

Higher Education Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2025

10:00-11:00am

Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Dr. Andrea Cantora, Anne Bocchini-Pack, Dr. Charles Adams, Jenna Bachman, Karen Jones, Richard Gibson, Ainsley Moench, Dr. Stephen Steurer, Ramieka Robinson, Meredith Conde, Danielle Cox, Zakiya Lee

I. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10am.

A. Approval of September meeting minutes

The September meeting minutes were approved.

II. Discussion and vote on recommendation drafts

Ainsley Moench announced that she sent out a survey to rank how the recommendations would be ordered. Dr. Andrea Cantora suggested that the workgroup rank the issues at the meeting.

Dr. Charles Adams confirmed that Bowie State University has access to three classrooms starting at 2pm. Meredith Conde confirmed that Goucher College shares classroom space with the Department of Labor and has dedicated trailer space. Dr. Andrea Cantora confirmed that the University of Baltimore and Bowie State also have access to the library. Ainsley Moench said she would reach out to Georgetown to confirm what spaces they have access to.

Dr. Stephen Steurer mentioned that there may be legislation regarding higher education programs during the 2026 legislative session.

Anne Bocchini Pack suggested that an asterisk should be added to the section on MCI-J as MCI-J will be closing down. Meredith Conde said that the Goucher College program may be moving to a different institution, but that she did not want to put it in the report until it was confirmed.

Dr. Stephen Steurer lauded the Goucher College program for installing trailers, noting that academics from Japan are excited about the idea. Dr. Andrea Cantora mentioned that she went to New Jersey to visit their higher education in prison programs. Their program also has connected trailers, and they are able to provide programming all day without interruptions.

Andrea Cantora expressed her support for adding a best-practices section, including Tennessee and SUNY. She announced that Tennessee, SUNY, and Maryland have all been invited to be a part of the National Association for Higher Education Systems Improvement Committee for higher education in prisons. Ascendium gave a large grant to the University Systems of Maryland to promote higher education in prison partnerships across Maryland.

Ainsley Moench asked if Meredith Conde would write a short paragraph on the Goucher trailer project and if Dr. Charles Adams could do the same for the inaugural HBCU Prison Education Summit for the report. Dr. Stephen Steurer agreed that highlighting the positive things happening in correctional education would be good.

Dr. Andrea Cantora asked what the order of the recommendations should be. She suggested putting the recommendations on tuition above the recommendations about supporting a state-wide support system for higher education in prison programming. The recommendation regarding space should be first.

Dr. Stephen Steurer asked if there were current enrollment numbers in the report. Ainsley Moench said she would reach out to the colleges and universities to get a current enrollment figure. Dr. Andrea Cantora mentioned that some students are not full-time, and some are three-quarters time.

Ramieka Robinson suggested adding outcome data to the best-practices section, mentioning Tennessee and SUNY. Ainsley Moench asked what sort of outcome data she would like to see added, and Ramieka Robinson replied that any outcome data that may support creating a state-wide support system would be helpful, such as recidivism rates. Dr. Stephen Steurer warned about using recidivism rates, as different states use different definitions of recidivism. Danielle Cox asked if the enrollment and re-entry outcomes data would come from each program. Andrea Cantora suggested adding capacity data. Dr. Stephen Steurer mentioned that adding some outcome data may support legislators in passing legislation regarding programming. Anne Bocchini Pack suggested focusing on adding capacity-adding data outcomes, and Ainsley Moench said she would get such data from the organizations' websites and presentations given to the Commission.

Zakiya Lee joined the meeting, and Dr. Andrea Cantora asked if she would be willing to write a short paragraph about Maryland's involvement in NASH.

Danielle Cox asked if one of the recommendations could be changed to state "continue ongoing assessments of space," and Anne Bocchini Pack agreed.

Christian Gant asked why recommendations said "request legislation" rather than "pass legislation." Dr. Andrea Cantora replied that the delegates requested that the recommendations be worded that way to reflect that the Commission does not pass legislation.

Danielle Cox asked if the enrollment numbers were specific to each college behind the fence or also included the number of available seats. Ainsley Moench replied that a snapshot of current enrollment would work, and Danielle Cox replied that she would be able to get those numbers. Anne Bocchini Pack

asked if each university could add how many students they are willing to accept, and Danielle Cox responded that the number of students that can be admitted varies from semester to semester. Dr. Andrea Cantora agreed that there are lots of variables that go into the capacity of a program. Dr. Stephen Steurer suggested skipping that metric for the sake of time and complexity.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11am.