care that we each give our committees.

Thanks for your consideration!

Warm regards,

Tristan

Rep. Tristan D. Roberts
[Member](#), Vermont General Assembly
Windham-6: Halifax, Whitingham, Wilmington
Clerk, [House Committee on Corrections and Institutions](#)
troberts@leg.state.vt.us
Cell: 802-275-2881
Statehouse: 802-828-2228



From: Mollie Burke <mollieburkevt@gmail.com>

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 3:09 PM

To: Carol Ode <COde@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Mollie Burke <MBurke@leg.state.vt.us>, Alice Emmons <AEmmons@leg.state.vt.us>, Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>, Women's Legislative Caucus <womenslegislativecaucus@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Thanks Carol for fleshing out the story.
I had forgotten all those details!
A great example of advocacy, and your persistence.
Mollie

On Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 2:29 PM Carol Ode <COde@leg.state.vt.us> wrote:

Here is the story.

At a state representative visit with women at the correctional facility, the women asked for fresh milk to help prevent osteoporosis and for general good health. They said the taste of the powdered substitute was awful.

At a Women's Caucus meeting, the DOC said there was no room for fresh milk at the location. There was no cooler for the milk and no room for the cooler.

At a spring luncheon put on by an advocacy group, the Governor was speaking and he asked that we stand individually to say what we were working on or hoping for to help Vermonters. I stood and said I was working on fresh milk in Vermont's women's correctional facility. I wanted him to hear the idea.

Then in the fall, I went on a tour of three farms. At lunchtime I sat with Ag Agency employees. In response to their question about what I was working on, I said fresh milk in the women's – and preferably all-- correctional facilities.

At the third farm Agency of Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbits came up to me and said he would see if he could do something. He made an agreement with the facility that he would buy the cooler and they would buy Vermont milk. He got back to me and then I told the story at the next Women's Caucus meeting!

That is the story, and we still have to work on milk in all the rest of the correctional facilities.

Carol

From: Mollie Burke <MBurke@leg.state.vt.us>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2024 8:51 PM

To: Carol Ode <COde@leg.state.vt.us>; Alice Emmons <AEmmons@leg.state.vt.us>; Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>; Women's Legislative Caucus <womenslegislativecaucus@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Hi all,

Some years ago, while visiting the women's facility, we found out that the women were only getting powdered milk.

That was something that seemed so basic, and yet emblematic of the deprivation inherent in the facility.

The Women's Caucus addressed this issue with Corrections. I believe there was a storage issue. But eventually our advocacy was successful and we were able to get real milk into the place.

And while the milk situation was much less egregious than this current problem, it points out how we need to deal with present circumstances and also look to the future.

Thanks everyone, and thank you Brian for bringing this to everyone's attention.

Best,

Mollie

From: Carol Ode <COde@leg.state.vt.us>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2024 2:35 PM

To: Alice Emmons <AEmmons@leg.state.vt.us>; Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>; Women's Legislative Caucus <womenslegislativecaucus@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Of course, that's the right thing to do, Alice, and thank you.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Alice Emmons <AEmmons@leg.state.vt.us>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2024 7:43:43 AM

To: Carol Ode <COde@leg.state.vt.us>; Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>; Women's Legislative Caucus <womenslegislativecaucus@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Hello Carol and others. The email we received is quite disturbing and needs to be followed up with the Department of Corrections. I have spoken with the Commissioner about this situation and it is very complicated. May I suggest that I reach out to him to find a way in which he can share some information on what occurred? Does that make sense Brian or Angela? Alice

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From: Carol Ode <COde@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 10:06:58 PM
To: Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>; Women's Legislative Caucus <womenslegislativecaucus@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Hard to hear. We can do hard things and we can find funds for breast pumps and appropriate clothing for women in corrections. We don't need to stock them, necessarily. We can order as soon as someone is processed.

Plus, depending on why the mom is arrested, let's keep baby and mom TOGETHER UNLESS it's unsafe for baby to be with mom.

Let's go before House Apps and ask for a line item.

Regarding health care and antibiotics , etc., let's ask DOC what's happening.

That's my first thought.

Others???

Carol

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From: Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:04:57 AM
To: Women's Legislative Caucus <womenslegislativecaucus@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Fw: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Very concerning letter from an incarcerated woman to consider today at the meeting.

I am increasingly appalled by the violations of human rights happening in our correctional facilities. I don't know what it's going to take for people to have the courage to truly change our ways. It's too bad we could not do anything this year that would meaningfully improve the current conditions or take steps forward to a better way of holding people accountable and providing the care needed for them to recover and rejoin society prepared to contribute and to thrive.

---Brian



Brian Cina

VT State Representative, Chittenden 15
Old North End | East District, Burlington
House Health Care Committee
House Ethics Panel

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 6:21 PM

To: Ela Chapin <EChapin@leg.state.vt.us>; Angela Arsenault <AArsenault@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

[External]

Hello Rep. Chapin and Rep. Arsenault,

I hope this email finds you well. FreeHer has received written testimony from a woman named [REDACTED] who is currently incarcerated in Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF). I have attached her testimony to this email in the hopes that you can share with the Women's Caucus to help inform your discussion tomorrow.

It is our hope at FreeHer that you all continue to value input from those most directly impacted by the prison system in your discussions around a replacement facility and also continue to seek input from the community on this process.

Thank you in advance for your care and consideration.

Warm regards,
Jayna Ahsaf

--

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)
VT Campaign Director
**The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly
Incarcerated Women and Girls**

94 Colchester Ave
Burlington, VT 05401
(802)324-9534

<https://nationalcouncil.us/>

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--

Representative Mollie S. Burke

Vermont House Transportation Committee
62 West Street
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
mollieburkevt@gmail.com
mburke@leg.state.vt.us

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Comrie, Alan](#)
Subject: FW: Attachment
Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 2:08:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Hi Al,

In looking into the initiative we came across with Free Her donating to commissary accounts, I asked if CRCF could check and see if a donation had been made to [REDACTED] account (the women who wrote the letter). There is record of Jayna making a contribution to her account. I assumed it would be under Free Her, but it's directly from Jayna. This leads me in a different direction in terms of her being an approved volunteer, or a mentor. I did pass this information on to Chris McNamara.

Can we discuss?
 Thanks,
 Kathy

From: Messier, Theresa <Theresa.Messier@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Attachment

Theresa Messier
 Superintendent
 Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
 7 Farrell Street
 South Burlington, VT 05403
 Phone: (802) 859-3207

From: Comstock, Jessica <Jessica.Comstock@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:45 AM
To: Watts, David C. <David.C.Watts@vermont.gov>; Messier, Theresa <Theresa.Messier@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Attachment

There was a deposit made by Jayna Ahsaf on 12/21/2023. That was the only one on [REDACTED] account.

Recipient Activity - [REDACTED]

Start date: 7/1/2023 End Date: 5/1/2024 Recipient ID: 166723

Search... Show/Hide Columns

Date Time ↓	Notification #	Type	Source	ACH?	Trans. Status	Purpose	Depositor Name	Depositor Address	Net Deposit
02/04/2024 18:22:58 CST	117238121	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$65.00
01/16/2024 14:03:37 CST	116345456	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$45.00
01/12/2024 14:10:01 CST	116238100	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$65.00
01/09/2024 12:30:49 CST	115902554	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$100.00
12/24/2023 07:36:33 CST	113571267	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$30.00
12/24/2023 06:07:25 CST	113521734	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$100.00
12/23/2023 14:45:21 CST	113465336	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$50.00
12/21/2023 16:24:21 CST	113438112	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	Ahsaf, Jayna Carolyn	[REDACTED]	\$30.00
12/17/2023 20:35:21 CST	113266509	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$50.00
12/06/2023 18:57:37 CST	112835497	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$50.00
Grand Total									\$1,970.00

Jayna has put money on other I/I accounts as well:

Depositor Activity - Ahsaf Jayna Carolyn

Ahsaf Jayna Carolyn, [REDACTED]

Enter Name
Ahsaf Jayna Carolyn

Q Search... Show/Hide Columns

Date Time ↓	Receipt #	Photo	Type	Source	Recipient Id	Recipient Name	DOB	Location	Purpose	Net Deposit
04/11/2024 15:32:32 CDT	120261253		Credit	Web	142076	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
04/11/2024 12:15:28 CDT	120259661		Credit	Web	138391	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
03/11/2024 13:01:56 CDT	118813173		Credit	Web	154707	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
01/24/2024 16:31:47 CST	114719791		Credit	Web	128391	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
01/22/2024 18:55:25 CST	114652131		Credit	Web	20000713	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
01/22/2024 18:43:30 CST	114668624		Credit	Web	142076	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
01/22/2024 15:02:30 CST	114625321		Credit	Web	135434	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
12/21/2023 16:50:28 CST	113456874		Credit	Web	106741	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
12/21/2023 15:27:11 CST	113429189		Credit	Web	149007	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
12/21/2023 15:24:21 CST	113438112		Credit	Web	146723	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00

Items per page: 10 1 - 10 of 10

From: Watts, David C. <David.C.Watts@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:35 AM
To: Comstock, Jessica <Jessica.Comstock@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Attachment

Apparently the I/I name is [REDACTED] not [REDACTED]

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From: Messier, Theresa <Theresa.Messier@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 3:53:10 PM
To: Comstock, Jessica <Jessica.Comstock@vermont.gov>; Watts, David C. <David.C.Watts@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Attachment

Her name is Jayna.

Theresa Messier
Superintendent
Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
7 Farrell Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
Phone: (802) 859-3207

From: Messier, Theresa
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:53 AM
To: Denton, Travis <Travis.Denton@vermont.gov>; Turner, David <David.Turner@vermont.gov>; Carr, Emily <Emily.Carr@vermont.gov>
Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Attachment

Jayna from FreeHer is now an approved volunteer for Mercy Connections. She would like to post the attached poster in each unit. Is this a violation of the rules?

Theresa Messier
Superintendent
Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
7 Farrell Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
Phone: (802) 859-3207

From: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 12:31 PM
To: Messier, Theresa <Theresa.Messier@vermont.gov>; Crump, Desiree <Desiree.Crump@vermont.gov>
Subject: Attachment

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.
 Sorry, here is the poster from FreeHer....



Kelly Moran (she/her)
Justice and Mentoring Coordinator
 A: 255 S. Champlain St., Suite #8, Burlington, VT 05401
 E: kmoran@mercyconnections.org
 O: (802) 846-7962

M: (802) 489-6048

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www.mercyconnections.org



From: [Dayno, Isaac](#)
To: [Sommer, Haley](#); [Deml, Nicholas](#)
Cc: [Livingston, Shayla \(she/her\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Feb 14 hearing - draft agenda
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:42:58 PM

FYI

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Ela Chapin <EChapin@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:13 PM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Cc: Martin LaLonde <mlalonde@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Feb 14 hearing - draft agenda

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Isaac,

I'm reaching out to check in about the upcoming hearing next Wednesday, Feb 14 from 9-12. Below is a draft agenda with the key questions we're trying to get at with the hearing. I've been encouraged to see if we can include Kathy Astemborki, if she is still coordinating services at the women's facility? Please share any questions or suggestions about what is outlined below.

We think it would flow best if you are first, hoping that you can provide a snap shot of the women's population, and also put it in context of the entire population of incarcerated Vermonters. If you're able to share a bit more about what you plan to cover, that would be helpful as we finalize the agenda. We will only have time for about 10-15 minutes of remarks - as we will expect a few minutes of questions as well. CRG will follow with a lot of data they plan to share. please feel free to reach out to them to coordinate. Also, we have invited the House Corrections & Institutions Committee, so this will likely be a joint hearing.

Influences on When and Why Women are Incarcerated in Vermont
Hearing of the House Committee on Judiciary

Wednesday, February 14

9am-12pm

DRAFT AGENDA

Key questions:

- What programs and policies influence whether justice-involved women end up in prison?
- What changes in access to programs and services, or to judiciary policies, would best support outcomes for justice-involved women?

Core inquiries:

- Charges and reasons that women are detained in prison
- Sentences/reasons women are incarcerated; types and lengths of sentences
- Trends over time
- Gender disparities related to charges, bail, sentencing, incarceration
- Community-based programs and services that help keep women out of incarceration
- Equitable access to programs and services that support justice-involved women

Testimony:

- Isaac Dayno, DOC (15 min)
- Monica Weeber and/or Robin Joy, CRG (20 min)
- Jess Kell, LUND & KidsAPart (10 min)
- Sarah Robinson & Kylen Veilleux, The Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (20 min)
- Rhoni Basden, VT Works for Women (10 min)
- Break (10 min)
- Tom Dalton & TBD, Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform (20 min)
- Defender General Matthew Valerio (20 min)
- Falco Shilling, ACLU (15 min)
- Jayna Ahsaf, FreeHer (10 min)

Thank you,

Ela

*Representative Ela Chapin
East Montpelier & Middlesex
echapin@leg.state.vt.us*

From: [Carter, Laura](#)
To: [Burke, Ana \(she/her/hers\)](#); [Rogers, Morgan](#)
Subject: Fw: FreeHer event
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:32:27 AM
Attachments: [NLG x FreeHer PNP Social Media Graphic \(1\).png](#)
[NLG x FreeHer PNP Event Flyer.pdf](#)

One of my friends is currently at the VLGS and she helped put this together, so I wanted to help her spread the word! If you could share this with folks who you think may be interested, that would be awesome!!

Laura Carter (she/her/hers)
Data Analyst; Division of Racial Justice Statistics
Office of Racial Equity

From: Laura Carter <l.carter515@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:29 AM
To: Carter, Laura <Laura.Carter@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FreeHer event

You don't often get email from l.carter515@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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----- Forwarded message -----
From: Anna Shelley <annashelley09@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 18, 2024, 9:28 AM
Subject: FreeHer event
To: Laura Carter <l.carter515@gmail.com>



People Not Prisons: Keeping People Out of Prison and Prisons Out of VT with FreeHer!



FEBRUARY 24TH @ 12PM-3PM

This event brings together organizers, attorneys, and survivors of carceral violence for a presentation designed to deprogram societal conditioning around prisons. Presenters will discuss: statistics around the carceral state of Vermont, legal strategies to challenge incarceration and the prison industrial complex, the goals and vision of abolitionists, the effectiveness of alternatives, everyday strategies to support the abolitionist movement, and lived experiences of being incarcerated.

REGISTER HERE: [COUNCIL.US/PNP](https://council.us/npn)

LOCATION: THE CHASE COMMUNITY CENTER AT THE VT LAW SCHOOL OR REGISTER TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK

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People Not Prisons: Keeping People Out of Prison and Prisons Out of VT with FreeHer!

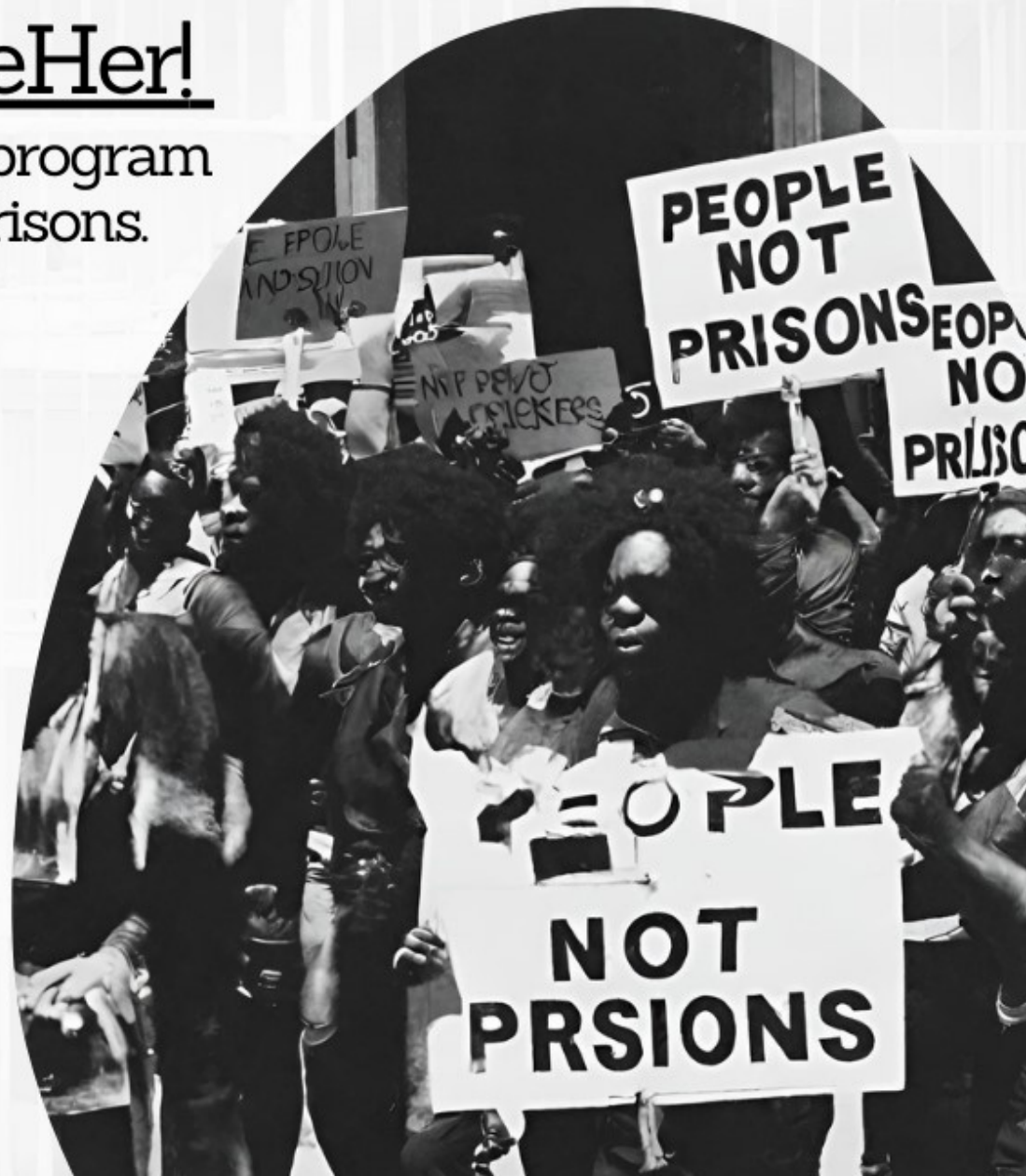
A presentation designed to deprogram societal conditioning around prisons.



February 24, 2023
12pm-3pm

speakers

- Andrea James, The National Council for Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls
- Theresa Vezina, VTCares
- Katie Bourque, Pathways
- Lisa Barrett, VT Freedom Fund
- And more!



From: [Dayno, Isaac](#)
To: [AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff](#); [Titus, Max \(they/them\)](#)
Subject: Fw: news coverage of health issues
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 1:28:17 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Forwarding for awareness – will plan to touch base with Roberts offline.

Thanks,

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Tristan D. Roberts <TRoberts@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 9:57 AM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Subject: news coverage of health issues

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Isaac,

This story has been brought to my attention and I'm being asked about it by constituents:

<https://www.wcax.com/2024/03/28/advocates-say-inmates-with-chronic-conditions-not-receiving-adequate-health-care-behind-bars/>

This individual testified before HCI and we heard their story. It certainly was concerning, and I do not recall any DOC response. Is there a DOC response to this?

I know that DOC can't comment on a specific case like this. However, there are times, as with the recent FreeHer testimony, when background information from DOC is helpful in contextualizing alarming claims.

Thank you,

Tristan

Rep. Tristan D. Roberts
[Member](#), Vermont General Assembly
Windham-6: Halifax, Whitingham, Wilmington
Clerk, [House Committee on Corrections and Institutions](#)
troberts@leg.state.vt.us

Cell: 802-275-2881

Statehouse: 802-828-2228



From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Jayna Ahsaf](#)
Subject: FW: Request for CRCF Info
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 10:21:00 AM

Hi again Jayna – Below is Shawntel’s response regarding the questions you’re asking about. The commissary information is located on the website as well – under the Financial and Budgeting tab. If you can’t read it, perhaps you could request that from Shawntel directly.

Thanks,
Kathy

*Kathy Astemborski (she/her)
Women’s Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511*

From: LaCroix, Shawntel <Shawntel.LaCroix@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 10:15 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for CRCF Info

Hi Kathy,

A copy of the commissary menu is available on the DOC website under the Financial & Budgeting tab - Current Contracts and is under the Contract and Amendment 1 – It is a terrible copy and is not very legible. I have a legible copy available.

