



Agenda/Notes
 Office of Governor Tina Kotek
 RJC Criminal Justice Reform Committee
 March 17, 2026 – Zoom
 10:30am – 11:00am

MEMBERS

E	Babak Zolfaghari-Azar		Nansi Lopez	x	Shaylie Pickrell
X	Cameron Hayes		Dr. Nicholas Crapser		Sterling Cunio
	Mariana Urdaneta Sanchez	X	Paul Solomon	X	Tristen Edwards
	Michelle Love	X	Shay Huber		

OTHER ATTENDEES

X	Andre Bealer	X	Javier Cervantes	X	Valerie Colas
X	Yasmin Solorio				

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Recommendations for a new OSP facility and opportunities for supporting alternatives to incarceration	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Meeting starts at 10:34am by Andre</i></p> <p>Andre: Governor had direction on what may come next. Just want to align on next steps of what work might need to happen. She wanted to see a bit more in terms of guiding principles. Felt like there's a lot going in other feasibility study and wants more specific guidance for Department of Corrections (DOC) from Racial Justice Council (RJC) on what they really need to be considering as they go through this process.</p> <p>Secondly, we've heard from you guys creating a new facility isn't ideal scenario. Fleshing out other opportunities aside from incarcerations, with the feasibility study.</p> <p>Valerie: Governor still believes we need to move forward with the feasibility study. Want to make sure we have a space treats individuals humanely – those who have to be there and those who have to work there. She wants guidance from RJC on what should be considered with stakeholder engagement portion with vendor. Understands feasibility study isn't a full workgroup you or PSJ is envisioning. She does want and supports that conversation to happen on alternatives to incarceration. Legislature didn't provide funding for this since it was too much of a last minute request since it was reallocation of money back from 2025 and given budget constraints. The Governor does want a process</p>	

for the Criminal Justice Reform Committee (CJRC) to be the group to help facilitate and convene conversations of what alternatives to incarceration should be, with state agencies giving data to help with that information and support for the committee to convene and provide recommendations to alternative for incarceration. Wants the process to go alongside with it so your recommendations and the feasibility study (with its own stakeholder engagement) to be on cohesive product on what the changes are. Want to find a local facilitator to help with this and have CJRC be the lead in that.

Paul: Must say I'm a little vexed by this direction. In part because when you talk about our committee doing this work alongside DOC who have a few million dollars to do the feasibility study and we have nothing. When the former governor did the HB3194 for modest sentencing reform, they brought in a facilitator and had other resources. Not sure what you or the Governor thinks this committee reasonably can do without any resources.

Tristen: Just want to echo that. Our committee is a group of volunteers that meets bi-monthly and we have no funding to do any of this. Would be a huge lift which is why engaging an organization like CJI who has a dollar amount. This work is serious, requires energy, data analysis, being able to analyze that. Seems far beyond what our committee can do.

Andre: What you heard is our initial next step, and next is seeing what might be available. We understand we will need to explore that first and foremost. That's our next follow up.

Tristen: A few other reactions – it sounds like there's two pieces the Governor wants engagement on. 1. What should go into building a new prison, 2. Alternatives to incarceration. I don't support building a new prison. Don't want to see that, want there to be improvements. I think creating or replacing OSP means we are trying to expand our carceral system to fit mass incarceration crisis vs focusing energy to alternatives to incarceration. If we continue this road, it will continue. We need to ask 'Why is our population this big, 'does it need to be this big', 'if people have serious health issues are they still a threat'. Prison should be last resort and yet all resources are being poured into how to grow prison options with no resources being directed to address mass incarceration and how can we have conversations around where we want to state to go in. We have a

budget getting more dire and real public safety needs that need to be addressed in better ways. Hard to see how this new prison build isn't an expansion of our carceral system.

Andre: I hear you on that. Unfortunately, were not at a place where this conversation isn't going to happen. There is the alternative to incarceration, how do we build that convo and prioritize that as a part of the next phase of this work. There isn't going to be a prison built next year, and there's still time to talk about continued benefits of alternatives to incarcerations as a whole justice picture.

