

Agenda
Prison Relations Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 28, 2021
7:00 PM
Zoom Call-In

Members: Sharon Ballen (*Interfaith Prison Partnership*), Aileen Baumgartner (*Bedford College Program*), Bobbi Bittker (*Bedford Town Board*), Karen Blacks (*Assoc Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church*), MaryAnn Carr, (*Supervisor, Town of Bedford*), Kitley Covill, (*Westchester County Legislator*), Elizabeth Friend-Ennis, (*IPP Intern*), Randy Florke, (*Bard College Initiative*), Siobhan Sargent (*Director, Interfaith Prison Partnership*), Nada Kalifeh (*Upper Westchester Muslim Society*), Father Ron Lemmert (*priest and retired prison chaplain*), Kathaleen Linares (*Hour Children*), Anne Lloyd (*RTA*), Carol Parker (*Woman2Woman*), Claude Millery Rushia (*Albany Community Action Partnership; Returned Citizen*), Mark Sindeband (*Veteran's Association*), Jamie Tortorello-Allen (*cantor, Temple Beth Am*), Cheryl Wilkins (*Columbia University Center for Social Justice and Returned Citizen*)

Excused: Bart Tyler, (*26-32 Parkway LLC*)

Guests: Chris Burdick, NYS Assemblymember; Kevin Winn, Commissioner of Public Works, Town of Bedford; Emily Williams, Superintendent, Taconic CF; Eileen Russell, Superintendent, Bedford Hills CF; Deb Rigano, Hour Children, Pat Daly, Hour Children; Mark Davies; Hans Hallundbaek.

We need someone to take minutes

Introduction of New IPP Director and Intern

Reports from the Correctional Facilities – Eileen Russell, Emily Williams

Report from Superintendents

Items for discussion with Superintendents

COVID in each facility – Delta Variant

Vaccines - percentage rates

Stimulus Checks- any problems with women receiving

What do the facilities need from us? How can we help?

Q&A – this is our opportunity to discuss any concerns, issues, rumors, etc directly with the Superintendents and their opportunity to do the same with us.

NYS Assemblymember Chris Burdick and Town of Bedford Public Work Commissioner Kevin Winn join at 7:30 pm – Discussion on the Water Issue in the Town of Bedford and the Correctional Facilities

When they join, we will move the discussion to this issue.

Committee Reports –

Transgender Rights in Prison –Bobbi Bittker, Kitley Covill, Mark Davies, Carol Parker, Jamie Tortorello-Allen

Children’s and Adult Masks – Anne Lloyd – further deliveries made

Correctional Facility Employment– MaryAnn Carr, Sharon Ballen

Superintendent Williams – two jobs available right now at Taconic:

- Cook
- Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator – ASAT. The hiring rate is \$59,671 which is not negotiable and also comes with a \$3,000 location pay stipend for working in Westchester.

I have also called Carola Otero Bracco of Neighbors Link re these positions

“Bright Hope” Release Bags – Lynn Manfrida (community member) - Is there a need for more? We are short on supplies – members reach out to their houses of worship, organizations...

Sidewalk Subcommittee: Bart Tyler, MaryAnn Carr, Kitley Covill, Sharon Ballen

We are still waiting to see if the infrastructure bill passes

Soap – Bobbi Bittker– deliveries to both facilities – donation from Exodus of 3000 bars.

We need someone to step up to relieve Bobbi.

VolunteerNY! – manage page – anyone available to do

Social Media – Kathaleen Linares – continues to update the website and make us aware of relevant postings/articles/etc.

Town of Bedford Website – The website has been updated with the new IPP Director, Siobhan Sargent, and new IPP Intern, Elizabeth Friend-Ennis

Job Training in the Correctional Facilities

Currently: Cosmetology, Computers and Printing

Men are trained to work with horses at the NYS race tracks at (Fishkill?)

DMV is operated as an office from BHCF

Manufacture eyeglass lenses in one of the NYS prisons

Succession Plan – “Officers”, “terms”, Examples: Hans, Mark, Kitley

What would we like to work on for the future?

New Subcommittee on Re-entry and Re-integration –

Proposal for Re-entry and Re-integration committee - Focus on: connecting the prisons and/or the released people with organizations that can help with employment, housing, health care, and those which establish stability; immediate needs like safe transit upon release, clothing, food and accommodations for the first week, and other immediate needs; measures to reduce recidivism upon reentry and reintegration.