I would agree to refer her to the website dashboards. You are more than welcome to send her my way and I can fulfill this Public Records Request.

Best,
Shawntel LaCroix
Records and Information Tech III
State of Vermont | Department of Corrections

NOB 2 South | 280 State Drive | Waterbury, VT 05671
802-241-0069 | Shawntel.LaCroix@vermont.gov

My work hours may not be your work hours. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside your normal work schedule.

From: [Smith, Kelly,J](#)
To: [Zonay, Thomas](#); [Clark, Charity](#); [Deml, Nicholas](#); [Winters, Chris](#); [Farrell, Willa](#); [Jennifer Poehlmann](#); [Monica Weeber](#); [Davis, Xusana](#); [Trevor Squirrel](#); [Boudreau, Lindy](#); [NorthReid, Tiffany](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#)
Subject: FW: Transportation for Women Reentering from Prison
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 4:21:19 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

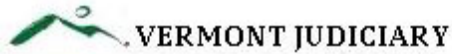
Some people who received this message don't often get email from kelly.j.smith@vtcourts.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please see the below request with Judge Zonay's response. This will be an agenda item when we get the next meeting set up. Thank you.

From: Zonay, Thomas <Thomas.Zonay@vtcourts.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 1:56 PM
To: Smith, Kelly,J <Kelly.J.Smith@vtcourts.gov>
Subject: FW: Transportation for Women Reentering from Prison

Could you please send the below message and response out to the members of the Council for me? Thanks.



Thomas A. Zonay
Chief Superior Judge
State of Vermont

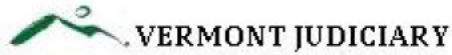
From: Zonay, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 1:55 PM
To: 'Jayna Ahsaf' <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Cc: Monica Weeber <monicaw@crgvt.org>; Smith, Kelly,J <Kelly.J.Smith@vtcourts.gov>
Subject: RE: Transportation for Women Reentering from Prison

Ms. Ahsaf:

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to me on this issue.

I will provide a copy of your communication to the members of the Council. I will also add the topic to our next meeting agenda to see how the Council wishes to proceed with the request. The date and time for that meeting have not yet been set, but it is expected to be in the next few weeks.

I will be in touch after the meeting. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to let me know any questions you may have.



Thomas A. Zonay
Chief Superior Judge
State of Vermont

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 1:07 PM
To: Zonay, Thomas <Thomas.Zonay@vtcourts.gov>
Subject: Transportation for Women Reentering from Prison

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Judge Zonay,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Jayna Ahsaf, and I lead the [FreeHer VT campaign](#) and volunteer for the Vermont Freedom Fund. I'm reaching out to see if you may be able to help us figure out how to support women with transportation when they are reentering from prison.

Through my work with both groups, I have seen that women rarely have reliable transportation when released. Volunteers from the bail fund and other community members frequently have to provide folks with rides, bus passes, or train tickets because many people incarcerated in CRCF have to travel extremely far distances home after release—often without money, a phone, or proper clothing.

I recently contacted Isaac Dayno with the Department of Corrections about this issue, and he suggested I reach out to you about the potential use of funds from the Criminal Justice Reform Advisory Council to purchase tickets, support community groups in coordinating rides, or support a different solution.

Lack of transportation is a system-wide issue affecting not only those at CRCF but all prisons. However, I do believe it is important to begin by focusing on developing solutions around this for women due to the specific dangers around trafficking and abuse that make their reentry a particularly vulnerable moment.

Thank you,
Jayna Ahsaf

--

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

94 Colchester Ave

Burlington, VT 05401

(802)324-9534

<https://nationalcouncil.us/>

Together, we can end incarceration of women and girls as we know it today. Become a National Council [member](#) today for only \$5 per year. #FreeHer

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Cormier, Alan](#)
Subject: FW: Unable to get you on the phone
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 11:33:32 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Al – On Monday I received the email below from Joanne Nelson regarding her communication with Jayna. I was disappointed at the way she explained why Jayna’s status as a mentor was being denied. As I said to Jo below, we had discussed the concerns about the letter, but it was the commissary donation that was the reason for the denial. When I had spoken with Jo the week before she told me she had already come to that conclusion herself and I was glad that we were in agreement. Her letter to Jayna clearly put that decision only on me and DOC “headquarters”. I had asked Jo to clarify that if Jayna called her. Jo had tried to reach Jayna by phone several times before sending the email and Jayna didn’t return her call.

Today I received an email from the Senior Counsel at the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls demanding I reinstate Jayna’s status as mentor. She says denying Jayna’s opportunity to mentor women because of her political speech violates her first amendment rights. I’ll send that along as well. Jo’s note to her clearly offers the opportunity to discuss this further, it’s unfortunate she chose not to call and speak with me and/or Jo, and instead chose to blow this up.

My plan is to discuss this with Jo first and suggest a meeting with the 3 of us. Once I have a plan, and hopefully a meeting scheduled, I’ll let the senior counsel woman know the plan.

Does that sound ok?

Kathy

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 9:54 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Unable to get you on the phone

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Yes, I will do that. My apologies if I didn’t represent you well enough. I’ll definitely clarify! Thank you.

From: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 9:49 AM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: RE: Unable to get you on the phone

Good Morning Jo – it sure is nice to see the sun shining and all the green that has popped up!

Thanks for sending this to me. Although I certainly had concerns about the letter that was distributed about the woman's story regarding her arrest experience and breastfeeding, it is really the commissary donations in Jayna's name that is the issue. If she does reach out to you, could you make that clarification? I do hope she gives you a call, and I would welcome her reaching out to me as well. As we said on the phone, her heart and passion are in the right place!

Have a great day and week!
Kathy

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 8:55 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Unable to get you on the phone

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning, Kathy, hope you had a nice, sunny weekend.

FYI, below, my email to Jayna Ahsaf, regarding her mentor status. I am sure we covered the DOC no-gifting policy during mentor training and will continue to make that point. In hindsight, I just don't see a way I could have avoided this.

I am sorry about this outcome, but I hope with a little more communication from FREEHER to the DOC, things could change in the future.

Have a good day,

Jo

From: Joanne Nelson
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 8:50 AM

To: jahsaf@thecouncil.us

Cc: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>

Subject: Unable to get you on the phone

Good morning, Jayna,

I hope you are well and had a great weekend. What beautiful weather!

I am writing to you because I couldn't get you on the phone last week and want to be sure to follow up with you and our last conversation about mentoring at Mercy Connections.

Unfortunately, Kathy Astemborski has received word from DOC headquarters that they won't be able to clear you to be a *contracted* volunteer at this time. Kathy said that the letter about the struggle of a formerly incarcerated mother at CRCF and the letter, with your name on it, about funding incarcerated women at CRCF, were the two stumbling blocks. Specifically, regarding the DOC gift-giving policy, which prohibits gifts to incarcerated women, and that is applied to all contracted services like the VT Women's Mentoring Program, they have decided that they cannot support your participation as a mentor at this time.

Kathy would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further. I expressed my disappointment because we need good mentors like you, and she agreed. She also hopes she might enter into conversation with you ahead of time on FREEHER work for incarcerated women at CRCF in the future, for a different outcome, and I know she is very sincere in this!

I regret that this is the outcome for now but be assured that I'm hopeful for your participation in mentoring in the future. You are welcome at Mercy Connections, and we look forward to our professional collaboration. Thank you for being such a good human and for the powerful work you do.

Please call if you have a minute?

Thank you,

Jo



Joanne Nelson, M.Ed., MA.Th. (she/her)

Director of Justice & Mentoring

A: 255 S. Champlain St., Suite #8, Burlington, VT 05401

E: jnelson@mercyconnections.org

O: (802) 846-7164

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www.mercyconnections.org





From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [tabitha](#)
Subject: Fwd: Minutes from the 6/7/24 meeting
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:22:53 PM

Hi All - I'm fine with discussing this further, but at the heart of Jayne's concerns seems to be the underlying issue which we had hoped to resolve with creating the group purpose. Her concerns seem to fall back on wanting the group to discuss alternatives to a new facility.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:59:55 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Cc: Brian Cina <bcina@leg.state.vt.us>; tabitha <tabitha@intentional-evolution.com>
Subject: Re: Minutes from the 6/7/24 meeting

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello Kathy,

I understand. However, I don't think it's clear that we're referencing the accuracy of the minutes here, and it could be interpreted as the stakeholders not having concerns about what's being discussed. It would be better to shift the language to something like: "There have not been any concerns around the content or coverage of the minutes, and stakeholders will be able to share concerns in the legislative report."

We can discuss further if necessary, but it would be great to schedule a time to meet regardless so we can discuss the mentoring situation.

Thank you,
Jayna

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)
VT Campaign Director
The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls
94 Colchester Ave
Burlington, VT 05401
(802)324-9534
<https://nationalcouncil.us/>

Together, we can end incarceration of women and girls as we know it today. Become a National Council member today for only \$5 per year. #FreeHer

On Wed, Jun 19, 2024 at 8:55 AM Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

| Good Morning Jayna,

The concern you bring up about the meeting minutes related to the topic of note taking for the group. The group agreed that the meeting minutes reflected the content of the meetings accurately. I think if the stakeholder group authors a report at the end of the year for the legislature, that would be the place to document ongoing concerns people have within the group. As the notes indicate, that report would provide stakeholder members the space to explain their own thoughts on the new facility project.

Does that make sense?

Thank you,

Kathy

Kathy Astemborski (she/her)

Women's Services Division Director

Vermont Department of Corrections

NOB 2 South

280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671

802-296-5511

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 8:29 PM

To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>

Cc: Brian Cina <bcina@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Re: Minutes from the 6/7/24 meeting

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize

and trust the sender.

Hi Kathy,

Thank you for sending the notes out. I do have one note here about the language: "There have not been any concerns around the content or coverage of the meetings." I feel this is a bit misleading when Rep. Cina and I have expressed our disappointment at multiple meetings that we are only considering a new prison in the Stakeholder Group and also that there are not currently incarcerated women involved in the process.

It feels important to clarify in the minutes that there have been concerns raised around the focus of our ongoing discussions and the lack of inclusion of people with lived experience.

Best,

Jayna

On Tue, Jun 18, 2024 at 12:46 PM Astemborski, Kathy
<Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Dear Stakeholders,

Attached are the meeting minutes from our 6/7/24 meeting. Please review and let me know if any amendments need to be made. Our next meeting will be held on 9/20/24 from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Ash Conference room at the Waterbury State Office Complex.

Thank you for your participation in this important process.

Stay cool today!

Kathy

Kathy Astemborski (she/her)

Women's Services Division Director

Vermont Department of Corrections

NOB 2 South

280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671

802-296-5511

From: [Jess Kell](#)
To: [AHS - DOC CRCF Shift Supervisors](#)
Subject: KAP visitors Tues 10.8.24
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 12:40:40 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Esther Ray and Jayna Ahsaf from Free Her will be here at 3:15 to meet with Jess in the KAP space. No II's will attend this meeting.



JESS KELL
Kids-A-Part Parenting Program Coordinator
She/Her/Hers

Direct 802.859.3227

Fax 802.863.7473

www.lundvt.org

7 Farrell Street
South Burlington, VT 05403



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From: [Sommer, Haley](#)
To: [Dayno, Isaac](#)
Subject: Leg Debrief - April 26, 2024
Date: Friday, April 26, 2024 4:15:16 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)



April 26, 2024

Team,

Please see DOC's Legislative Debrief below:

- *House Corrections & Institutions, [S.195](#) - An act relating to how a defendant's criminal record is considered in imposing conditions of release*
 - DOC spent [Wednesday](#) and [Thursday](#) in HCI to discuss S.195. If passed, it would create a pretrial supervision program overseen by DOC.
 - S.195 was amended to state DOC is not expected to operationalize the program until it is appropriately resourced.
 - The bill does not currently provide positions to staff the program or sustainable funding for its operation.
 - The Committee punted further exploration of sustainable funding to Joint Justice Oversight Committee, which will be tasked with providing recommendations for funding mechanisms for the program this Fall.
 - S.195 passed out of committee this afternoon and will now go to conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate bills.
- *Senate Judiciary, [H.876](#)- An act relating to miscellaneous corrections laws*
 - [H.876](#), HCI's committee omnibus bill, was introduced in Senate Judiciary for discussion, but Legislative Counsel was out sick so Senators were not yet familiar with the bill before taking testimony from various advocacy groups.
 - Advocacy groups, including ACLU and FreeHer Vermont, largely focused on their concerns toward building a new women's facility.
 - DOC was not asked to testify on the bill today but was able to chime in to correct the record and provide additional clarity.

Next week, Commissioner Deml will testify on H.876 in Senate Judiciary. HCI is also interested in exploring DOC vocational training and Wi-Fi needs.

Best,

Haley & Isaac

From: [Sommer, Haley](#)
To: [Dayno, Isaac](#)
Subject: Leg Debrief - April 26, 2024
Date: Friday, April 26, 2024 4:15:14 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)



April 26, 2024

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Best,

Haley & Isaac

From: [Sommer, Haley](#)
To: [Dayno, Isaac](#)
Subject: Leg Debrief - April 26, 2024
Date: Friday, April 26, 2024 4:16:03 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)



April 26, 2024

Team,

Please see DOC's Legislative Debrief below:

- *House Corrections & Institutions, [S.195](#) - An act relating to how a defendant's criminal record is considered in imposing conditions of release*
 - DOC spent [Wednesday](#) and [Thursday](#) in HCI to discuss S.195. If passed, it would create a pretrial supervision program overseen by DOC.
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Next week, Commissioner Deml will testify on H.876 in Senate Judiciary. HCI is also interested in exploring DOC vocational training and Wi-Fi needs.

Best,

Haley & Isaac

From: Jayna Ahsaf (FreeHer)
To: [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [Eberle, Kate](#); [AHS - WSOC Red Oak 49 Rm A283](#); [Brown, Cary](#); [Martin, Jill](#); [Montgomery, Darla](#); [Corsones, Therese](#); [Zonay, Thomas](#); [Lueders-Dumont, Timothy](#); [Karish, Tabrena](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [Cormier, Alan](#); [Place, Meghan](#); [Lane, Ellie](#); [Kathy Fox](#); [Alison Lamagna](#); [Rhoni Basden I She/Her](#); [Sarah Robinson](#); [Karen Tronsgard-Scott](#); [jahsaf](#); [Brian Cina](#); [Falko Schilling](#); 8:orgid:8010d576-0832-4f55-bd81-3cd65bdf9fa5; 8:orgid:62380972-0e3a-4a13-a618-746cc84f2800; [Moore, Tabitha](#)
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 2:54:55 PM

stack

From: Jayna Ahsaf (FreeHer)
To: [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [Eberle, Kate](#); [AHS - WSOC Red Oak 49 Rm A283](#); [Brown, Cary](#); [Martin, Jill](#); [Montgomery, Darla](#); [Corsones, Therese](#); [Zonay, Thomas](#); [Lueders-Dumont, Timothy](#); [Karish, Tabrena](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [Cormier, Alan](#); [Place, Meghan](#); [Lane, Ellie](#); [Kathy Fox](#); [Alison Lamagna](#); [Rhoni Basden I She/Her](#); [Sarah Robinson](#); [Karen Tronsgard-Scott](#); [jahsaf](#); [Brian Cina](#); [Falko Schilling](#); 8:orgid:8010d576-0832-4f55-bd81-3cd65bdf9fa5; 8:orgid:62380972-0e3a-4a13-a618-746cc84f2800; [Moore, Tabitha](#)
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 2:38:27 PM

I'm unsure of how they plan to plug us in

From: Jayna Ahsaf (FreeHer)
To: [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [Eberle, Kate](#); [AHS - WSOC Red Oak 49 Rm A283](#); [Brown, Cary](#); [Martin, Jill](#); [Montgomery, Darla](#); [Corsones, Therese](#); [Zonay, Thomas](#); [Lueders-Dumont, Timothy](#); [Karish, Tabrena](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [Cormier, Alan](#); [Place, Meghan](#); [Lane, Ellie](#); [Kathy Fox](#); [Alison Lamagna](#); [Rhoni Basden I She/Her](#); [Sarah Robinson](#); [Karen Tronsgard-Scott](#); [jahsaf](#); [Brian Cina](#); [Falko Schilling](#); 8:orgid:8010d576-0832-4f55-bd81-3cd65bdf9fa5; 8:orgid:5e3a0928-fc94-4a87-927f-0f75688cc388; 8:orgid:62380972-0e3a-4a13-a618-746cc84f2800; [Moore, Tabitha](#)
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 2:13:42 PM

Thank you. There are just a few people outside the view of the camera that I can't see at the end of the table

From: Jayna Ahsaf (FreeHer)
To: [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [Eberle, Kate](#); [AHS - WSOC Red Oak 49 Rm A283](#); [Brown, Cary](#); [Martin, Jill](#); [Montgomery, Darla](#); [Corsones, Therese](#); [Zonay, Thomas](#); [Lueders-Dumont, Timothy](#); [Karish, Tabrena](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [Cormier, Alan](#); [Place, Meghan](#); [Lane, Ellie](#); [Kathy Fox](#); [Alison Lamagna](#); [Rhoni Basden | She/Her](#); [Sarah Robinson](#); [Karen Tronsgard-Scott](#); [jahsaf](#); [Brian Cina](#); [Falko Schilling](#); 8:orgid:8010d576-0832-4f55-bd81-3cd65bdf9fa5; 8:orgid:5e3a0928-fc94-4a87-927f-0f75688cc388; 8:orgid:62380972-0e3a-4a13-a618-746cc84f2800; [Moore, Tabitha](#)
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 1:50:44 PM

Is there a way for folks who are in the room to say who they are so folks online know who's speaking?

From: Jayna Ahsaf (FreeHer)
To: [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [Eberle, Kate](#); [AHS - WSOC Red Oak 49 Rm A283](#); [Brown, Cary](#); [Martin, Jill](#); [Montgomery, Darla](#); [Corsones, Therese](#); [Zonay, Thomas](#); [Lueders-Dumont, Timothy](#); [Karish, Tabrena](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [Cormier, Alan](#); [Place, Meghan](#); [Lane, Ellie](#); [Kathy Fox](#); [Alison Lamagna](#); [Rhoni Basden I She/Her](#); [Sarah Robinson](#); [Karen Tronsgard-Scott](#); [jahsaf](#); [Brian Cina](#); [Falko Schilling](#); 8:orgid:8010d576-0832-4f55-bd81-3cd65bdf9fa5; 8:orgid:5e3a0928-fc94-4a87-927f-0f75688cc388; 8:orgid:62380972-0e3a-4a13-a618-746cc84f2800; [Moore, Tabitha](#)
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 1:45:37 PM

Are we sharing what we think the purpose of this group is now?

From: Jayna Ahsaf (FreeHer)
To: [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [Eberle, Kate](#); [AHS - WSOC Red Oak 49 Rm A283](#); [Brown, Cary](#); [Martin, Jill](#); [Montgomery, Darla](#); [Corsones, Therese](#); [Zonay, Thomas](#); [Lueders-Dumont, Timothy](#); [Karish, Tabrena](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [Cormier, Alan](#); [Place, Meghan](#); [Lane, Ellie](#); [Kathy Fox](#); [Alison Lamagna](#); [Rhoni Basden I She/Her](#); [Sarah Robinson](#); [Karen Tronsgard-Scott](#); [jahsaf](#); [Brian Cina](#); [Falko Schilling](#); 8:orgid:8010d576-0832-4f55-bd81-3cd65bdf9fa5; 8:orgid:5e3a0928-fc94-4a87-927f-0f75688cc388; 8:orgid:62380972-0e3a-4a13-a618-746cc84f2800; [Moore, Tabitha](#)
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 1:35:19 PM

Can I please share next?

From: Jayna Ahsaf she/her (FreeHer)
To: [Smith, Kelly,J](#); [Zonay, Thomas](#); willa.farrell@vermont.gov; [Rutherford, Joshua](#); [Monica Weeber](#); [Ainsworth, MaryJane](#); [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [Sarah Robinson](#); [Miodownik, Derek](#); [Renfrew, Cassidy](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Marvel, Gary D](#); 8:orgid:f73875d1-7747-434b-be60-024aa0bc3010; 8:live:nhashim88; [Davis, Xusana](#); [Boudreau, Lindy](#); [Rachel Jolly](#); [Farrell, Willa](#); [Yasmin Dwedar](#)
Date: Thursday, September 12, 2024 1:47:32 PM

I will email you. Thanks, Sarah!