I think it's important we focus on where we have an impact moving forward. The conversation will happen, but we decide if it's with us or without us. Guiding principles could be what will it look like - what help they will need to reenter into society more quickly. I'd like us to think about how we get creative with long term vision on those alternative benefits and budgetary way with alternatives to incarceration support having a more budget friendly picture for the state.

Tristen: What is standing out to me is \$3M is being invested in should we build a new prison and zero is in alternative options to pursue to alleviate a new prison. Doesn't feel like that option is being taken seriously when no resources are being directed towards it.

Paul: We certainly can provide input without forecasting what the committee will say. My guess is we will say we shouldn't be building a new prison. This could take place a few different ways – we can respond to work that is occurring in feasibility study and provide input. Guiding principles isn't where I would put our focus.

The whole system is broken. If we were making widgets and 2 out of 3 fail, we wouldn't be in business long. But that's our prison system. Continuing to invest in a system flawed from inception that has structural issues, is an exercise in frustration and futility. Not to say we don't want to have meaningful input, we do, but to think we will move forward with feasibility study is hard with understanding there is way we will need to explore reasonably with other options. Curious what you, Valerie, Governor are thinking when you are looking at other resources. For this work to meaningfully move forward, it will take more than just our committee. We don't have internal structure or resources for this task.

Valerie: Figuring out if CJC may have unspent funds going toward this. Think Portland State University is doing some of this work with sex offender notification leveling, and we can see who else is under our procurement contract on the cost and see where there is funds. It won't be at \$500K or \$800K which is what CJI was. Right now don't want to say its going to be 100K because I don't know if those agencies have that. CJC already runs thin since it's all grants and we don't want to take away from that. Can try to look for \$100-150K but can't guarantee until I work with CFO analyst with a better understanding. would require us to have more meetings and change and shift way we do meetings to do a project like this. But it requires you all.

Tristen: When DOC overspends its budget, how does that work, where does the money come from?

Valerie: Tricky question, there could be a rebalance of the budget. It could be done emergency funding request for short session for example for change in MAUD for \$20M overspend, there could be merely request, it's at the end on having to see what their overspend is and ask legislature to cover those costs and see next steps.

Paul: CJI applied for some grant dollars through CJC. What do you think possibility of Governor supporting that request?

Valerie: Not sure.

Andre: Would like to talk about next steps and how we can continue this conversation.

Valerie will do digging to figure out possibility for funding available, with whatever the number is and locking down a facilitator to support this work, we will put our heads together to find a timeline and get you an update. If you have other questions for us to look into prior to reconnecting, please send those to use and we'll work to get answers. Prior to next time we convene.

Tristen: We are volunteers with day jobs that have made a certain time commitment and to increase that, don't know if we can expect that for the committee and I don't think I can add that additional time. Don't want there to think there was a minimal investment made to check the box but didn't fund them appropriately. Do want to make it clear that my preference there is an organization fully capable of doing this work but don't think it's a good idea to have CJRC be leading this effort.

Valeire to look at funds and facilitator.

Andre: Whatever work is happening is happening is under your guidance and clear. Want to make sure work happening is directed by you all.

Valerie: in terms of being able to do if PSJ or CJI are able to do grant funding, Governor will lean in and participate. She just didn't want us to not have a piece of the conversation of where we are now.

Paul: Will say I worry about this group being the driver. In part because it was a heavy lift when we passed 3194 in 2012-213. It involved a lot of people we had retired judges, district attorneys, etc. was a much broader stakeholder and engagement process than the CJRC under RJC. Just worry about our ability to put together a meaning fully package with credibility we anticipate there will be to her stakeholders but that's another conversation we need to flesh out that may be available.

Andre: We'll follow up as soon as we can but if you have any questions please let us know. We have RJC on Thursday and this may be something to discuss.

Meeting concludes at 11:09am

Meeting Materials	None
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Zoom Chat – No zoom chat comments for 3/17/26