From: [Sommer, Haley](#)
To: [AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff](#)
Subject: Media Readout 8/12/24
Date: Monday, August 12, 2024 4:34:23 PM

No meeting readouts today but did want to keep folks in the loop on a few press developments.

- Women's facility hot topics:
 - FreeHer protest
 - FreeHer organized a protest this morning outside of Freeman French Freeman demanding they sever their contract with us (they actually do not have an active contract with us so not the best placement of FreeHer's efforts).
 - Vermont Public and NBC5 will be reporting on the event. Cmr did an interview with NBC5 and I spoke with Vermont Public on background.
 - WCAX published an article in advance of the protest today and then subsequently removed it (nice).
 - Bill Schubart article
 - Bill Schubart, a columnist at VTDigger, will be publishing an article tomorrow on the women's facility debate. I would like to say it leans positive towards DOC, or at least is complimentary of our efforts in this space.

Best,

Haley Sommer (she/her)
Director of Communications & Legislative Affairs
Vermont Department of Corrections
802-793-9075

From: [Sommer, Haley](#)
To: [AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff](#)
Cc: [Sommer, Haley](#)
Subject: Meeting Readout 7/13/24
Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 9:40:50 AM

A day late but wanted to share a few takeaways from yesterday's meetings.

DOC and BGS FY26 Cap. Bill Requests:

- What:
 - Discussed priority capital bill requests for the next biennium:
 - HVAC Phase II funding – \$5.5M in FY26 request
 - Women's facility funding – TBD
 - NSCF boiler replacement – \$3.5M
 - Accessibility upgrades – TBD
 - Door control renovations
 - NWSCF booking expansion – will target this in next half of biennium
- Who:
 - Al/Kristin/Haley/BGS
- Next steps:
 - DOC to decide how much funding we want to request for FY26 women's facility funding

DOC and BGS FY26 Cap. Bill Requests:

- What:
 - Isaac and Haley met with Reps. Ela Chapin and Angela Aresnault of House Judiciary and Women's Caucus to provide updates on women's facility design process and Essex sites
 - Discussed future involvement with the women's caucus in the upcoming session
 - Rep. Chapin suggested providing a wider overview of DOC's plans for women's services, to include all community investments
 - She believes not approaching the new facility in a vacuum will create more support for it
 - Reps asked if there was any outcome to the CRCF investigation about the letter FreeHer circulated
 - Reps suggested DOC come up with a concise vision statement for the new facility for messaging purposes
- Next steps:
 - I/H to revisit CIU investigation for outcomes we can communicate to them
 - I/H to work on creating a broader visual picture of women's services at DOC for public consumption/Women's Caucus

Best,

Haley Sommer (she/her)
Director of Communications & Legislative Affairs

Vermont Department of Corrections
802-793-9075

From: [Bill Schubart](#)
To: [Deml, Nicholas](#); [Steventon, Cheyenne](#)
Subject: Needs quick attention if possible
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 8:34:07 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Nick. This is the first of two. Can you give it a quick review and let me know what if anything needs to be changed or enhanced. Feel free to suggest other info as well. Have to file tomorrow at 11.

Many thanks.
Bill

Let's keep ourselves out of prison

Schubart VT Digger column for Sunday 031724 (974 words)

I think a lot about the criminal justice system. At 79, I've mostly evaded its embrace except for a few driving offenses, a surprise visit from the FBI and a college incident in Ohio that I was too drunk to remember, but one that landed me in a drunk tank for an evening.

I have friends who've been on both sides of the system: both transgressors and enforcers: police, lawyers, judges, jailors and, like many, I understand the system is antiquated, broken, and needs to be reimaged.

The good news is there are many working today to build a better, more just system, one that maintains the goal of safeguarding the public from chronic violence and theft while, but abandons the Old Testament model of punishment and atonement.

There are domestic and international models from which we can learn like the much touted [Norway model](#), the [Portuguese decision to decriminalize drug addiction and replace jail with addiction treatment](#), or pioneering work being done nearby in the [State of Maine](#) as well as work being done in our own state that has reduced our incarcerated population by almost half.

The question we must ask ourselves is, are we a punitive society or a supportive community that invests in our citizens and shares prosperity? Do we invest in people and communities... or jails, homeless shelters, and emergency rooms?

The United States has the [highest per capita incarceration rate in the world](#) including Russia and China. Only Massachusetts has a lower per capita rate than Vermont. As of March 11, Vermont's total incarcerated population was 1363, of which 112 are female. 124 men are housed out-of-state at [CoreCivic](#) in Mississippi, a for-profit prison company. Vermont's total population under some form of community supervision is 3141 on probation, 6459 on parole, and 246 on furlough.

A rapidly growing rate of geriatric prisoners reflecting long sentencing has put a severe burden on all prison systems, especially as it relates to the correctional

system's obligation to provide healthcare. Given [very low recidivism rates for male prisoners over the age of 40 \(7.5%\)](#), why not enable prisoners to earn early release and better prepare them for reentry?

In my next column, I will write about an innovative program underway between [Community College of Vermont \(CCV\)](#) and [Vermont Department of Corrections \(DOC\)](#).

Ninety-eight percent of people currently serving in Corrections will eventually return to society. So it's in our own self-interest that they be prepared to rejoin their families, friends, and communities.

A former Commissioner of Corrections once reminded me that Corrections doesn't put people in jail, police, prosecutors, legislators, juries (us), and judges do. Corrections is their keeper, charged with maintaining a secure facility and ensuring the health and wellbeing of those in their care. Many correctional systems, including Vermont's, understand that as part of their mission they must prepare those in their care for a life outside. That may include language and literacy, basic education, job training, addiction treatment, healthcare, and/or trauma-informed counseling. So given the certainty of reentry into our communities, how do we best use an incarcerated person's time inside?

First, we must understand the [criminogenic](#) environment outside and how it can lead to criminal behavior. Studies have shown that [between 62-87% of incarcerated adult males have experienced trauma exposure at some point in their lifetime, prior to incarceration](#).

We also know that [the prefrontal cortex matures more slowly in boys than in girls](#). Put simply, young boys and men do more stupid things when they're young. Do we really all want to be measured solely by the worst mistake we made in our lives? Did nothing else matter? Are we only the sum of our worst behavior?

At the time of arraignment, what if the judiciary required a professional evaluation to determine whether a defendant's alleged crime resulted from poverty, physical or mental illness, substance abuse, disability, gambling, addiction or the intergenerational transfer of trauma?

If any of these latter causes were determined to be the genesis of the alleged crime, treatment would replace judicial process and sentencing.

Such a system would significantly reduce the court backlog that denies so many alleged perpetrators the constitutionally guaranteed right to a "speedy trial.

The unintended consequence of this process change, however, would place immense pressure on us as a society to invest in our community and family-support systems: addiction treatment, mental-health counseling, healthcare access, education and job training, and anti-poverty efforts (housing, hunger etc.) – initiatives which will reduce entry into our criminal justice system. All of these preventative initiatives are woefully inadequate and underfunded.

Meanwhile, Governor Scott's administration has introduced [plans to build a new prison estimated to cost \\$70 million](#), although the Governor's own office estimates it may well cost twice that. What community support services could we deploy for that amount?

Meanwhile, Vermont's [hunger, homelessness](#), and [poverty rates](#) are rising. So too has the reported incidence of young people suffering from mental health issues. [Between 2018 and 2021 Vermont experienced a 60% increase in children ages 3-8 years old with a mental, emotional or a behavioral health condition presenting as anxiety, depression or behavioral and conduct problems.](#)

We know, but have yet to act on, the certainty that moving our social and economic investments upstream to education, intervention, prevention, and access to services will radically reduce our costs or remediation, repair, and restoration. We can measure our societal failures by the number of people waiting in emergency rooms, shooting up on our streets, or wasting time behind bars.

[Most Vermonters want a more effective criminal justice system](#), one that reduces the use of jails and focuses on causation, prevention, and community supports. And thanks to [Vermont ACLU's Smart Justice Campaign](#), Jayna Ahsaf of the "[Vermont – FreeHer Campaign](#)", and visionary leadership in Vermont's DOC, we are seeing significant progress. But the outcome is up to us.

--

Bill@Schubart.com (Schubart@gmail.com)
[Website](#)

"Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

_Dylan Thomas

Sign up to receive semi-monthly [Bill's VTDigger column](#)

From: [Rose, Jacqueline](#)
To: [Gorton, Kimberly](#)
Cc: [Titus, Max \(they/them\)](#); [Tevah, Aviva](#)
Subject: RB ltr Aug 24
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 11:14:35 AM
Attachments: [ltr \[REDACTED\] July 2024.docx](#)

Hi Kim,

Attached is a letter we would like to send to [REDACTED].
Can you take the next steps, and let me know anything I can do to support?
Sending in Word but can sign a PDF in office if that works better.

Thanks,
jacq

Jacqueline Rose, MPH (she/her)
VT DOC Health Equity Program Director
(802) 798-2406

From: [Deml, Nicholas](#)
To: [Rice, James](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff](#)
Cc: [Livingston, Shayla \(she/her\)](#); [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [Sprafke, Jennifer](#)
Subject: RE: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:40:56 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Can you ask Jen to coordinate with Aaron? I also asked CIU to investigate. If they can send a coordinated message to all HCI and Rep. Cina, that would be helpful.

FYI—Kathy has some helpful background on the case.

N

From: Rice, James <James.Rice@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:39 AM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>; AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>; Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>
Cc: Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>; Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>; Sprafke, Jennifer <Jennifer.Sprafke@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Good Morning. Below is a draft response form CS. Would you like Jen to respond with this message?

Jim Rice
(he/him/his)
Executive Director, Office of Professional Standards and Compliance
Vermont Department of Corrections
1713 Industrial Parkway
Lyndonville, VT 05851
802-661-8452
James.rice@vermont.gov

From: Sprafke, Jennifer <Jennifer.Sprafke@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:33 AM
To: Rice, James <James.Rice@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Draft response

Representative Cina,

I am the PREA and Constituent Services Unit Director. I want to thank you for bringing these

very concerning issues to our attention. I want to assure you that we are investigating all areas of concern that were mentioned. As soon as I have responses I will be in touch with that information. I will not be able to share any specifics about the individual, but I will be able to let you know of any issues with procedures and processes.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any further concerns.

Thank you,
Jen

From: Rice, James <James.Rice@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:22 AM
To: Sprafke, Jennifer <Jennifer.Sprafke@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:48 PM
To: Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>; AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>
Cc: Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>; Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Attached.

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:33 PM
To: Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>; AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>
Cc: Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

I do not – I am asking Alice for it.

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:32 PM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>; AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>
Cc: Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

Do you have the attachment?

Nicholas J. Deml (He/Him)

Commissioner

Vermont Department of Corrections

Email: nicholas.deml@vermont.gov

Phone: 802-241-0059 | Mobile: 802-904-3407

<https://doc.vermont.gov>

My working hours may not be your working hours. Please do not feel obligated to

reply outside of your normal work schedule.

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:29:00 PM
To: AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>
Cc: Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fw: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

FYSA

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:00 PM
To: jahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>; AEmmons <AEmmons@leg.state.vt.us>; Chip Troiano

<CTroiano@leg.state.vt.us>; mmorrissey <mmorrissey@leg.state.vt.us>; John Arrison <JArrison@leg.state.vt.us>; Michelle Bos-Lun <MBosLun@leg.state.vt.us>; Conor Casey <CCasey@leg.state.vt.us>; Gina M. Galfetti <GGalfetti@leg.state.vt.us>; Troy Headrick <THeadrick@leg.state.vt.us>; Wayne Laroche <WLaroche@leg.state.vt.us>; Eric Maguire <EMaguire@leg.state.vt.us>; Tristan D. Roberts <TRoberts@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Philip Petty <ppetty@leg.state.vt.us>; Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>

Subject: Re: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you for sharing this with us. I am increasingly appalled by the violations of human rights happening in our correctional facilities. I don't know what it's going to take for people to have the courage to truly change our ways. It's too bad we could not do anything this year that would meaningfully improve the current conditions or take steps forward to a better way of holding people accountable and providing the care needed for them to recover and rejoin society prepared to contribute and to thrive.

---Brian



Brian Cina

VT State Representative, Chittenden 15
Old North End | East District, Burlington
House Health Care Committee
House Ethics Panel

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 6:18 PM

To: Alice Emmons <AEmmons@leg.state.vt.us>; Chip Troiano <CTroiano@leg.state.vt.us>; Mary Morrissey <MMORRISSEY@leg.state.vt.us>; John Arrison <JArrison@leg.state.vt.us>; Michelle Bos-Lun <MBosLun@leg.state.vt.us>; Conor Casey <CCasey@leg.state.vt.us>; Gina M. Galfetti <GGalfetti@leg.state.vt.us>; Troy Headrick <THeadrick@leg.state.vt.us>; Wayne Laroche <WLaroche@leg.state.vt.us>; Eric Maguire <EMaguire@leg.state.vt.us>; Tristan D. Roberts <TRoberts@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Philip Petty <PPetty@leg.state.vt.us>; Brian Cina <BCina@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: [External] Submitting Written Testimony on Behalf of Women in CRCF

[External]

Hello Committee Members,

I hope this email finds you well. FreeHer has received written testimony from a woman

named [REDACTED] who is currently incarcerated in Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF). I have attached her testimony to this email so committee members can read through it.

It is our hope at FreeHer that you all continue to value input from those most directly impacted by the prison system in your discussions around a replacement facility and also continue to seek input from the community on this process.

Thank you in advance for your care and consideration.

Warm regards,
Jayna Ahsaf

--

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

94 Colchester Ave

Burlington, VT 05401

(802)324-9534

<https://nationalcouncil.us/>

Together, we can end incarceration of women and girls as we know it today. Become a National Council [member](#) today for only \$5 per year. #FreeHer

This message has originated from an **External Source**. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

From: [Dayno, Isaac](#)
To: [Cormier, Alan](#); [Deml, Nicholas](#); [Sommer, Haley](#)
Cc: [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [Steventon, Cheyenne](#); [Carr, Emily](#); [Fisher, Lauri](#)
Subject: Re: Architects of Vermont's Future
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 6:38:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

//+ Emily and Lauri to Cc

Hi Al,

Can we bounce some ideas around on this at Exec/ATC this week?

I want to support FFF but I also think the best solution is ignoring this fringe group.

Emily and Lauri were also taking a look at this – it does start to feel a bit defamatory, but I'll leave that to the attorneys...

Thanks!

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Cormier, Alan <Alan.Cormier@vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 10:59:18 AM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>; Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>; Sommer, Haley <Haley.Sommer@vermont.gov>
Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Architects of Vermont's Future

Alex Halperin from Freeman French and Freeman called me this morning after receiving the below email, which was sent to all architectural firms in the state yesterday from FreeHer. Obviously Alex is concerned about the email as well as the protests that have recently occurred in front of their building. I have advised him not to engage with them and direct the FreeHer people back to us. He is asking if we could provide him a short writeup highlighting the potential benefits of the project so that he can share with other architects should they reach out to him. Issac/Haley is this something you could draft up for Alex?

Alan Cormier
Chief of Operations

Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South, 280 State Dr.
Waterbury VT 05671-2000
802-473-6148



From: thecatchall acct <thecatchallacct@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:28 PM

To: pabiles@birdseyevt.com; chrisadamsarchitect@gmail.com; jba@scottpartners.com; koanworkshop@gmail.com; architec@wcvr.com; jarbuckle@e4harchitecture.com; rarnold@arnoldandscangas.com; jashworth@bsaarchitects.com; bill@austin.design; wcbadger@badgerandassociates.com; laura@maclayarchitects.com; cbalzano@gbarchitecture.com; frank.j.barrett@verizon.net; tarynb@duncanwisniewski.com; bastrood@gmavt.net; mbeattie.arch@gmail.com; beaudin@comcast.net; jbeck@fffinc.com; mark@rhbpc.com; pbelaski@verizon.net; alan@sdvermont.com; info@maplevalleyvt.com; stephen@smithandvansant.com; Shawn Brennan <sbrennan@fffinc.com>; chris@brownanddavis.com; abrown@doreandwhittier.com; robertpeabodybrown@gmail.com; robert.buchan.architect@gmail.com; TomBurseDesigns@gmail.com; ksbushey@veic.org; mbushey@truexcullins.com; dbushey@e4harchitecture.com; calabresearchitects@gmail.com; rcampbell@kalinassociates.com; racz3@aol.com; ccarey@cccarchitect.com; jcarney@e4harchitecture.com; echampagne@e4harchitecture.com; achardain@birdseyevt.com; arthurc@duncanwisniewski.com; info@studiobluearchitecture.com; JC@linesync.com; jblclancy@artarchitects.com; sva@valley.net; steve@colinlindberg.com; susan@studiobvt.com; james.n.coe@gmail.com; info@merrimackdesign.com; connell@madriver.com; gcorey@clarch.com; Josh Crandall <jcrandall@fffinc.com>; andrew@robitaillecurtis.com; edapont@norwich.edu; info@brownanddavis.com; hdavis@neagleychase.com; adavis@jggarchitects.com; davis@utiledesign.com; rdeane@truexcullins.com; daniellemacauslan@gmail.com; kdesroches <kdesroches@wiemannlamphere.com>; deweyaia@sover.net; erika@eldarchitecture.com; Jim Drummond <jimkd@blackriverdesign.com>; sdumont@bensonwood.com; bobd@duncanwisniewski.com; edg@edgcombdesign.com; info@redwardsandcompany.com; depstein@truexcullins.com; mle@ertelarchitects.com; bob@escherdesigninc.com; steve@rcwa.com; jodie@rootsarchitecture.design; terry.findeisen@gmail.com; mgfdesigns@gmail.com; tforcier@doreandwhittier.com; stephen.frey <stephen.frey@gmail.com>; cgear@pillmaharam.com; kevin@maplevalleyvt.com; Daniel@gehringdesignbuild.com; adam@aginsburgarchitects.com; vt@jggarchitects.com; info@goldstonearchitecture.com; dgoltzman@redstonevt.com; contact@gbarchitecture.com; rrg@rgavt.com; clarkgraffarchitect@gmail.com; info@josepharchitects.com; fg@gvarchitects.com; ahalpern <ahalpern@fffinc.com>; byron@hgarchitects.com; joan@joanheatonarchitects.com; thengelsberg@doreandwhittier.com; liz@eharchitect.com; mch@studiox-smp.net; paul@paulhopperassociates.com; hortonfw@leapfroginet.com; genmail@annbeha.com; harry@harryhuntarchitects.com; lh@leehunterarchitect.com; chrish@rearchcompany.com; misty@fifthwallarchitecture.com; tkarlhuber@truexcullins.com; Karolina@kawiaka.com; andrea@vermontintegratedarchitecture.com; rkielman@truexcullins.com;

Lizakilcoyne@aesnortheast.com; alex@hgarchitects.com; johnkjios.architect@gmail.com; dkorzun@gbarchitecture.com; steve@mcleodkredell.com; Jen@jlanearchitct.com; clange@fffinc.com; lightspd@comcast.net; Brian Leet <bleet@fffinc.com>; colin@colinlindberg.com; aberry@stevens-assoc.com; info@hillviewdesign.com; brian@birdseyebuilding.com; smackenzie@mackenziearchitects.com; wmap@maclayarchitects.com; nelsonm <nelsonm@shksarchitects.com>; tamara@alpinearchitects.com; mmarx@us.ibm.com; gregor@studio3architecture.net; hal@huntingtonhomesvt.com; jeffm@sidehilldesign.com; bill@madmoosearchitecture.com; john@mcleodkredell.com; jmilleriaia@earthlink.net; kielmoe@hotmail.com; emorrow2030@gmail.com; ashar@vermontintegratedarchitecture.com; ingrid@banwellnh.com; matt@opalarch.us; sam@vermontintegratedarchitecture.com; joel <joel@scottpartners.com>; adamp@mckernongroup.com; dpill@pillmaharam.com; rudypolwin@gmail.com; Stephen Poston <sposton@truexcullins.com>; spottorf@architend.com; daniel@rcwa.com; SPugliese@sparchit.com; jpulver@breadloaf.com; mpurvis@3riverdesigngroup.com; greg@rabideau-architects.com; brad@bradrabinowitzarchitect.com; mail@clarch.com; johnr@blackriverdesign.com; stefan@vermontintegratedarchitecture.com; Jesse Robbins <jrobbins@fffinc.com>; srooney@breadloaf.com; SRoy@wiemannlamphere.com; David Roy <droy@wiemannlamphere.com>; ernie@tekonikavt.com; bill@ryallsheridan.com; jon@jasworkshop.com; dsagan@sover.net; lsamter@gmavt.net; steve@s2architecturestudio.com; jeffs@madriver.com; sam@samarcht.com; Tyler@scottpartners.com; architecture@selinandselin.com; dave@sellersandcompany.com; sherefkin@gmail.com; ted@ryallsheridan.com; scott@simonsarchitects.com; info@sasarchitects.com; iz@sbavt.net; csmith@csmitharchitect.com; dougs@studionexusarch.com; carolstenberg@gmail.com; jstetter@pellasales.com; rstibolt@gmail.com; tolya@stonorovworkshop.com; info@sanfordstrauss.com; bob@bluetimecollaborative.com; jean@vermontintegratedarchitecture.com; anna@strukturvt.com; Thyme, Jessica <Jessica.Thyme@vermont.gov>; Kevin Trout <kevin@scottpartners.com>; tim@timuttarchitect.com; hevanmeter@gmail.com; cvarc@earthlink.net; dv@gvvarchitects.com; vitzthum@sover.net; av@gvvarchitects.com; volanskystudio@outlook.com; Jamie Wagner <jwagner@fffinc.com>; roy@ehdanson.com; vermontarchitecture@gmail.com; Archentasis@gmavt.net; jaywhitevt@gmail.com; jim@wfivt.com; wilsonarch@pshift.com; Michael Wisniewski <michaelw@duncanwisniewski.com>; ed@wastudio.com; Maura@classichomevt.com; twy@yandowarchitects.com; valzarro@live.com; dwheeler@gbarchitecture.com; Mark Wheeler <mark@ehdanson.com>; acsdesign@comcast.net; js@cushmandesign.com; elizabethsaleh@eharchitect.com; marc.rivard@woodworks.org; pmiller@gk-architects.com; miccal@tmdd.biz; kh@cushmandesign.com; hayslett@sover.net; cgordon@truexcullins.com; jessica@scottpartners.com; jgaddisdesign@gmail.com; cam@truexcullins.com; Nathalia Ellis <nellis@fffinc.com>; lpdore@doreandwhittier.com; stephen.depaul@ch2m.com; michael@haven-architecture.com; jchafe@truexcullins.com; nella@coeandcoearchitecture.com; deborah.brien@riverlightbuilders.com; slopezbarrera@middlebury.edu

Subject: Architects of Vermont's Future

Caution! This message originates outside Freeman French Freeman, Inc.

[Block sender](#)

Dear AIAVT Members:

Hello,

My name is Emily O'Hara: I'm a Burlington, Vermont resident; a taxpayer; a voter; and a nonprofit sector professional. I used to work at the [Low Income Housing Institute \(LIHI\)](#) in Seattle, Washington which had a team of architects that designed Tiny House Villages, shelters for the unhoused, Urban Rest Stops, and affordable long-term housing. I'm also a concerned community member and volunteer with FreeHer Vermont, the state campaign to end the incarceration of women and girls.

I'm reaching out today in hopes of connecting with one or several of you for a meeting with the FreeHer Campaign Director to discuss alternatives to incarceration.

- Based on research findings conducted by organizations like Impact Justice, we now know that prisons don't work. *If they did, we wouldn't need them.* Yet, we know that prisons don't provide "safety"; in fact, it's quite the opposite: Prisons further isolate people whose basic needs already were not met before entering prisons and incarceration creates additional barriers for people once they re-enter [the] community. *This all equates to people who do not heal and end up right back in prisons.*
- In the particular case of Vermont's Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF), the state's only women's facility which currently has ~130 women experiencing incarceration, about half of them are being detained, i.e. haven't even received their sentences yet.
 - The women at CRCF live in [deplorable conditions](#) and many have substance use disorder(s), mental health conditions, and/or lived experience with domestic violence, sexual violence, and/or human trafficking—or as is the case for nearly all of the women at CRCF, a combination of all three (DV, SV, and human trafficking). They have also faced sexual harassment, assault, and violence [while in \[the\] facility](#). *As much as the prison's main contractor, HOK, touts on its website, there's no such thing as a "[trauma-informed prison](#)", as echoed by the state of Massachusetts who has said no to HOK's prison proposal. (Prisons are inherently informed by trauma.)*

Architects and alternatives

- Burlington-based architect [Freeman French Freeman](#) (also on this email thread) has been subcontracted to design the new prison complex which is slated to cost upwards of \$500 million according to the latest Department of Corrections feasibility study. The prison is also projected to incarcerate more than 1,000 women when we currently only have a fraction of that population at CRCF.

- We have reached out to FFF several times—via email and in person—to try to talk about alternatives to incarceration ([Bill H.438](#) now in committee) such as those in Norway and [the UK](#). However, they have not shown any interest in communicating with us.
 - We're partnering with [Designing for Justice](#) to create an alternative plan and would like to collaborate with FFF (and/or other AIAVT members). *We understand that FFF values the community with its previous projects and are proposing that we use those tax dollars for something different that they could still be contracted to build.*
- Attached, please find additional information that explains the need for alternatives to incarceration. For example, we know that BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color communities) experience incarceration at [disproportionate rates](#).
 - For less than the prison price-tag—at an estimated \$300 million—Vermont's legislature and architecture firms, engineering firms, etc. could build new schools instead.
 - Instead of building a new women's prison, we could create healthy pathways for students' futures by divesting from incarceration and investing in education.
 - Instead of building a new women's prison, we could keep mothers with their children who could then go to school without the trauma of a justice-involved parent (studies show that kids of parents who are currently or formerly incarcerated are more likely to have interactions with the justice system, chronic health conditions, and high “ACE” [adverse childhood experiences] scores).

Would anyone from your AIA chapter be willing to initiate a conversation/meeting with FFF or otherwise?

Thank you, either way, for reading my email. I hope to hear from you so that we could collaborate further for Vermont's future.

In community,

Emily

thecatchallacct@gmail.com

(518) 802-7675

From: [Comstock, Jessica](#)
 To: [Messier, Theresa; Watts, David C.](#)
 Subject: RE: Attachment
 Date: Friday, May 31, 2024 12:49:08 PM
 Attachments:

No, she has not.

Thanks!

Jessica Comstock
 Administrative Services Coordinator I
 Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
 7 Farrell Street
 South Burlington, VT 05403
 Phone: 802-859-3205
 Fax: 802-863-7473

From: Messier, Theresa <Theresa.Messier@vermont.gov>
 Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 12:30 PM
 To: Comstock, Jessica <Jessica.Comstock@vermont.gov>; Watts, David C. <David.C.Watts@vermont.gov>
 Subject: RE: Attachment

Hello Jessica,
 Can you please tell me if Jayna Ahsaf placed any money on II's accounts since this email?

Theresa Messier
 Superintendent
 Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
 7 Farrell Street
 South Burlington, VT 05403
 Phone: (802) 859-3207

From: Comstock, Jessica <Jessica.Comstock@vermont.gov>
 Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:45 AM
 To: Watts, David C. <David.C.Watts@vermont.gov>; Messier, Theresa <Theresa.Messier@vermont.gov>
 Subject: RE: Attachment

There was a deposit made by Jayna Ahsaf on 12/21/2023. That was the only one on account.

Recipient Activity									
DOB:									
Start date		End Date		Recipient ID					
7/1/2023		5/1/2024		166723					
Q Search... Show/Hide Columns									
Date Time ↓	Notification #	Type	Source	ACH?	Trans. Status	Purpose	Depositor Name	Depositor Address	Net Deposit
02/04/2024 18:22:58 CST	117238121	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust			\$65.00
01/16/2024 14:03:37 CST	116345456	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust			\$45.00
01/12/2024 14:10:01 CST	116238100	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust			\$65.00
01/09/2024 12:30:49 CST	115901554	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust			\$100.00
12/24/2023 07:36:33 CST	113571267	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust			\$30.00
12/24/2023 06:07:25 CST	113521734	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust			\$100.00
12/23/2023 14:45:21 CST	113465336	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust			\$50.00
12/21/2023 16:24:21 CST	113438112	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust	Ahsaf, Jayna Carolyn		\$30.00
12/17/2023 20:35:21 CST	113266509	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust			\$50.00
12/06/2023 18:57:37 CST	112835497	Credit	Web	Y	Applied	Trust			\$50.00
Grand Total									\$1,970.00

Jayna has put money on other I/I accounts as well:

Depositor Activity - Ahsaf Jayna Carolyn

Ahsaf Jayna Carolyn, Address: [REDACTED]

Enter Name: Ahsaf Jayna Carolyn

Q Search... Show/Hide Columns

Date Time ↓	Receipt #	Photo	Type	Source	Recipient Id	Recipient Name	DOB	Location	Purpose	Net Deposit
04/11/2024 15:32:32 CDT	120261253		Credit	Web	142076	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
04/11/2024 12:15:28 CDT	120259661		Credit	Web	138391	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
03/11/2024 13:01:56 CDT	118813173		Credit	Web	154707	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
01/24/2024 16:31:47 CST	114719791		Credit	Web	128391	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
01/22/2024 18:55:25 CST	114652131		Credit	Web	20000713	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
01/22/2024 18:43:30 CST	114668624		Credit	Web	142076	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
01/22/2024 15:02:30 CST	114625321		Credit	Web	135434	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
12/21/2023 16:50:28 CST	113456874		Credit	Web	106741	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
12/21/2023 15:27:11 CST	113429189		Credit	Web	149007	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00
12/21/2023 15:24:21 CST	113438112		Credit	Web	146723	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OTHER	Trust	\$30.00

Items per page: 10 1 - 10 of 10

From: Watts, David C. <David.C.Watts@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:35 AM
To: Comstock, Jessica <Jessica.Comstock@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Attachment

Apparently the I/I name is [REDACTED] not [REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for IOS](#)

From: Messier, Theresa <Theresa.Messier@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 3:53:10 PM
To: Comstock, Jessica <Jessica.Comstock@vermont.gov>; Watts, David C. <David.C.Watts@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Attachment

Her name is Jayna.

Theresa Messier
Superintendent
Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
7 Farrell Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
Phone: (802) 859-3207

From: Messier, Theresa
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:53 AM
To: Denton, Travis <Travis.Denton@vermont.gov>; Turner, David <David.Turner@vermont.gov>; Carr, Emily <Emily.Carr@vermont.gov>
Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Attachment

Jayna from FreeHer is now an approved volunteer for Mercy Connections. She would like to post the attached poster in each unit. Is this a violation of the rules?

Theresa Messier
Superintendent
Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
7 Farrell Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
Phone: (802) 859-3207

From: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 12:31 PM
To: Messier, Theresa <Theresa.Messier@vermont.gov>; Crump, Desiree <Desiree.Crump@vermont.gov>
Subject: Attachment

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.
 Sorry, here is the poster from FreeHer....



Kelly Moran (she/her)
Justice and Mentoring Coordinator
 A: 255 S. Champlain St., Suite #8, Burlington, VT 05401
 E: kmoran@mercyconnections.org
 O: (802) 846-7962

M: (802) 489-6048

The connections make us whole.
www.mercyconnections.org



From: [Crump, Desiree](#)
To: [Joanne Nelson](#)
Subject: RE: Confirmed rescheduled date for Mentor Training is Wednesday, April 17, 5:30- 7:30pm or so
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 7:49:00 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

I'm glad to hear that everything went well and the group was able to meet with both of them

I can submit the 6 background checks this week. I don't think they will take long to come back. The person who runs them is pretty quick and on top of them.

I will get the listing of the upcoming trainings and send them your way once I get it. Thanks!

Desiree Crump
Assistant Superintendent
Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility

Email: desiree.crump@vermont.gov
Phone: 802-859-3204 | Mobile: 802-798-2851
7 Farrell St., South Burlington, VT 05403

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 2:12 PM
To: Crump, Desiree <Desiree.Crump@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Confirmed rescheduled date for Mentor Training is Wednesday, April 17, 5:30- 7:30pm or so

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

All went well last night, Desiree, and we got to say hello to Theresa as she walked through the lobby. She was so gracious to the group and thanked them for mentoring. I really appreciate that about her and you, the grace. It was very nice to spend time with Jordan- his training style and kindness went over well with the group.

Okay, as far as background checks, Jordan has the paperwork for 6 women. In addition, two women were not present last night. (One was very late at work, the other, Joyce Hagan, we knew would miss). I sent them the DOC paperwork package & will follow up and get it to you asap. (Joyce does not return from Europe (Lucky!) until a week from Saturday).

In the interest of moving things forward, would you consider running the 6 background checks? I am aware we need mentors.

Finally, for DOC training for Joyce Hagan & Myesha Dean, I think a virtual training would be fine! You could give me the next couple of dates, if that works, and I could offer them out to

them. I feel very confident about this because after all, our mentors never come into the facility without Kelly, and they are never alone there.

Sorry for the long email.

Thanks, again, have a nice, peaceful evening. It's been a week here. a lot of suffering among former mentees- hard to see. We supported them as we could.

Jo

From: Crump, Desiree <Desiree.Crump@vermont.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 9:51 AM

To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>

Cc: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>; Lila Kildon <lkildon@mercyconnections.org>

Subject: RE: Confirmed rescheduled date for Mentor Training is Wednesday, April 17, 5:30- 7:30pm or so

Hi Jo,

My apologies I didn't respond back to this one. Yes, we can figure out how to get her trained. If we can't do something here, worst case scenario the other volunteer coordinators each offer a virtual security training once per month (they each are assigned a week) that we can get her signed up for and once she completes that then we can have her come in for a tour.

Would it be possible to get her background check paperwork from you so that I can run it with the others in the list below?

Also, I don't see that Jayna and Emily have completed a background check so please have them fill out the paperwork with everyone else. I know Jayna is on someone's visiting list here but I'm not sure if she has ever come in.

Taylor is out sick this week, so our chief of security Jordan Pasha has graciously agreed to do this training for you tonight. He is an excellent trainer and does a wonderful job with the population so I'm sure everyone will get a lot out of his training. If you leave the training paperwork with Jordan he can give it to me tomorrow.

Thank you!

Desiree Crump
Assistant Superintendent
Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility

Email: desiree.crump@vermont.gov
Phone: 802-859-3204 | Mobile: 802-798-2851
7 Farrell St., South Burlington, VT 05403

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 8:52 AM
To: Riley, Taylor <Taylor.Riley@vermont.gov>; Crump, Desiree <Desiree.Crump@vermont.gov>
Cc: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>; Lila Kildon <lkildon@mercyconnections.org>; Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: RE: Confirmed rescheduled date for Mentor Training is Wednesday, April 17, 5:30- 7:30pm or so

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you, Taylor! Thank you, Desiree.

I will only have one woman who can't make it. Do you think you could work with me on figuring out how to get her in at another time?

Meanwhile, here is the list of names of the cohort:

Lila Kildon- Intern
Jayna Ahsaf
Madison Brown
Myesha Dean
Charlotte Dillon
Joyce Hagan- cannot make it- on vacation 4/10- 26.
Lee Younghwa
Madeline Murray-Clasen
Emily O'Hara

I think Jayna and Emily may already have had a background check? They work for the Network and FREEHER, respectively...so want to be sure you know this, although I may be completely wrong about any kind of background check, etc.

See you April 17, if not sooner!

Taylor and Desiree- please think about coming to Thursday Community Lunch at noon, sometime, anytime when you can. I would especially like to host you and make a big deal of Taylor as she has been very supportive of our program while Volunteer Coordinator!

From: Riley, Taylor <Taylor.Riley@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:39 AM
To: Crump, Desiree <Desiree.Crump@vermont.gov>; Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Cc: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>; Lila Kildon <lkildon@mercyconnections.org>

Subject: RE: Confirmed rescheduled date for Mentor Training is Wednesday, April 17, 5:30- 7:30pm or so

Works for me!

From: Crump, Desiree <Desiree.Crump@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:13 AM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>; Riley, Taylor <Taylor.Riley@vermont.gov>
Cc: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>; Lila Kildon <lkildon@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: RE: Confirmed rescheduled date for Mentor Training is Wednesday, April 17, 5:30- 7:30pm or so

Hi everyone,

That day originally worked for Taylor. I'll let her chime in and see if it still does. I appreciate everyone's flexibility in getting this week made up.

Thank you everyone!

Desiree Crump
Assistant Superintendent
Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
Email: desiree.crump@vermont.gov
Phone: 802-859-3204 | Mobile: 802-798-2851
7 Farrell St., South Burlington, VT 05403

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 4:57 PM
To: Riley, Taylor <Taylor.Riley@vermont.gov>; Crump, Desiree <Desiree.Crump@vermont.gov>
Cc: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>; Lila Kildon <lkildon@mercyconnections.org>; Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: Confirmed rescheduled date for Mentor Training is Wednesday, April 17, 5:30- 7:30pm or so

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Hello friends,

Well, Wednesday, April 17, is a winner since 7 or the 8 women in our current mentor training cohort can make it to the CRCF, for training with Taylor,(and a tour of facility. (I will have to make a special arrangement for the one who is on vacation, April 10- 26, 5:30- 8pm or so).

Does this date and time still work for you?

Reminder, Kelly may be on vacation, but I will be there.

If the date works, I'll send you the list of names, including perhaps our intern, Lila Kildon.

Thank you. Enjoy the sunshine tonight!

Jo & Kelly



Joanne Nelson, M.Ed., MA.Th. (she/her)

Director of Justice & Mentoring

A: 255 S. Champlain St., Suite #8, Burlington, VT 05401

E: jnelson@mercyconnections.org

O: (802) 846-7164

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www.mercyconnections.org



Mental Health
FIRST AIDER

From: [LaCroix, Shawntel](#)
To: [Jayna Ahsaf](#)
Subject: RE: Copy of Commissary Meny
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 1:02:00 PM
Attachments: [VT DOC Commissary Poster 11-2023.pdf](#)

Hi Jayna,

Please find the attached copy of the commissary menu.

Sincerely,

Shawntel LaCroix
Records and Information Tech III
State of Vermont | Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South | 280 State Drive | Waterbury, VT 05671
802-241-0069 | Shawntel.LaCroix@vermont.gov

My work hours may not be your work hours. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside your normal work schedule.

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 12:25 PM
To: LaCroix, Shawntel <Shawntel.LaCroix@vermont.gov>
Subject: Copy of Commissary Meny

You don't often get email from jahsaf@thecouncil.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello Shawntel,

I hope you are doing well. My name is Jayna Ahsaf and I lead the FreeHer VT campaign. I reached out to Kathy about a copy of the commissary menu and she told me to reach out to you if I was unable to read it on the DOC website. I'm hoping you might be able to share a legible copy with me.

Thank you,
Jayna Ahsaf

--

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

94 Colchester Ave

Burlington, VT 05401

(802)324-9534

<https://nationalcouncil.us/>

Together, we can end incarceration of women and girls as we know it today. Become a National Council [member](#) today for only \$5 per year. #FreeHer

From: [Livingston, Shayla \(she/her\)](#)
To: [Smith, Kendal](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#)
Cc: [Johnson, Jaye](#); [Deml, Nicholas](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [Fitch, Jennifer](#)
Subject: RE: Flagging Advocates in Sen. Inst. Today
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 1:18:48 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Stay out. Nothing to be won there.

From: Smith, Kendal <Kendal.Smith@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 12:15 PM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>; Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Jaye <Jaye.Johnson@vermont.gov>; Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>; Sommer, Haley <Haley.Sommer@vermont.gov>; Fitch, Jennifer <Jennifer.Fitch@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Flagging Advocates in Sen. Inst. Today

Received

Kendal Smith (she/her)
Director of Policy Development and Legislative Affairs
Office of Governor Phil Scott



State of Vermont
P. 802.828.3333
kendal.smith@vermont.gov | governor.vermont.gov



Help raise money for Vermonters impacted by flood damage and show your Vermont pride with *Vermont Strong* and *Tough Too* license plates and socks. [Click here to purchase your Vermont Strong gear](#) or visit DMV.Vermont.gov/VermontStrong23.

Impacted Vermonters can find resources and referrals by visiting Vermont.Gov/Flood.

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 11:45 AM
To: Smith, Kendal <Kendal.Smith@vermont.gov>; Livingston, Shayla (she/her) <Shayla.Livingston@vermont.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Jaye <Jaye.Johnson@vermont.gov>; Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>; Sommer, Haley <Haley.Sommer@vermont.gov>; Fitch, Jennifer <Jennifer.Fitch@vermont.gov>
Subject: Flagging Advocates in Sen. Inst. Today

Hi Kendal and Shayla,

Flagging the lead organizer for FreeHer, the abolitionist organization actively protesting the replacement for CRCF, is testifying in Senate Institutions today.

I can't imagine it'll be fertile ground in that committee, but wanted to flag the Department was not invited to give contextual testimony on this subject.

We'll be in Alice's committee all afternoon but let me know if you'd like one of us to pop down to monitor or if rather it's better for DOC not to be in the room.

Isaac

Senate Committee on Institutions

AGENDA

Room 7 and Zoom

January 9, 2024 - January 12, 2024

Last Updated 1/9/2024 2:41 PM

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are livestreamed at

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/senate-institutions>.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

1:00 PM Senate Floor

1:45 PM New Prison Construction

Free Her representative

Jayna Ahsaf, Vermont Campaign Organizer, National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls - Invited

2:00 PM

Wastewater Response and Recovery

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Joanne Nelson](#)
Cc: [Kelly Moran](#)
Subject: RE: Follow up, Mercy Connections
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024 8:01:00 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Thanks for the update Jo! Realizing you won't see this until Monday!
I'll send a cancellation for Monday's meeting and we can circle up at a later time.

Thank you,
Kathy

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 4:24 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Cc: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: Follow up, Mercy Connections

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Kathy,

I'm heading out for a few days, returning to work on Monday. Wanted to let you know I was unable to reach Jayna Ahsaf on the phone but left a voicemail. Will keep you posted. I did have a chance to discuss our conversation with Kelly, copied here.

By the way, we have a 9:30am check-in scheduled for next Monday, 5/20, but I don't think we need it. I am working on the data for the annual report for the mentoring program now, due June 30, and Kelly and I are working out the outline for the first 6-month report, due December 30, reflecting the edits to the contract. If it works for you, can I reschedule our meeting until we've had a little more time to work on both?

I'm flex!

Thank you.
Have a nice evening,

Jo



Joanne Nelson, M.Ed., MA.Th. (she/her)

Director of Justice & Mentoring

A: 255 S. Champlain St., Suite #8, Burlington, VT 05401

E: jnelson@mercyconnections.org

O: (802) 846-7164

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From: [Brothers, Rebecca](#)
To: [Pasha, Jordan J](#); [AHS - DOC CRCF Shift Supervisors](#)
Subject: RE: FreeHer VT Week of Action 2/29-3/6!
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:28:33 AM

Printed and placed on the cork board for easy access, if needed.

From: Pasha, Jordan J <Jordan.J.Pasha@vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 8:43 AM
To: AHS - DOC CRCF Shift Supervisors <AHS.DOCRCRFSS@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: FreeHer VT Week of Action 2/29-3/6!

On Sunday Free Her is planning a protest outside the facility. Free Her has protested here before and is generally very respectful of our property, our staff and our rules. I don't anticipate any issues, but I have attached a planned protest procedure that needs to be followed.

I will also advise SBPD of the plan.

From: Crump, Desiree <Desiree.Crump@vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 7:43 AM
To: Pasha, Jordan J <Jordan.J.Pasha@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: FreeHer VT Week of Action 2/29-3/6!

Sunday 3/3 from 11-12 there is supposed to be a FreeHer protest in front of the facility. They should be on the upper sidewalk by the road. Can you please put out a plan like you did last time so staff are aware and have guidance?

We aren't bringing them cookies or anything else like we did last time.

Thanks,

Desiree Crump
Assistant Superintendent
Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
Email: desiree.crump@vermont.gov
Phone: 802-859-3204 | Mobile: 802-798-2851
7 Farrell St., South Burlington, VT 05403

From: Messier, Theresa <Theresa.Messier@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 9:03 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>; Denton, Travis <Travis.Denton@vermont.gov>; Crump, Desiree <Desiree.Crump@vermont.gov>; Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: FreeHer VT Week of Action 2/29-3/6!

Please see below email regarding a protest on Sunday.

Theresa Messier
Superintendent
Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
7 Farrell Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
Phone: (802) 859-3207

From: Heather Newcomb <hnewcomb@vtworksforwomen.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 9:00 AM
To: Messier, Theresa <Theresa.Messier@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fw: FreeHer VT Week of Action 2/29-3/6!

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Theresa,

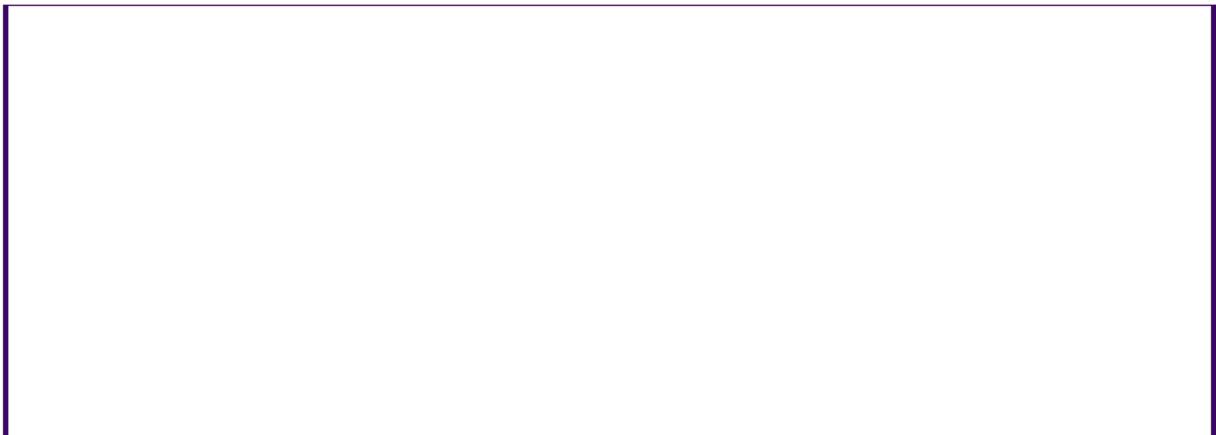
It looks like Free Her has another protest planned for Sunday 3/3 (see full email below) outside CRCF.

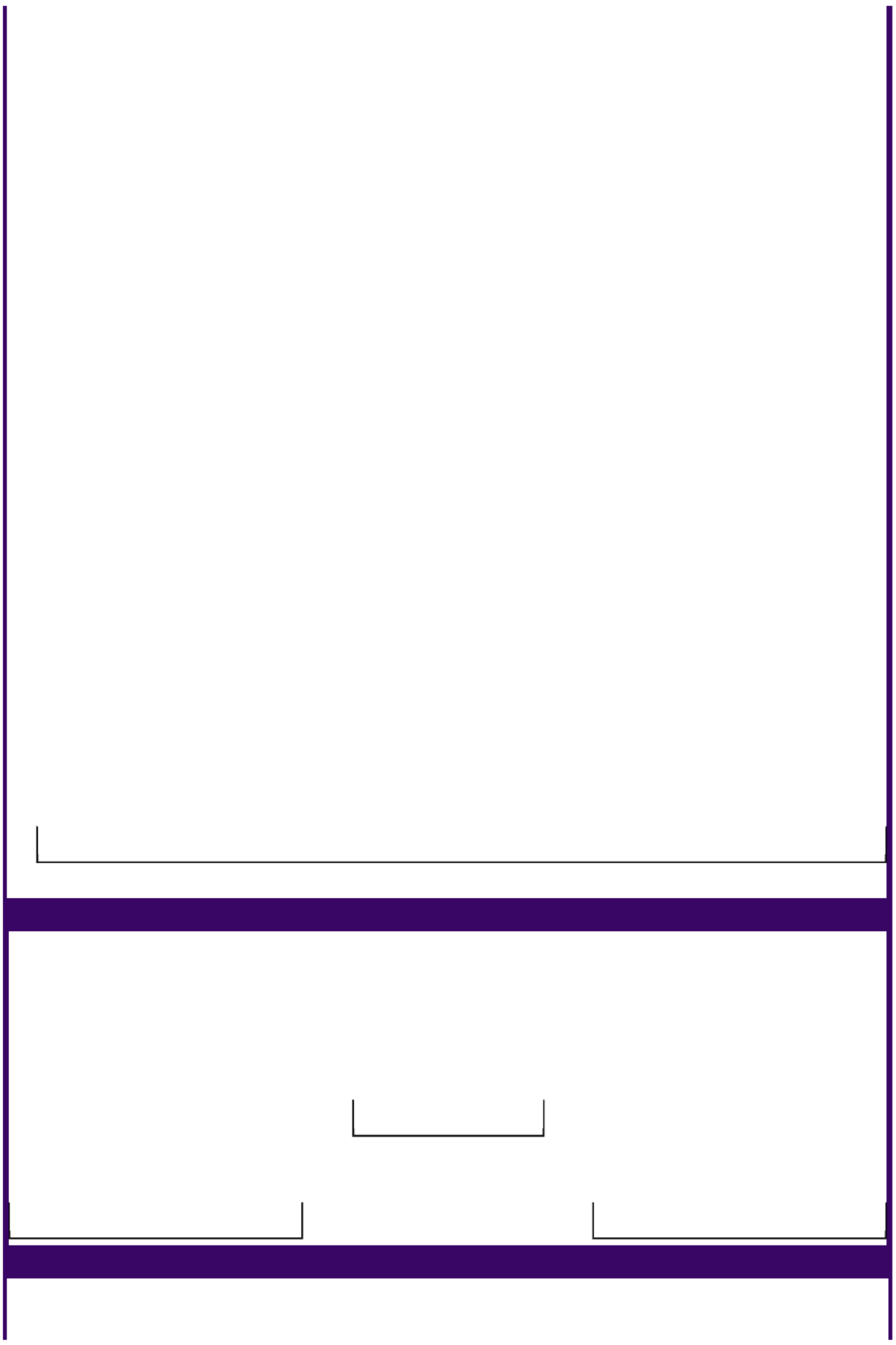
Just wanted to give you a heads-up so staff wasn't caught off guard and appropriate staffing can be coordinated.

Heather

----- Forwarded message -----

From: FreeHer Vermont Campaign <vermont@thecouncil.us>
Date: Tue, Feb 27, 2024, 8:00 AM
Subject: FreeHer VT Week of Action 2/29-3/6!





Dear Heather,

We are reaching out with some EXCITING news about our **SECOND Week of Action from 2/29-3/6** and other events we have coming up. We've got so many events planned, from dropping our new zine at the state house on Thursday, to a rally at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility on Saturday, to town halls and teach ins to learn more about the history of incarceration in VT.

This Week of Action is planned in advance of an important upcoming VT legislative deadline. March 17th is the "crossover" deadline, where bills that haven't made it through one chamber of the Legislature are "dead" for the year. We're asking folks to join us in ramping up pressure on legislators and building capacity leading up to that deadline.

We'll have toolkits available and more info in our week of action [linktree!](#) Sign up for events at <https://the-council.us/freeher> and learn more at our new landing page: <https://the-council.us/FreeHerVT>.

Save the Date for FreeHer's Other Upcoming Events:

No New Prisons: Reimagining Communities Through Collective Organizing

Please join the Will Miller Social Lecture Series Spring Event on 3/26 to hear from the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls and their FreeHer campaign. In the U.S., on any given day, there are approximately 250,000 women in jails or prisons on average. To end the use of women's prison, The Council has created a base-building theory of change, including hyper-local organizing, political education, and the national FreeHer campaign. The FreeHer Campaign is a distributed organizing, deep canvassing, issue advocacy campaign to raise awareness and shift public opinion toward their goals: ending incarceration of women, girls, trans, and non-binary and closing women's jails and prisons. Through their work, they have successfully delayed prison construction in Massachusetts, Alabama, and are now working to do the same in Vermont. Please join us for a panel discussion on how we can abolish women's prisons and shift investment into creating what different looks like for true public safety, transformation, and healing. Learn more and RSVP [here!](#)

When: March 26th, 2024, from 7:00pm - 9:00pm

10th Anniversary FreeHer March and Rally in Washington D.C.

The FreeHer March/Rally 2024 takes place on April 24, 2024. It is the 10th anniversary of the first FreeHer Rally in 2014. We are marching to encourage President Biden and state governors to exercise their clemency power to release women who are aging, elderly, terminally ill, long-timers, and incarcerated women who are survived and punished. The purpose of this national march and rally is to demand state and federal clemency now, and to uplift the national FreeHer campaign to end the incarceration of women and girls and shift resources currently spent on women's jails and prisons to investment in Reimagining Communities and what different looks like for addressing poverty, mental illness, lack of educational resources, and lack of housing. We will be bussing from Vermont in the early hours of the morning to Washington D.C for the march beginning at 11am, and then bus back home after it concludes. Please register [here](#) for more details and share around with your networks!

When: April 24th, 2024, from 11:00am - 4pm

**Please Continue Reading to Learn More About Our
Important Calls to Action!**

More Information on the FreeHer Calls to Action!

Contact Addison County State's Attorney & Bristol City Councilors in Response to 14-year-old being charged with second degree murder! Please continue reaching out to Eva Vekos, your elected State's Attorney, and City Councilors in Bristol to place pressure on Addison County officials to drop these charges. There are other ways to hold people accountable for their mistakes that do not need to involve incarceration and the inherent destruction of one's life that follows a prison sentence. You can learn more about the case and the negative effects of youth incarceration in the [Rutland NAACP' statement](#). Please find the contact information for Eva Vekos and Bristol City Councilors here: Eva Vekos: eva.vekos@vermont.gov; 802-388-7931 and Bristol City Councilors: [Selectboard | Town of Bristol, Vermont \(bristolvt.org\)](#)

Sign our Petition! We have made a petition to deliver to Governor Phil Scott during the legislative session to let him know we do not want more prison construction! Please consider signing your name and sharing the petition around to your comrades. It will take an impressive number of signatures to sway the Governor so please help us spread the word. Here is a short link you can share out: the-council.us/VTpetition

Support our Canteen Fund! Please sign up to help with our canteen fund which places money on folk's commissary in Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (the women's prison). We are looking to secure committed donations so please spread the word and consider signing up [here](#). We also would appreciate it if you can spread around our short link to help with fundraising efforts: the-council.us/vtcanteenfund

Join our volunteer base "People Not Prisons"! FreeHer VT needs more help spreading the word and organizing against the prison construction. PNP serves as a working group, training space, and overall infrastructure to hold all the work of FreeHer and create a funnel for new leaders to emerge. Our next PNP meeting will be on Thursday, December 7th at 6pm. Please reach out if you are interested and we will send you the zoom link.

Consider connecting with your legislators before the session starts to build support for H.445 and H.438! In order to pass the bills in the 2024 session we will need to garner massive support over the summer. This is only possible if folks like you reach out and let them know these are priorities for their constituents and districts. Legislators in Vermont are often very responsive so please consider calling, emailing, or asking them to meet you for coffee/tea! We are available to help prep for meetings or communication. Please reach out — we are here to support you! Please also see our toolkit information below and share the link out to your networks: nationalcouncil.us/Vermont. Specifically, if your representative is Rep. Alice Emmons, please reach out to us! Use our [instant action tool](#) to send emails out with a few clicks or check out our [targets and sample scripts](#) if you want to manually contact stakeholders.

Join us for events and help bring more people in! FreeHer is always hosting town halls, phone banks, canvasses, and more. Please join us for some events to help spread the word to our neighbors about the state's imminent plans to build new prisons. We need to funnel more people into the movement if we want to effectively interrupt this process!

We are so thankful for all of you helping us grow the campaign to what it is today! FreeHer is truly a people-powered movement, and we would not be here without you!

Join us for upcoming events like town halls, phone banks, canvasses, and more:

[Register for FreeHer VT events HERE!](#)

Recap of 2023! We extend all our gratitude and love to our FreeHer family and ally organizations —
onwards towards Abolition!

94 Colchester Ave
Burlington, VT 05401
FreeHer VT
The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

[The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls](#)

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please [unsubscribe](#).

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Shannon, Terence](#)
Subject: RE: Friday Meeting 6/7/24
Date: Thursday, June 6, 2024 2:38:00 PM

Thank you!

From: Shannon, Terence <Terence.Shannon@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2024 2:14 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Friday Meeting 6/7/24

received

From: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2024 2:03 PM
To: BGS - Security Visitors WSOC <BGS.SecurityVisitorsWSOC@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Friday Meeting 6/7/24

An addition to this list is John Campbell.
Could you please confirm receipt?

Thank you,
Kathy

*Kathy Astemborski (she/her)
Women's Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511*

From: Astemborski, Kathy
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 11:09 AM
To: BGS - Security Visitors WSOC <BGS.SecurityVisitorsWSOC@vermont.gov>
Cc: Steventon, Cheyenne <Cheyenne.Steventon@vermont.gov>; Martin, Cecile <Cecile.Martin@vermont.gov>
Subject: Friday Meeting 6/7/24

Good Morning – We will be hosting the New Women’s Facility Stakeholder Group meeting on 6/7/24 from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Oak Conference Room.

The following people are expected:

Annie Noonan

Heather Newcomb

Alison Lamagna

Rhoni Basden

Sarah Robinson

Karen Tronsgard-Scott

Kylen Veilleux

Tina Wood

Cary Brown

Lisa Falcone

Kelly Moran

Jess Kell

Kim Laroche

Jill Martin

Darla Montgomery

Linda Wentworth

Karen Edwards

Melissa Battah

Falko Schilling

Indi Schoenherr

Jayna Ahsaf

Brian Cina

Eric Maguire

Therese Corsones

Thomas Zonay

Billi Dunham

Tabrena Karish

Kate Eberle

Tabitha Moore

If any questions arise, I can be reached at the phone number below.

Thank you!

Kathy

Kathy Astemborski (she/her)

*Women's Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511*

From: [Alison Lamagna | She/Her](#)
To: [Joanne Nelson](#); [jahsaf](#); [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
Cc: [Cormier, Alan](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [tabitha](#); [Newcomb, H](#); [Rhoni Basden | She/Her](#); [Sarah Robinson](#); [Karen Tronsgard-Scott](#); [Kylan Veilleux](#); [Wood, Tina](#); [Brown, Cary](#); [Lane, Ellie](#); [Lisa Falcone](#); [Kelly Moran](#); [Kell-LUND, Jess](#); [Kim Laroche](#); [Martin, Jill](#); [Montgomery, Darla](#); [lindagay](#); [Falko Schilling](#); [Indi Schoenherr](#); [Brian Cina](#); [Eric Maguire](#); [Corsones, Therese](#); [Zonay, Thomas](#); [Dunham, Billi J.](#); [Lueders-Dumont, Timothy](#); [Place, Meghan](#); [Eberle, Kate](#); [Karish, Tabrena](#); [Steventon, Cheyenne](#)
Subject: RE: FW: New Women's Facility Stakeholder Meeting
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 1:23:09 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Jayna et. Al,

As the contracted service provider in CRCF providing employment readiness training and hard skills training, VWW would love to hear from Colleen! We are very interested and excited about the opportunities that will be available in a new facility to expand our offerings, enhance employment and training, and bring in new programming.

Thanks and looking forward to the next conversation.

Alison

Alison Lamagna
Director of Impact
Vermont Works for Women
(802) 655-8900, ext. 104
Pronouns: she/her

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 10:04 AM
To: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>; Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Cc: Cormier, Alan <Alan.Cormier@vermont.gov>; Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>; Sommer, Haley <Haley.Sommer@vermont.gov>; Tabitha Moore <tabitha@intentional-evolution.com>; Heather Newcomb <hnewcomb@vtworksforwomen.org>; Alison Lamagna | She/Her <alamagna@vtworksforwomen.org>; Rhoni Basden | She/Her <RBasden@vtworksforwomen.org>; Sarah Robinson <sarahkr@vtnetwork.org>; Karen Tronsgard-Scott <karents@vtnetwork.org>; Kylan Veilleux <Kylan@vtnetwork.org>; Wood, Tina <tina@disabilityrightsvt.org>; Brown, Cary <Cary.Brown@vermont.gov>; Lane, Ellie <Ellie.Lane@vermont.gov>; Lisa Falcone <lfalcone@mercyconnections.org>; Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>; Kell-LUND, Jess <jessk@lundvt.org>; Kim Laroche <kiml@lundvt.org>; Martin, Jill <Jill.Martin@vermont.gov>; Montgomery, Darla <Darla.Montgomery@vermont.gov>; lindagay <lindagay@protonmail.com>; Falko Schilling <fschilling@acluvt.org>; Indi Schoenherr <ischoenherr@acluvt.org>; Brian Cina <bcina@leg.state.vt.us>; Eric Maguire <EMaguire@leg.state.vt.us>; Corsones, Therese <Therese.Corsones@vtcourts.gov>; Zonay, Thomas <thomas.zonay@vtcourts.gov>; Dunham, Billi J. <bjf09020@ccv.vsc.edu>; Lueders-Dumont, Timothy <Timothy.Lueders-Dumont@vermont.gov>; Place, Meghan <Meghan.Place@vermont.gov>; Eberle, Kate <Kate.Eberle@vermont.gov>; Karish, Tabrena <Tabrena.Karish@vermont.gov>; Steventon, Cheyenne <Cheyenne.Steventon@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: New Women's Facility Stakeholder Meeting

Hi folks,

Jayna, thanks for this information. Colleen's work sounds great, and I would love to know more. Not sure what format would work best but trust that Kathy and all others will have good ideas about that.

Have a great day all, hoping you are all safe and well,

Jo- Mercy Connections

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 4:18 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Cc: Cormier, Alan <Alan.Cormier@vermont.gov>; Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>; Sommer, Haley <Haley.Sommer@vermont.gov>; Tabitha Moore <tabitha@intentional-evolution.com>; Newcomb, H <hnewcomb@vtworksforwomen.org>; Alison Lamagna <alamagna@vtworksforwomen.org>; Rhoni Basden | She/Her <rbasden@vtworksforwomen.org>; Sarah Robinson <sarahkr@vtnetwork.org>; Karen Tronsgard-Scott <karents@vtnetwork.org>; Kylene Veilleux <Kylene@vtnetwork.org>; Wood, Tina <tina@disabilityrightsvt.org>; Brown, Cary <Cary.Brown@vermont.gov>; Lane, Ellie <Ellie.Lane@vermont.gov>; Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>; Lisa Falcone <lfalcone@mercyconnections.org>; Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>; Kell-LUND, Jess <jessk@lundvt.org>; Kim Laroche <kiml@lundvt.org>; Martin, Jill <Jill.Martin@vermont.gov>; Montgomery, Darla <Darla.Montgomery@vermont.gov>; lindagay <lindagay@protonmail.com>; Falko Schilling <fschilling@acluvt.org>; Indi Schoenherr <ischoenherr@acluvt.org>; Brian Cina <bcina@leg.state.vt.us>; Eric Maguire <EMaguire@leg.state.vt.us>; Corsones, Therese <Therese.Corsones@vtcourts.gov>; Zonay, Thomas <thomas.zonay@vtcourts.gov>; Dunham, Billi J. <bjf09020@ccv.vsc.edu>; Lueders-Dumont, Timothy <Timothy.Lueders-Dumont@vermont.gov>; Place, Meghan <[Meghan.Place@vermont.gov](mailto: Meghan.Place@vermont.gov)>; Eberle, Kate <Kate.Eberle@vermont.gov>; Karish, Tabrena <Tabrena.Karish@vermont.gov>; Steventon, Cheyenne <Cheyenne.Steventon@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: New Women's Facility Stakeholder Meeting

Hello everyone,

I hope this email finds you well. Ahead of our September meeting, I wanted to see if there might be interest in inviting a guest, Colleen Coffey, to share about a workforce development program she has started in Maine's prison system. As a stakeholder group committed to creating the most successful solutions for incarcerated women possible, I believe it is important to explore what programming might be able to be implemented

now to change conditions and outcomes for incarcerated women.

Colleen Coffey facilitates a partnership between Maine's community colleges and prisons to offer a range of trade, technical, and career education programs. These initiatives empower incarcerated individuals with valuable skills and pathways to fruitful opportunities. She will be presenting at the Correctional Education Association's annual conference in Columbus, Ohio, underscoring the success of this programming. We believe her insights would greatly benefit our stakeholder group.

Please let me know if there is any interest in inviting Colleen Coffey to our upcoming stakeholder meeting or a smaller meeting with interested stakeholders.

If you would like to learn more about Colleen's work, you can find her bio below:

Colleen Coffey, M.S.Ed., Doctoral Candidate

Education Equity and Advancement Coordinator
Maine Community College System
Maine Department of Corrections

This innovative partnership in workforce development prison education offers trade, technical, and career education programming. Connecting Maine's community colleges to prison facilities, the programs range from bootcamp-style training in culinary arts, nation-wide certifications in production technology, commercial driving licensure, welding, and precision machining, as well as certifications in substance use recovery and human services. The partnership has grown from WCCC to YCCC, CMCC, and EMCC and across four prison facilities at Mountain View, Down East Correctional, Southern Maine Women's Reentry, and MCC.

A key component to the project is *Career and Release Ready* workshops offered alongside trainings which includes resume and cover letter writing, professionalism, interviewing (how to talk about charges), and covering soft skill techniques such as conceptualizing the release process, prioritizing tasks, and substance recovery resilience. Leading up to release, Colleen helps connect them with "second chance" employment and apprenticeship partners. These employers are committed to offering opportunities for job seekers impacted by the criminal justice system. Oakhurst Dairy, Cianbro, Reed and Reed Construction, MDOT, are just a few. Releasing residents who have benefited from this work start employment immediately—recently, two ladies had starting salaries at over \$70,000 in welding and MHRT-C respectively.

Areas of growth include expanding to Bolduc Correctional Facility, Maine State Prison, and Long Creek Youth Development Center, Southern Maine Community College, Kennebec Valley Community College, and Northern Maine Community College. Also on the horizon is professionally badging *Release Ready* and offering it as a 3-credit class. Employment partnerships will continue to expand, and educational opportunities will include building trades, small engine repair, automotive, heavy equipment operation, and aquaculture. This month Colleen will be presenting at the Correctional Education Association's annual conference in Columbus, Ohio to speak to

the success of this innovative partnership which is deeply committed to providing high paying jobs in high demand fields, placing the student first to create pathways to reentry success and reduce recidivism in Maine.

On Tue, Jun 18, 2024 at 12:53 PM Astemborski, Kathy

<Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

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From: [Jayna Ahsaf](#)
To: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
Cc: [Cormier, Alan](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [tabitha](#); [Newcomb, H](#); [Alison Lamagna](#); [Rhoni Basden I She/Her](#); [Sarah Robinson](#); [Karen Tronsgard-Scott](#); [Kylen Veilleux](#); [Wood, Tina](#); [Brown, Cary](#); [Lane, Ellie](#); [Joanne Nelson](#); [Lisa Falcone](#); [Kelly Moran](#); [Kell-LUND, Jess](#); [Kim Laroche](#); [Martin, Jill](#); [Montgomery, Darla](#); [lindagay](#); [Falko Schilling](#); [Indi Schoenherr](#); [Brian Cina](#); [Eric Maguire](#); [Corsones, Therese](#); [Zonay, Thomas](#); [Dunham, Billi J.](#); [Lueders-Dumont, Timothy](#); [Place, Meghan](#); [Eberle, Kate](#); [Karish, Tabrena](#); [Steventon, Cheyenne](#)
Subject: Re: FW: New Women's Facility Stakeholder Meeting
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 4:17:51 PM

You don't often get email from jahsaf@thecouncil.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello everyone,

I hope this email finds you well. Ahead of our September meeting, I wanted to see if there might be interest in inviting a guest, Colleen Coffey, to share about a workforce development program she has started in Maine's prison system. As a stakeholder group committed to creating the most successful solutions for incarcerated women possible, I believe it is important to explore what programming might be able to be implemented now to change conditions and outcomes for incarcerated women.

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substance recovery resilience. Leading up to release, Colleen helps connect them with “second chance” employment and apprenticeship partners. These employers are committed to offering opportunities for job seekers impacted by the criminal justice system. Oakhurst Dairy, Cianbro, Reed and Reed Construction, MDOT, are just a few. Releasing residents who have benefited from this work start employment immediately—recently, two ladies had starting salaries at over \$70,000 in welding and MHRT-C respectively.

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On Tue, Jun 18, 2024 at 12:53 PM Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Meeting ID: 233 481 614 795

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From: [Jayna Ahsaf](#)
To: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Request for CRCF Info
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 12:22:44 PM

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Hi Kathy,

Thank you for sharing all this information. I realized I asked for a list of DOC jobs when I meant to ask about the jobs available for incarcerated women in CRCF. The copy of the commissary menu is illegible, so I will also reach out to Shawntel!

Thanks,
Jayna

On Mon, Jul 15, 2024 at 10:21 AM Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi again Jayna – Below is Shawntel’s response regarding the questions you’re asking about. The commissary information is located on the website as well – under the Financial and Budgeting tab. If you can’t read it, perhaps you could request that from Shawntel directly.

Thanks,

Kathy

Kathy Astemborski (she/her)

Women’s Services Division Director

Vermont Department of Corrections

NOB 2 South

280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671

802-296-5511

From: LaCroix, Shawntel <Shawntel.LaCroix@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 10:15 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for CRCF Info

Hi Kathy,

A copy of the commissary menu is available on the DOC website under the Financial & Budgeting tab - Current Contracts and is under the Contract and Amendment 1 – It is a terrible copy and is not very legible. I have a legible copy available.

I would agree to refer her to the website dashboards. You are more than welcome to send her my way and I can fulfill this Public Records Request.

Best,

Shawntel LaCroix

Records and Information Tech III

State of Vermont | Department of Corrections

NOB 2 South | 280 State Drive | Waterbury, VT 05671

802-241-0069 | Shawntel.LaCroix@vermont.gov

My work hours may not be your work hours. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside your normal work schedule.

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Dayno, Isaac](#)
Subject: RE: House Jud: Women in DOC Custody Testimony (9-9:30am)
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 4:04:12 PM

We have the stats we need? Could you send me the slides if they're updated?

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 3:31 PM

To: Deml, Nicholas

Cc: Sommer, Haley; Astemborski, Kathy; Steventon, Cheyenne; Harrington, Lani; Rutherford, Joshua; Livingston, Shayla (she/her)

Subject: House Jud: Women in DOC Custody Testimony (9-9:30am)

When: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 9:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Room 267 of the Pavilion Building

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

9:00 AM

Detention and Incarceration of Women in Vermont

Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
- Invited

Monica Weeber, Executive Director, Crime Research
Group - Invited

Dr. Robin Joy, JD, PhD, Director of Research, Crime
Research Group - Invited

Kathy Astemborski, Director of Women's Services,
Department of Corrections - Invited

Jess Kell, Director of Kids Apart Program, Lund Center -
Invited

Sarah Robinson, MSW, Deputy Director, Vermont
Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence -
Invited

Rhoni Basden, Executive Director, VT Works for Women -
Invited

Tom Dalton, Executive Director, Vermonters for Criminal
Justice Reform - Invited

Matthew Valerio, Defender General, Defender General's
Office - Invited

Judge Thomas Zonay, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont
Judiciary - Invited

Falko Schilling, Advocacy Director, ACLU of Vermont -
Invited

Jayna Ahsaf, Vermont Campaign Organizer, National
Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated
Women and Girls - Invited

I'm reaching out to check in about the upcoming hearing next Wednesday, Feb 14 from 9-12. Below is a draft agenda with the key questions we're trying to get at with the hearing. I've been encouraged to see if we can include Kathy Astemborki, if she is still coordinating services at the women's facility? Please share any questions or suggestions about what is outlined below.

We think it would flow best if you are first, hoping that you can provide a snap shot of the women's population, and also put it in context of the entire population of incarcerated Vermonters. If you're able to share a bit more about what you plan to cover, that would be helpful as we finalize the agenda. We will only have time for about 10-15 minutes of remarks - as we will expect a few minutes of questions as well. CRG will follow with a lot of data they plan to share. please feel free to reach out to them to coordinate. Also, we have invited the House Corrections & Institutions Committee, so this will likely be a joint hearing.

Influences on When and Why Women are Incarcerated in Vermont
Hearing of the House Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, February 14
9am-12pm

DRAFT AGENDA

Key questions:

- What programs and policies influence whether justice-involved women end up in prison?
- What changes in access to programs and services, or to judiciary policies, would best support outcomes for justice-involved women?

Core inquiries:

- Charges and reasons that women are detained in prison
- Sentences/reasons women are incarcerated; types and lengths of sentences

- Trends over time
- Gender disparities related to charges, bail, sentencing, incarceration
- Community-based programs and services that help keep women out of incarceration
- Equitable access to programs and services that support justice-involved women

Testimony:

- **[N. Deml] , DOC (15 min)**
- Monica Weeber and/or Robin Joy, CRG (20 min)
- Jess Kell, LUND & KidsAPart (10 min)
- Sarah Robinson & Kylen Veilleux, The Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (20 min)
- Rhoni Basden, VT Works for Women (10 min)
- Break (10 min)
- Tom Dalton & TBD, Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform (20 min)
- Defender General Matthew Valerio (20 min)
- Falco Shilling, ACLU (15 min)
- Jayna Ahsaf, FreeHer (10 min)

Thank you,

Ela

Representative Ela Chapin
East Montpelier & Middlesex
echapin@leg.state.vt.us

We spoke back in December about our plans to hold a hearing to better understand the women's population in DOC custody, trends around this data and ways that community-based organizations support this population. I wanted to get back in touch and connect as we start to put together an agenda. We've scheduled the hearing for 9-12 on Wednesday Feb 14th. Is that a date that works for you?

I'm happy to talk again now that it is in the deeper planning stages. We certainly hope that between you and CRG we will get clear data on a snapshot in time of who is incarcerated and detained right now, and for what charges, and the trends of the population over time. I've been working with Robin Joy who is pulling data from the courts systems.

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Joanne Nelson](#)
Subject: RE: In person or onTeams
Date: Monday, July 8, 2024 1:48:00 PM

Yes – Jayna said that works for her

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 1:44 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: In person or onTeams

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I do, too. Will you two come to Mercy?

From: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 1:41 PM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: RE: In person or onTeams

Let's do in person – I think the conversation warrants that.
Thank you!

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 1:35 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: In person or onTeams

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Wonderful, thank you! on Teams or in-person?

From: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 12:41 PM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: FW: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

Hi Jo – Jayna can do 2:00 on 7/18.

Thank you!
Kathy

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 11:28 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Works for me! See you then.

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

94 Colchester Ave

Burlington, VT 05401

(802)324-9534

<https://nationalcouncil.us/>

Together, we can end incarceration of women and girls as we know it today. Become a National Council [member](#) today for only \$5 per year. #FreeHer

On Fri, Jul 5, 2024 at 10:51 AM Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jayne - glad the day works for you, would 2:00 be ok?

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2024 10:19:50 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Kathy,

The 18th works for me. I can meet you both there around 12pm if that time is open.

Jayna

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

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[Burlington, VT 05401](#)

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On Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 3:25 PM Astemborski, Kathy

<Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jayna – Would it work for you to meet on 7/18 to discuss mentoring, and we can certainly discuss other topics as well! I am planning to attend another meeting at Mercy Connections that day and wonder if meeting there works on your end? I'm not sure where you're coming from. Jo wanted to be a part of the mentoring conversation as well. If 7/18 works for you, could you let me know what time would work? Then I can try and loop Jo in.

Thanks,
Kathy

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>

Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 3:21 PM

To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>

Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>

Subject: Re: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Isaac,

Great. I asked Kathy to meet last week around some other issues so hopefully we can also discuss this. Kathy, I'm looking forward to hearing back from you!

I completely understand this is a system wide failure and not only affecting those at CRCF. However, there are several men's prisons enabling folks to be placed closer to home versus the one prison for women in Chittenden County. Many people incarcerated in CRCF have to travel extremely far distances home after release — oftentimes without money, a phone, or proper clothing. We also know that women do face specific dangers around trafficking and abuse that make their reentry a particular vulnerable moment.

I appreciate you sharing about the Criminal Justice Reform Advisory Council. Do you have a contact there you suggest I reach out to?

Thanks,

Jayna

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

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On Wed, Jun 26, 2024 at 9:09 AM Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jayna,

It would be great to have more community involvement in transportation for folks leaving State custody. Kathy would be a good point of contact on this as she helps coordinate the service providers within CRCF.

I'd also note there remains an outstanding need for community transportation for the 92% of Vermont's incarcerated population at facilities other than CRCF.

I think one potential source of funding for this work could be the Criminal Justice Reform Advisory Council. That pool of ~\$500K resets every year, and is meant to support these kinds of initiatives.

Thanks!

Isaac Dayno

State of Vermont

802-793-4392

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:07 PM

To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>

Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>

Subject: Re: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Isaac,

Thank you for all this information.

We have been reaching out to community organizations seeing if reentry transportation is something they can potentially help out with. It would be helpful to have a better understanding of what support you're able to provide for organizations interested in supporting reentry transportation.

Thank you,

Jayna

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

[94 Colchester Ave](#)

[Burlington, VT 05401](#)

(802)324-9534

<https://nationalcouncil.us/>

Together, we can end incarceration of women and girls as we know it today. Become a National Council [member](#) today for only \$5 per year. #FreeHer

On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 8:43 AM Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jayna,

Thanks for reaching out. I'm adding in [@Astemborski, Kathy](#) here as well as she knows a lot more about DOC than I do!

This is a really good question, and one we've discussed with community partners as well as legislators.

The short answer is that DOC itself does not provide transportation to individuals as they leave State custody. There are a few reasons for this, including legal and liability concerns and not wanting to extend the carceral system into the community.

DOC caseworkers do assist individuals in helping to arrange rides upon reentry. Incarcerated individuals are able to call friends and family to arrange pick ups or request a ride from a community provider (like a Turning Point recovery coach, for example).

DOC would very much support organizations from the community who could assist in this process. It's certainly a hurdle for many individuals reentering Vermont's communities, particularly as court hearings have increasingly shifted to remote arraignments.

Happy to discuss this more. Thanks for reaching out.

Isaac

Isaac Dayno

State of Vermont

802-793-4392

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 8:00 PM

To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>

Subject: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Isaac,

I'm hoping you can help me out with a quick question. Do you know if the DOC arranges transportation at the end of people's sentences?

Best,

Jayna

--

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

[94 Colchester Ave](#)

[Burlington, VT 05401](#)

(802)324-9534

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From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Jayna Ahsaf](#)
Cc: [Schultz, Mia](#)
Subject: RE: Listening Session in CRCF
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 11:01:00 AM

Good Morning Jayna and Mia,

Thank you for your interest in speaking with the women who are housed at CRCF. In order to consider this project, I'm hoping you could put together a full proposal. Please include the following:

- Goals of the project
- Objectives/desired outcomes
- Data you'll be using/collecting
- Methodology
- Partners/participants
- Evidenced-based practices you'll be utilizing

Does it make sense to have you write up the proposal and submit that information, then we could schedule a time to meet?

Let me know if you have questions!

Thank you,
Kathy

*Kathy Astemborski (she/her)
Women's Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511*

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 2:00 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Cc: Schultz, Mia <Mia.Schultz@vermont.gov>
Subject: Listening Session in CRCF

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Kathy,

I hope this message finds you well. I am reaching out on behalf of FreeHer VT and the [Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) to propose a collaborative initiative aimed at shedding light on the experiences and challenges faced by incarcerated people at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility.

We would like to facilitate a listening session within the prison, where incarcerated women and people can share their stories of discrimination, personal challenges, and experiences. This session will provide a platform for them to voice their struggles and aspirations, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the systemic issues they face.

Some of the objectives of this listening session are to highlight personal stories, allow women and people to share their experiences of discrimination and other challenges, and gather insights that can inform policy recommendations and advocacy efforts. We believe that this initiative aligns with the Department of Corrections' stated goals.

We are eager to discuss this further and explore how we can work together to make this listening session a reality. Please let us know a convenient time for a meeting or call to discuss the details.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,
Jayna Ahsaf

--

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

94 Colchester Ave

Burlington, VT 05401

(802)324-9534

<https://nationalcouncil.us/>

Together, we can end incarceration of women and girls as we know it today. Become a National Council [member](#) today for only \$5 per year. #FreeHer

From: [Rutherford, Joshua](#)
To: [Deml, Nicholas](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [King-Mohr, Jessica](#); [Murray, Chrysta \(she/her\)](#); [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
Cc: [AHS - DOC Research & Data Unit](#); [Harrington, Lani](#); [AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff](#)
Subject: RE: MBL Question / FreeHer Campaign
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 10:15:14 AM

I talked to Jess and took the lead on this specifically so I could provide a little context around those detainee numbers.

Answers at below. I disregarded earned time and looked at sentence as imposed by the court.

As far as splits, I only looked at the “to-serve” sentence of those – in other words, how long individuals will need to be incarcerated.

From: Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 8:45 AM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>; King-Mohr, Jessica <Jessica.King-Mohr@vermont.gov>; Murray, Chrysta (she/her) <Chrysta.Murray@vermont.gov>; Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Cc: AHS - DOC Research & Data Unit <AHS.DOCResearchDataUnit@vermont.gov>; Rutherford, Joshua <Joshua.Rutherford@vermont.gov>; Harrington, Lani <Lani.Harrington@vermont.gov>; AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: MBL Question / FreeHer Campaign

//+ Kathy

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 8:41 AM
To: King-Mohr, Jessica <Jessica.King-Mohr@vermont.gov>; Murray, Chrysta (she/her) <Chrysta.Murray@vermont.gov>
Cc: AHS - DOC Research & Data Unit <AHS.DOCResearchDataUnit@vermont.gov>; Rutherford, Joshua <Joshua.Rutherford@vermont.gov>; Harrington, Lani <Lani.Harrington@vermont.gov>; AHS - DOC Executive Leadership Staff <AHS.DOCExecutiveLeadershipStaff@vermont.gov>
Subject: MBL Question / FreeHer Campaign

Hi Jess and Chrysta,

See below data request from MBL – she is wondering if we can fact check the claims from a certain special interest group.

Obviously going to be some nuances here w/ earned time and split sentences, but was hoping you could take a look and fact check these claims.

Thanks!
Isaac

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Michelle Bos-Lun <MBosLun@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2024 5:01 AM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>; Sommer, Haley <Haley.Sommer@vermont.gov>
Subject: Question

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Isaac,

The HCI team has received dozens of versions of this letter below in the past week.

My question is about the " six people serving sentences of five years or more".

The commissioner recently said that they were a couple dozen women serving long sentences for murder or sexual harm at CRCF. (I previously heard a dozen).

Can one of you please clarify how many women at CRCF are serving sentences over 5 years ?

It would be good for me to know the actual number and also helpful to reply to my constituents who share the mass email.

Thank you.

Michelle

Michelle Bos-Lun
State Representative
Windham 3: Westminster, Rockingham, Brookline
802.289.2495

As your constituent, we believe that the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF) needs to be closed, and our state should invest the \$70+ million proposed for a new women's prison on resources like housing, substance use interventions, education and mental health services instead. These services would meet real community needs

instead of being used to incarcerate women, more than half of whom are simply being held pretrial and have not even been convicted of anything.

Four in five people in Vermont want to reduce our overreliance on prisons by investing in community-based alternatives. Vermont has one of the lowest incarceration rates in the country, but leaders still want to spend \$70+ million building a new women's prison. Of the around 111 women that the prison incarcerates, 90% of them have experienced violence in their lives and 55% are there only because they're being held before trial and can't afford bail.

The 55% is misleading. Roughly a 1/3 of the women held pre-trial are not held for lack of cash bail – mostly these are held without bail, and a couple of “release to responsible adult.” In other words, yes they are being held “pre-trial” but it is not a monetary issue and a court has determined that no amount of money can assure their appearance. Notably, VT law is specific and strict on when folks can be held without bail. To get to 55%, I believe they are also including individuals held for the USMS. We don't have access to the same information on those folks, I don't know that they all have a monetary bail either.

We believe women, and know that CRCF is unsafe and inhumane. And yet many elected officials are responding to the horrific treatment of women at CRCF by seeking to spend millions of dollars on a new prison. Pouring millions of dollars into a new prison will not address the horrors that women incarcerated in Vermont have faced – everything from serious misconduct by guards to brutal sexual assault. The Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility needs to close now.

This is the right time to shift our state's focus to real solutions that work – housing, mental health and substance use treatment and alternatives to incarceration that keep mothers with children and hold people accountable.

There are currently only 6 women incarcerated at CRCF who are serving sentences longer than 5 years.

There are 12 women at CRCF who have a minimum sentence of at least five years. Of these, 5 have at least five years remaining until their minimum. ([REDACTED] who is held out of state makes 6.)

There are 35 women (including the 12 about) at CRCF who have a maximum sentence of at least five years.

Most of the people incarcerated are the same group of women who cycle in and out. We could much better serve them and ensure better outcomes with proper support and services that meet their needs and foster recovery and accountability.

We don't need a new women's prison in Vermont. We need increased support and services for women and our communities. We call on the State Legislature and Governor Scott to close the current women's prison, end their plans to build a wasteful new facility, and instead invest the proposed \$70 + million in community services and alternatives to incarceration so that all of our communities, women and children can thrive.

Thank you so much for your time and willingness to hear from your constituents.

Sincerely

(Name removed)

This message has originated from an **External Source**. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

From: [Collins, Rebecca](#)
To: [Joanne Nelson](#)
Subject: RE: question for you and Mercy Connections
Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 1:49:00 PM

I completely understand.

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 1:16 PM
To: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: question for you and Mercy Connections

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I get the feeling FREEHER is trying to do a go-around inside and I'm not going to do that. Thanks for handling this so well.

From: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 1:06 PM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: RE: question for you and Mercy Connections

It's all good. I have had signs in the units and hallways for at least three weeks now.

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 12:59 PM
To: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: question for you and Mercy Connections

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Not sure why she is emailing me about this...thank you, Rebecca.

From: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 12:58 PM
To: Lyndsay Hogland <lyndsay@hevanet.com>; jahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>; Jacqueline Fischer <jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>
Cc: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: RE: question for you and Mercy Connections

Thank you. I have hung them up in the units and around the facility for our population to take notice and come to the performance on 10/10. Thank you in advance!

Rebecca

From: Lyndsay Hogland <lyndsay@hevanet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 11:53 AM
To: jahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>; Jacqueline Fischer <jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>
Cc: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>; Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: Re: question for you and Mercy Connections

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello Rebecca and Joanne -

Please find a digital version of the invitation attached for you here. It's printed as a half sheet, so both sides on this digital version are the same.

Thanks so much! - Lyndsay

On 9/30/24 12:39 PM, Jayna Ahsaf wrote:

Hello all,

I'm cc'ing Lyndsay Hogland on this email thread. She is one of the event organizers and may be able to send a digital version of the invitation to expedite the process while we wait for the physical copies to arrive in Vermont.

Thanks,
Jayna

On Mon, Sep 30, 2024 at 3:28 PM Jacqueline Fischer <jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Rebecca and Joanne,
Good to make your e-acquaintance, Rebecca.
We can send them over when we receive, or if it's okay with you, drop them off in person. Just let us know.

Thanks!
Jacqueline

On Sep 30, 2024, at 11:14 AM, Collins, Rebecca
<Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jacqueline,

Please send me the flyers for review/posting. Thanks.

Rebecca

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Jacqueline Fischer <jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>; jahsaf
<jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Cc: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: question for you and Mercy Connections

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Jacqueline,

How are you? As promised, I am circling back on this request from you. I still think An Ilian will be wonderful for women at CRCF. I am however not able to distribute flyers without going through the proper protocol inside. I confirmed that would be to be in touch with the Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Collins, Rebecca.collins@vermont.gov I copied her here. She's a fantastic colleague and professional in her work.

Many thanks! Best wishes,

Jo

From: Jacqueline Fischer <jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 6:25 PM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>; Jayna Ahsaf
<jahsaf@thecouncil.us>

Subject: question for you and Mercy Connections

Hi Joanne,

We will have 120 leaflet/invitations for women who are incarcerated to the play, An Iliad, with encouragement to invite their family and friends to see the public performance a day later. Given that the mail can be super slow going in and out of the prison, we are concerned that the invitations might not make it to the women in time. Might we ask if you or your liaison to the prison take the invitations in, in person, to be distributed? We should have them in hand early next week. They are being mailed to Jayna.

Thanks for considering doing this to support the women and their support networks.

warmly, Jacqueline

From: [Joanne Nelson](#)
To: [Collins, Rebecca](#)
Subject: RE: question for you and Mercy Connections
Date: Monday, September 30, 2024 7:00:49 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you so much!

From: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 3:49 PM
To: Jacqueline Fischer <jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>
Cc: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>; jahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Subject: RE: question for you and Mercy Connections

Either way is fine with me!

From: Jacqueline Fischer <jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 3:28 PM
To: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
Cc: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>; jahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Subject: Re: question for you and Mercy Connections

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello Rebecca and Joanne,

Good to make your e-acquaintance, Rebecca.

We can send them over when we receive, or if it's okay with you, drop them off in person.

Just let us know.

Thanks!

Jacqueline

On Sep 30, 2024, at 11:14 AM, Collins, Rebecca
<Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jacqueline,

Please send me the flyers for review/posting. Thanks.

Rebecca

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Jacqueline Fischer <jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>; jahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Cc: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: question for you and Mercy Connections

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Jacqueline,

How are you? As promised, I am circling back on this request from you. I still think An Ilian will be wonderful for women at CRCF. I am however not able to distribute flyers without going through the proper protocol inside. I confirmed that would be to be in touch with the Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Collins, Rebecca.collins@vermont.gov I copied her here. She's a fantastic colleague and professional in her work.

Many thanks! Best wishes,

Jo

From: Jacqueline Fischer <jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 6:25 PM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>; Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Subject: question for you and Mercy Connections

Hi Joanne,

We will have 120 leaflet/invitations for women who are incarcerated to the play, An Iliad, with encouragement to invite their family and friends to see the public performance a day later. Given that the mail can be super slow going in and out of the prison, we are concerned that the invitations might not make it to the women in time. Might we ask if you or your liaison to the prison take the invitations in, in person, to be distributed? We should have them in hand early next week. They are being mailed to Jayna.

Thanks for considering doing this to support the women and their support networks.

warmly, Jacqueline

From: [Collins, Rebecca](#)
To: [Lyndsay Hogland](#)
Cc: [Anna Fritz](#); [Modiano, Cindy](#)
Subject: RE: question for you and Mercy Connections
Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:52:25 AM

We have a tampon if needed.....

From: Lyndsay Hogland <lyndsay@hevanet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 10:26 PM
To: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
Cc: Anna Fritz <anna@annafritz.com>; Modiano, Cindy <Cindy.Modiano@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: question for you and Mercy Connections

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thanks so much, Rebecca!

This all looks great. The show itself is 90 minutes and then the Q&A will be right after that, so we'll be all done between 2:45 - 3pm. We will not need to stay any later than 3.

We are hoping to add a tampon to the the list of items, if that's at all possible. If not, maybe we could have a tampon available inside the facility should it be needed?

Really looking forward to it, See you on Thursday at 11am! - Lyndsay

On 10/8/24 8:10 AM, Collins, Rebecca wrote:

Good morning,

We are planning for the following;

Four people (trained/approved to come in) arrival 11-12, set up 12:00- 12:45, show at 12:45 to 3pm, Q&A period 3:30(?), then break down/depart. I also have your check list of items you plan to bring in. We will have to go through the items upon arrival, so just be mindful of that...

Let me know if you need anything from us. Only the things on the check in list can come in so if there is something else you want to bring you need to let me know today, otherwise it will not be allowed to come in. We are all looking forward to the performance!

Rebecca and Cindy

From: Lyndsay Hogland <lyndsay@hevanet.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 8:15 PM
To: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
Cc: Anna Fritz <anna@annafritz.com>
Subject: Re: question for you and Mercy Connections

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Hi Rebecca:

Just a quick check-in to make sure you have everything you need from us for Thursday's show.

Thanks! - Lyndsay

Lyndsay Hogland
An Iliad, Production Manager
503.730.1525
Lyndsay@hevanet.com

On 10/2/24 6:04 PM, Lyndsay Hogland wrote:

Hi Rebecca!

Yes, we're very excited to come to CRCF on 10/10. We all took the volunteer training on Sept. 24th with Anthony Giordano at Southern State Correctional, so we should be all set!

We're planning on arriving to CRCF at 11:30a to get through security, and hope to be able to set-up the performance space around 12 / 12:15.

I'm attaching our Pack List for you here that shows all the items we'll need to bring into the facility. Please let me know if you have any questions about it.

We do have one small favor to ask of you! Do you have a sturdy chair that we can use, that an actor can stand on (not a folding chair)?

Thanks so much, Rebecca! Really looking forward to it! - Lyndsay

On 10/2/24 9:11 AM, Collins, Rebecca wrote:

Hi Lyndsey,

I am the volunteer services coordinator at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility. We have you folks coming in for the performance on 10/10/2024 from 12:45pm till 3:00pm. One of the emails I saw you needed 30 minutes in the performance space prior to the show starting, which we can ensure you have. I am assuming you have all been trained, or a training has been scheduled for the four of you so that you can enter the facilities. Has the training already happened or just a date to train set up?

Rebecca.

From: Lyndsay Hogland <lyndsay@hevanet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 11:53 AM
To: jahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>; Jacqueline Fischer <jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>
Cc: Collins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>; Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: Re: question for you and Mercy Connections

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Hello Rebecca and Joanne -

Please find a digital version of the invitation attached for you here. It's printed as a half sheet, so both sides on this digital version are the same.

Thanks so much! - Lyndsay

On 9/30/24 12:39 PM, Jayna Ahsaf wrote:

Hello all,

I'm cc'ing Lyndsay Hogland on this email thread. She is one of the event organizers and may be able to send a digital version of the invitation to expedite the process while we wait for the physical copies to arrive in Vermont.

Thanks,
Jayna

On Mon, Sep 30, 2024 at 3:28 PM

Jacqueline Fischer

<jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com> wrote:

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Rebecca.

We can send them over when we receive, or if it's okay with you, drop them off in person. Just let us know.

Thanks!
Jacqueline

On Sep 30, 2024, at
11:14 AM, Collins, Rebecca
<Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov> wrote:

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for review/posting. Thanks.

Rebecca

From: Joanne Nelson
<jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Monday, September 30,
2024 11:11 AM
To: Jacqueline Fischer
<jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>; jahsaf
<jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Cc: Collins, Rebecca
<Rebecca.Collins@vermont.gov>
>
Subject: RE: question for you
and Mercy Connections

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sender.**

Hi Jacqueline,

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the proper protocol inside. I confirmed that would be to be in touch with the Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Collins, Rebecca.collins@vermont.gov I copied her here. She's a fantastic colleague and professional in her work.

Many thanks! Best wishes,

Jo

From: Jacqueline Fischer
<jacquelinefischervt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 6:25 PM
To: Joanne Nelson
<jnelson@mercyconnections.org>; Jayna Ahsaf
<jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Subject: question for you and Mercy Connections

Hi Joanne,
We will have 120 leaflet/invitations for women who are incarcerated to the play, An Iliad, with encouragement to invite their family and friends to see the public performance a day later. Given that the mail can be super slow going in and out of the prison, we are concerned that the invitations might not make it to the women in time.

Might we ask if you or your liaison to the prison take the invitations in, in person, to be distributed? We should have them in hand early next week. They are being mailed to Jayna. Thanks for considering doing this to support the women and their support networks.

warmly, Jacqueline

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Marybeth Redmond](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#)
Subject: RE: Question for you
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 1:51:51 PM

Hi Marybeth,

I'm not aware of any "dismantling" going on at the Maine facility. Amanda is now in a central office position, but we've visited the facility since she's left and thought the new warden/director was talking the same talk that Amanda had. I did not observe any changes in the culture from my previous visit. I did try and look up Re-entry Sisters and it doesn't seem as though that website is operational. I couldn't find any other information on that organization. I'm not aware of any reduction in the programs offered to women either. In Vermont and Maine, it's not unusual to have white men in leadership and administrative positions, that alone is not an indicator of support for gender-responsive approaches.

I don't know if this is helpful, I really don't have any specific feedback, just my observations from my last visit.

Thanks,
Kathy

Kathy Astemborski (she/her)
Women's Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511

From: Marybeth Redmond <marybethredmond@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 1:30 PM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Question for you

You don't often get email from marybethredmond@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Sounds good.

Kathy, if there's any truth here, can you let me know? I have visited the Maine facility and am a big supporter of it, as well as Amanda's leadership. Am wanting to write a generally supportive column for local folks, but want to be aware of any concerns/changes in Maine before composing it.

Many thanks,

Marybeth Redmond
Former State Rep, Essex

On Sep 25, 2024, at 1:20 PM, Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Marybeth,

I am adding in [@Astemborski, Kathy](#) for her thoughts.

I don't have any insight into changes at the Maine facility so I can't weigh in here, but I also noted this point in the recent Digger op-ed.

Thanks!

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392

From: Marybeth Redmond <marybethredmond@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 11:50 AM

To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>

Subject: Question for you

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi, again!

I am writing my follow-up column for the Essex Reporter today on the re-entry center and am reviewing some of the commentary that's out there in the past few weeks.

I wanted to ask you about the contention here that things are awry in Maine.

Further, the Maine prison model the state aims to mimic is already being dismantled. Linda Small, the Executive Director of [Reentry Sisters](#), was incarcerated at this prison. She wrote in an email to me, "I experienced the trauma of incarceration and its impact on my family. The recent dismantling of women's services in Maine, the facility Vermont is modeling the new women's prison after, has meant the removal of the Chief Administrative Officer for Women's Services, leaving only white male senior staff, a limited number of women in prison education programs, and a cultural shift away from gender-responsive and gender-sensitive services and supports."

Can you let me know if any of this is true? I want to make sure my facts are 100% accurate before challenging this viewpoint. If easier to talk, we can get on the phone. I have a tight deadline of tomorrow. Many thanks!


<Commentaries_1200x900.png>

Opinion — Jayna Ahsaf: Investing in community
[and upstream solutions, not prisons](#)
vtdigger.org

From: [McNamara, Christopher](#)
To: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
Subject: RE: Question
Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024 8:43:00 AM

While looking through some things relative to this case I found this one the web. It mentions the Canteen fund im curious if that's where the money has been coming from for the other deposits we see on the list but it strikes me that it should be listed as from that fund as opposed to her person.

It's a letter written to the legislature this year here is the link [Judiciary House Oral Testimony \(Final\) \(vermont.gov\)](#)

The flyer is telling in regard to the "write us to be added". I would imagine that's how most of the communication's are happening. There are some messages from Jayna to  but only to say we submitted your story to the legislature.

From: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 8:34 AM
To: McNamara, Christopher <Christopher.McNamara@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Question

Hey Chris – Just recently – they had wanted to put flyers up in CRCF but that request was denied by facility leadership.

From: McNamara, Christopher <Christopher.McNamara@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 8:08 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Question

Good Morning Kathy,

Have you ever heard of "the FreeHer Canteen Fund"??

Chris McNamara
Investigator
Corrections Investigative Unit
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South, 280 State Drive,

Waterbury, Vt 05671

802-371-7699

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From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Jayna Ahsaf](#)
Subject: RE: Questions about prohibited items to mail in
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 9:04:00 AM

Good Morning Jayna – thank you for asking about mailing in items. I did check with the facility and, unfortunately, that is not allowed.

We appreciate your thinking of us!
Kathy

*Kathy Astemborski (she/her)
Women's Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511*

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 4:38 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Questions about prohibited items to mail in

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Kathy--

I hope this email finds you well. I have a quick question about prohibited mail items. I believe the policy says outside community members cannot send in items, including tape, glue, or glitter. I'm wondering if this is still the policy and also if this includes markers and paint.

Thanks,
Jayna

--

[Jayna Ahsaf \(she/her\)](#)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

94 Colchester Ave

Burlington, VT 05401

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From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Jayna Ahsaf](#)
Subject: RE: Save the Date!
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 9:13:00 AM

Hi Jayna – good question! I checked with Isaac, and we won't be editing statements, just collating them into a single report.

Have a nice day,
Kathy

*Kathy Astemborski (she/her)
Women's Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511*

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Save the Date!

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Kathy,

I have a few questions about the paragraph contributions to the final report. Will the Department of Corrections edit organizations' statements in any way? Or will the paragraphs be added verbatim according to how organizations submitted them in the legislative report? Essentially, when you say "compile," will you be summarizing all our views or what does this entail?

Thanks,
Jayna

On Mon, Sep 30, 2024 at 4:00 PM Astemborski, Kathy
<Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Dear Stakeholders,

Our next stakeholder meeting will be held on December 6, 2024, in the Oak Conference room at the Waterbury State Office Complex. The meeting will be from 1:00 to 3:00. I wanted to make sure you have adequate notice to save the date on your calendar. I also want to give you all a homework assignment. Please come to the meeting with your 1-2 paragraph contribution to the legislative report we'll be submitting in January 2025. You may want to include your ideas for the new facility, priorities, concerns, etc. We will compile the feedback for the final report.

Thank you and we'll look forward to seeing you in December!

Kathy

Kathy Astemborski (she/her)
Women's Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511

From: [Breault, Daniel](#)
To: [Elkins, Joseph](#)
Subject: RE: Sent from Snipping Tool
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:20:00 PM
Attachments: [Redacted]

[Redacted] replied to Jayna Ahsaf saying that DR's are given out for third party contact between incarcerated individuals. Also, I checked [Redacted] GTL messages and she appears to still not have read the message from Jayna Ahsaf, so it appears that [Redacted] did not communicate with [Redacted] about the message.

From: Elkins, Joseph <Joseph.Elkins@vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 8:11 AM
To: Breault, Daniel <Daniel.Breault@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Sent from Snipping Tool


From: Breault, Daniel <Daniel.Breault@vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 5:55 AM
To: Elkins, Joseph <Joseph.Elkins@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Sent from Snipping Tool

10-4. I did not get the chance tonight as I was very busy but I will make sure it gets done.

From: Elkins, Joseph <Joseph.Elkins@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:53 PM
To: Breault, Daniel <Daniel.Breault@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fw: Sent from Snipping Tool

Brother Bro. Can you please look into this for me? Issue an A23 if you uncover that [Redacted] ever passed along this message. If you don't see anything maybe just keep tabs on it for a bit. Give me a call or text if you have in questions or concerns. Thanks!

From: Modiano, Cindy <Cindy.Modiano@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:32 PM
To: Elkins, Joseph <Joseph.Elkins@vermont.gov>
Subject: Sent from Snipping Tool

message	12:20 EDT 03/28/2024	No Subject	Hey [Redacted] I hope you're doing. I heard that you and the Rake are setting up plans for interviews. I'm so excited for you! I'm also wondering if you can you do me a favor and check in with [Redacted] and ask her to check her getting out messages?	Auto Approved	12:20 EDT 03/28/2024	Unread	 Jaynia Ahsaf 24.147.77.133	[Redacted]
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From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Joanne Nelson](#)
Cc: [Kelly Moran](#)
Subject: RE: something to consider
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 3:48:00 PM

Thanks for the heads up Jo – I am pondering this and will get back to you!

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 3:34 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Cc: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: something to consider

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Hey Kathy,

Wanted to give you a heads up that Jayna Ahsaf enrolled in the mentor training & of course, she's welcome. I do not know however if it's a conflict of interest because of the role of FREEHER at CRCF or otherwise. Could you please advise?

Thank you!

Jo

PS had a solid 10 enrolled for mentor training until today when two postponed until the fall training...but 5 are enrolled for that one so things are in good shape.

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Jayna Ahsaf](#)
Subject: RE: Stakeholder's Meeting
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 3:51:00 PM

Thanks so much Jayna

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Stakeholder's Meeting

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you so much, Kathy! Sending my condolences to the DOC team for your loss. I am so sorry!

In community,
Jayna

On Wed, Jan 17, 2024 at 8:20 AM Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

Good Morning All – Thank you so much for the condolences and messages of support so many of you sent to our DOC team regarding the loss of our colleague, Jordan. Your words are greatly appreciated.

We have rescheduled our stakeholder meeting on 2/23/24 from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Waterbury State Office Complex in the Oak conference room. We hope this date will work for most of our group and we look forward to seeing you then.

Thank you,
Kathy

*Kathy Astemborski (she/her)
Women's Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511*

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Jayna Ahsaf](#); [Joanne Nelson](#)
Subject: RE: Thursday meeting
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 8:26:00 AM

Ok – see you both at 2:00 on Thursday!

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 5:19 PM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Thursday meeting

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi there,

Unfortunately, I have a 4pm meeting, so that doesn't work for me.

Jayna

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

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94 Colchester Ave

Burlington, VT 05401

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On Mon, Jul 15, 2024 at 9:12 AM Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org> wrote:

Good morning,
Yes, I can change to 3:30pm. Gladly.

jo

From: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 9:03 AM

To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>; jahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>

Subject: Thursday meeting

Good Morning Jo and Jayna,

I'm wondering if it would be possible to change our 2:00 meeting on Thursday to 3:30?

I could still meet in person at that time at Mercy Connections.

Thank you for considering,

Kathy

Kathy Astemborski (she/her)

Women's Services Division Director

Vermont Department of Corrections

NOB 2 South

[280 State Drive](#)

[Waterbury, VT 05671](#)

802-296-5511

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Joanne Nelson](#)
Subject: RE: today
Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 11:14:00 AM

Sure – want to give me a ring when you’re free? I’m at 802-296-5511.

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: today

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Yes, I am! Could we do a phone call in 5?

From: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 11:13 AM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: RE: today

Are you free now? It’s actually Jayna I wanted to speak with you about.

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 11:12 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: today

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Yes, I do.

I also wanted to talk to you about my call with Jayna Ahsaf.

I’m in office until 4:30pm. What works for you?

Thank you.

From: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 11:05 AM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: today

Hi Jo! Hope all is well with you!

Do you have time for a call/teams call today?

Thanks,
Kathy

Kathy Astemborski (she/her)
Women's Services Division Director
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-296-5511

From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Jayna Ahsaf](#)
Subject: RE: Transportation for People at End of Sentence
Date: Monday, July 8, 2024 12:39:00 PM

Great – see you then Jayna!

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 11:28 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Works for me! See you then.

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

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On Fri, Jul 5, 2024 at 10:51 AM Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jayne - glad the day works for you, would 2:00 be ok?

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From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2024 10:19:50 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>

Subject: Re: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Kathy,

The 18th works for me. I can meet you both there around 12pm if that time is open.

Jayna

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

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On Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 3:25 PM Astemborski, Kathy

<Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jayna – Would it work for you to meet on 7/18 to discuss mentoring, and we can certainly discuss other topics as well! I am planning to attend another meeting at Mercy Connections that day and wonder if meeting there works on your end? I'm not sure where you're coming from. Jo wanted to be a part of the mentoring conversation as well. If 7/18 works for you, could you let me know what time would work? Then I can try and loop Jo in.

Thanks,
Kathy

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 3:21 PM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Isaac,

Great. I asked Kathy to meet last week around some other issues so hopefully we can also discuss this. Kathy, I'm looking forward to hearing back from you!

I completely understand this is a system wide failure and not only affecting those at CRCF. However, there are several men's prisons enabling folks to be placed closer to home versus the one prison for women in Chittenden County. Many people incarcerated in CRCF have to travel extremely far distances home after release — oftentimes without money, a phone, or proper clothing. We also know that women do face specific dangers around trafficking and abuse that make their reentry a particular vulnerable moment.

I appreciate you sharing about the Criminal Justice Reform Advisory Council. Do you have a contact there you suggest I reach out to?

Thanks,

Jayna

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

Incarcerated Women and Girls

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[Burlington, VT 05401](#)

(802)324-9534

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On Wed, Jun 26, 2024 at 9:09 AM Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jayna,

It would be great to have more community involvement in transportation for folks leaving State custody. Kathy would be a good point of contact on this as she helps coordinate the service providers within CRCF.

I'd also note there remains an outstanding need for community transportation for the 92% of Vermont's incarcerated population at facilities other than CRCF.

I think one potential source of funding for this work could be the Criminal Justice Reform Advisory Council. That pool of ~\$500K resets every year, and is meant to support these kinds of initiatives.

Thanks!

Isaac Dayno

State of Vermont

802-793-4392

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:07 PM

To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>

Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>

Subject: Re: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Isaac,

Thank you for all this information.

We have been reaching out to community organizations seeing if reentry transportation is something they can potentially help out with. It would be helpful to have a better understanding of what support you're able to provide for organizations interested in supporting reentry transportation.

Thank you,

Jayna

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

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[Burlington, VT 05401](#)

(802)324-9534

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On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 8:43 AM Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jayna,

Thanks for reaching out. I'm adding in [@Astemborski, Kathy](#) here as well as she knows a lot more about DOC than I do!

This is a really good question, and one we've discussed with community partners as well as legislators.

The short answer is that DOC itself does not provide transportation to individuals as they leave State custody. There are a few reasons for this, including legal and liability concerns and not wanting to extend the carceral system into the community.

DOC caseworkers do assist individuals in helping to arrange rides upon reentry. Incarcerated individuals are able to call friends and family to arrange pick ups or request a ride from a community provider (like a Turning Point recovery coach, for example).

DOC would very much support organizations from the community who could assist in this process. It's certainly a hurdle for many individuals reentering Vermont's communities, particularly as court hearings have increasingly shifted to remote arraignments.

Happy to discuss this more. Thanks for reaching out.

Isaac

Isaac Dayno

State of Vermont

802-793-4392

From: Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 8:00 PM
To: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Subject: Transportation for People at End of Sentence

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Isaac,

I'm hoping you can help me out with a quick question. Do you know if the DOC arranges transportation at the end of people's sentences?

Best,

Jayna

--

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)

VT Campaign Director

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly

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[Burlington, VT 05401](#)

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From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Joanne Nelson](#)
Subject: RE: Unable to get you on the phone
Date: Monday, May 20, 2024 9:59:00 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Thanks Jo!

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 9:54 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Unable to get you on the phone

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Yes, I will do that. My apologies if I didn't represent you well enough. I'll definitely clarify! Thank you.

From: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 9:49 AM
To: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: RE: Unable to get you on the phone

Good Morning Jo – it sure is nice to see the sun shining and all the green that has popped up!

Thanks for sending this to me. Although I certainly had concerns about the letter that was distributed about the woman's story regarding her arrest experience and breastfeeding, it is really the commissary donations in Jayna's name that is the issue. If she does reach out to you, could you make that clarification? I do hope she gives you a call, and I would welcome her reaching out to me as well. As we said on the phone, her heart and passion are in the right place!

Have a great day and week!
Kathy

From: Joanne Nelson <jnelson@mercyconnections.org>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 8:55 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Unable to get you on the phone

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning, Kathy, hope you had a nice, sunny weekend.

FYI, below, my email to Jayna Ahsaf, regarding her mentor status. I am sure we covered the DOC no-gifting policy during mentor training and will continue to make that point. In hindsight, I just don't see a way I could have avoided this.

I am sorry about this outcome, but I hope with a little more communication from FREEHER to the DOC, things could change in the future.

Have a good day,

Jo

From: Joanne Nelson
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 8:50 AM
To: jahsaf@thecouncil.us
Cc: Kelly Moran <kmoran@mercyconnections.org>
Subject: Unable to get you on the phone

Good morning, Jayna,

I hope you are well and had a great weekend. What beautiful weather!

I am writing to you because I couldn't get you on the phone last week and want to be sure to follow up with you and our last conversation about mentoring at Mercy Connections.

Unfortunately, Kathy Astemborski has received word from DOC headquarters that they won't be able to clear you to be a *contracted* volunteer at this time. Kathy said that the letter about the struggle of a formerly incarcerated mother at CRCF and the letter, with your name on it, about funding incarcerated women at CRCF, were the two stumbling blocks. Specifically, regarding the DOC gift-giving policy, which prohibits gifts to incarcerated women, and that is applied to all contracted services like the VT Women's Mentoring Program, they have decided that they cannot support your participation as a mentor at this time.

Kathy would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further. I expressed my disappointment because we need good mentors like you, and she agreed. She also hopes she might enter into conversation with you ahead of time on FREEHER work for incarcerated women at CRCF in the future, for a different outcome, and I know she is very sincere in this!

I regret that this is the outcome for now but be assured that I'm hopeful for your participation in mentoring in the future. You are welcome at Mercy Connections, and we look forward to our professional collaboration. Thank you for being such a good human and for the powerful

work you do.

Please call if you have a minute?

Thank you,

Jo



Joanne Nelson, M.Ed., MA.Th. (she/her)

Director of Justice & Mentoring

A: 255 S. Champlain St., Suite #8, Burlington, VT 05401

E: jnelson@mercyconnections.org

O: (802) 846-7164

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From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Carr, Emily](#)
Subject: RE: Vermont DOC Response re: Jayna Ahsaf
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 10:44:50 AM

Perfect – thank you!

From: Carr, Emily <Emily.Carr@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 10:00 AM
To: csevcenko <csevcenko@thecouncil.us>
Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>
Subject: Vermont DOC Response re: Jayna Ahsaf

Attorney Sevcenko,

Please find attached a letter from the VT DOC in response to your 5/22/24 letter regarding Jayna Ahsaf.

Best,

Emily A. Carr (she/her)

General Counsel

Vermont Department of Corrections

NOB 2 South, 280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-2000

Ph: 802-241-0033

Cell: 802-585-5307



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From: [Astemborski, Kathy](#)
To: [Carr, Emily](#); [Deml, Nicholas](#); [Dayno, Isaac](#); [Cormier, Alan](#); [Sommer, Haley](#)
Subject: RE: Vermont DOC Response re: Jayna Ahsaf
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 10:00:49 AM

Thank you Emily – my preference would be that Jayna and I could have a meeting. If she still would like to be a mentor, I'd set up a meeting with Joanne Nelson, Jayna, and myself.

Could Ms. Sevchenko have Jayna give me a call?

Kathy

From: Carr, Emily <Emily.Carr@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 8:05 AM
To: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>; Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>; Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>; Cormier, Alan <Alan.Cormier@vermont.gov>; Sommer, Haley <Haley.Sommer@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Vermont DOC Response re: Jayna Ahsaf

FYI – response from Counsel regarding Ms. Ahsaf.

Kathy, may I put her in touch with you for further discussion? I can make myself available for the meeting if Attorney Sevchenko plans to attend or if you just want me to participate.

Thanks,

Emily

From: Catherine Sevchenko <csevchenko@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 4:12 PM
To: Carr, Emily <Emily.Carr@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Vermont DOC Response re: Jayna Ahsaf

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Attorney Carr:

Thank you for your response to my letter. I appreciate your affirmation of Ms. Ahsaf's right to express her views on the carceral situation in Vermont. I also welcome the offer of a conversation. I believe that there are some factual misunderstandings about Ms. Ahsaf's canteen contributions. She is furthermore willing to discuss refraining from direct involvement in the canteen fund going forward.

What would be the next steps in setting up a meeting?

Regards,
Catherine Sevckenko

On Tue, Jun 4, 2024 at 9:59 AM Carr, Emily <Emily.Carr@vermont.gov> wrote:

Attorney Sevckenko,

Please find attached a letter from the VT DOC in response to your 5/22/24 letter regarding Jayna Ahsaf.

Best,

Emily A. Carr (she/her)
General Counsel
Vermont Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South, 280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671-2000
Ph: 802-241-0033
Cell: 802-585-5307



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--

Catherine Sevckenko
Senior Counsel

The National Council for Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls
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Washington DC 20001
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From: [Carr, Emily](#)
To: [Catherine Sevcenko](#)
Cc: [Astemborski, Kathy](#); [jahsaf](#)
Subject: RE: Vermont DOC Response re: Jayna Ahsaf
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 10:25:00 AM

Happy to help.

From: Catherine Sevcenko <csevcenko@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 10:20 AM
To: Carr, Emily <Emily.Carr@vermont.gov>
Cc: Astemborski, Kathy <Kathy.Astemborski@vermont.gov>; jahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>
Subject: Re: Vermont DOC Response re: Jayna Ahsaf

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Emily,

Will do. Thank you for your help.

Catherine

On Wed, Jun 5, 2024 at 10:11 AM Carr, Emily <Emily.Carr@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Catherine,

Thank you for your follow up. If you can ask Ms. Ahsaf to be in touch with Kathy Astemborski, she will set up a meeting for the two of them to meet with Mercy Connections to discuss the issue further.

Thanks,

Emily

From: Catherine Sevcenko <csevcenko@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 4:12 PM
To: Carr, Emily <Emily.Carr@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Vermont DOC Response re: Jayna Ahsaf

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Attorney Carr:

Thank you for your response to my letter. I appreciate your affirmation of Ms. Ahsaf's right to express her views on the carceral situation in Vermont. I also

welcome the offer of a conversation. I believe that there are some factual misunderstandings about Ms. Ahsaf's canteen contributions. She is furthermore willing to discuss refraining from direct involvement in the canteen fund going forward.

What would be the next steps in setting up a meeting?

Regards,
Catherine Sevckenko

On Tue, Jun 4, 2024 at 9:59 AM Carr, Emily <Emily.Carr@vermont.gov> wrote:

Attorney Sevckenko,

Please find attached a letter from the VT DOC in response to your 5/22/24 letter regarding Jayna Ahsaf.

Best,

Emily A. Carr (she/her)

General Counsel

Vermont Department of Corrections

NOB 2 South, 280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT [05671-2000](tel:05671-2000)

Ph: [802-241-0033](tel:802-241-0033)

Cell: [802-585-5307](tel:802-585-5307)

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--

Catherine Sevchenko
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--

Catherine Sevchenko
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From: [Eberle, Kate](#)
To: [Dayno, Isaac](#)
Cc: [Fitch, Jennifer](#); [Karish, Tabrena](#); [Deml, Nicholas](#); [Sommer, Haley](#); [Cormier, Alan](#)
Subject: RE: Weds. AM House Judiciary Testimony
Date: Monday, February 12, 2024 9:21:52 AM

Thanks, Isaac. We'll be there.

Kate Eberle | Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs

Department of Buildings and General Services

133 State Street

Fifth Floor

Montpelier VT

(802) 798-9493 | bgs.vermont.gov

Help raise money for Vermonters impacted by flood damage and show your Vermont pride with Vermont Strong and Tough Too license plates and socks. [Click here to purchase your Vermont Strong gear](#) or visit DMV.Vermont.gov/VermontStrong23.

Impacted Vermonters can find resources and referrals by visiting vermont.gov/flood.

From: Dayno, Isaac <Isaac.Dayno@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 9:17 AM
To: Eberle, Kate <Kate.Eberle@vermont.gov>
Cc: Fitch, Jennifer <Jennifer.Fitch@vermont.gov>; Karish, Tabrena <Tabrena.Karish@vermont.gov>; Deml, Nicholas <Nicholas.Deml@vermont.gov>; Sommer, Haley <Haley.Sommer@vermont.gov>; Cormier, Alan <Alan.Cormier@vermont.gov>
Subject: Weds. AM House Judiciary Testimony

Hi Kate,

I wanted to flag that House Judiciary has scheduled Wednesday morning testimony on incarceration of women in Vermont (see schedule below). CMR Deml and Kathy Astemborski will be taking the lead for DOC.

Wanted to flag for your situational awareness, and if you wanted to be in the room/testify.

Thanks,
Isaac

House Committee on Judiciary

AGENDA

Room 30 and Zoom

February 13, 2024 - February 16, 2024

Last Updated 2/9/2024 3:06 PM

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are livestreamed at

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-judiciary>.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

9:00 AM

Detention and Incarceration of Women in Vermont

Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
- Invited

Monica Weeber, Executive Director, Crime Research
Group - Invited

Dr. Robin Joy, JD, PhD, Director of Research, Crime
Research Group - Invited

Kathy Astemborski, Director of Women's Services,
Department of Corrections - Invited

Jess Kell, Director of Kids Apart Program, Lund Center -
Invited

Sarah Robinson, MSW, Deputy Director, Vermont
Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence -
Invited

Rhoni Basden, Executive Director, VT Works for Women -
Invited

Tom Dalton, Executive Director, Vermonters for Criminal
Justice Reform - Invited

Matthew Valerio, Defender General, Defender General's
Office - Invited

Judge Thomas Zonay, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont
Judiciary - Invited

Falko Schilling, Advocacy Director, ACLU of Vermont -

Invited

Jayna Ahsaf, Vermont Campaign Organizer, National
Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated
Women and Girls - Invited

Isaac Dayno
State of Vermont
802-793-4392