

# Vermont Prison Research & Innovation Network

Executive Committee

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THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT  
**JUSTICE RESEARCH INITIATIVE**

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# History

- Vermont history of justice innovation
  - Statewide interest in CJ reforms
- Conversations with VT DOC Senior Mgmt—**culture change**
- UVM-DOC Collaborations:
  - Liberal Arts in Prison Program; CoSA Evaluation; Inmate Family Survey
  - UVM Justice Research Initiative: PRIN; Women's Prison Project; National Center on Restorative Justice (Vermont Law School); Children of Incarcerated Parents Initiative – *pending*

Urban Institute Prison Research Innovation Network: VT DOC application

- ✓ State Leadership Support
- ✓ Partnership between UVM and DOC (UVM JRI)

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# PRIN Infrastructure

- Pilot facility: Southern State Correctional Facility
- Research partners: UVM Justice Research Initiative
  - Increase research capacity
  - Accountability/Transparency
- Onsite Prison Research Innovation Manager (PRIM)
- Steering Committee: Support logistics
- **Executive Committee:**
  - Hold us accountable; support success; use position to make big changes



# Phase 1 - Research

Jan 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020 (Mar 31, 2021)

- Survey Development & Administration
- Participatory Research Methods
- Administrative Data Analyses



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# Phase 1 – Survey Development & Administration

**Describe and provide measurable insights on prison climate & culture**

Two surveys: One for staff and one for incarcerated individuals

Prioritize survey development process (participatory methods)

- Timeline:
- Sep – Nov: Survey development
  - Nov: Pilot testing
  - Dec - Jan: Survey administration
  - Jan – Feb: Data analysis
  - March: Data Walk (results & discussion)



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# Phase 1 – Participatory Research Methods

*“recognizes the importance of involving members of a study population as active and equal participants, in all phases of the research project, if the research process is to be a means of facilitating change.”* – Holkup et. al., 2009

**In this project, this consists of:**

Community Research Councils

Focus Groups

Individual Interviews



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# Phase 1 – Administrative Data Analysis

Individual level analyses - existing centralized data systems

- Corrections & Human Resources (staff)

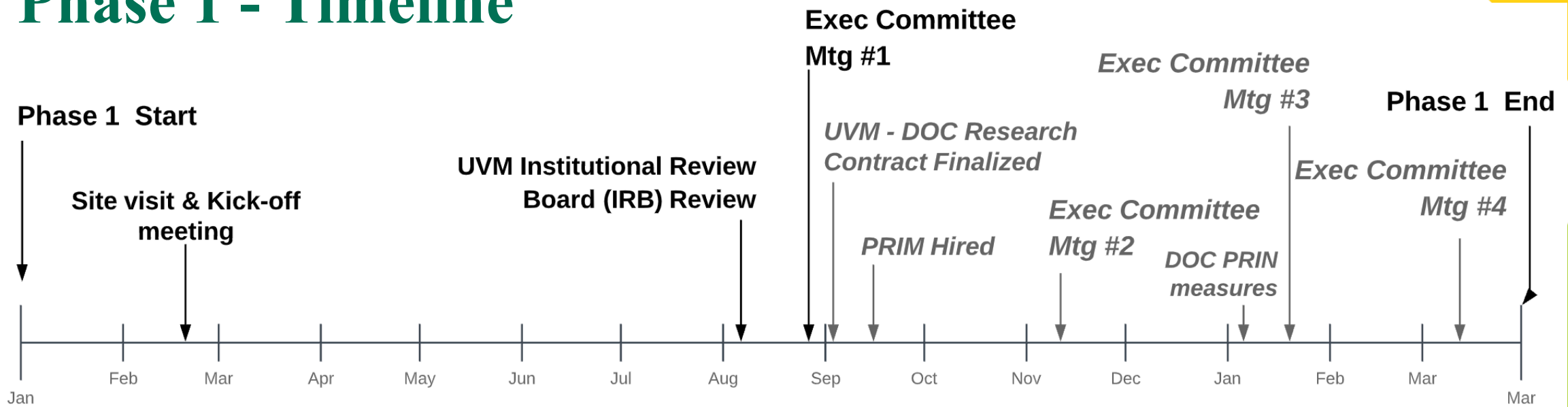
Document review (*i.e.* unit logs)

Quarterly web-publication of PRIN measures, DOC

- Timeline:
- Sep: Data inventory
  - Oct: Research data extracts & document review
  - Nov: Data analysis
  - Jan: Disseminate Preliminary findings



# Phase 1 - Timeline



**Recurring Steering Committee Meetings**

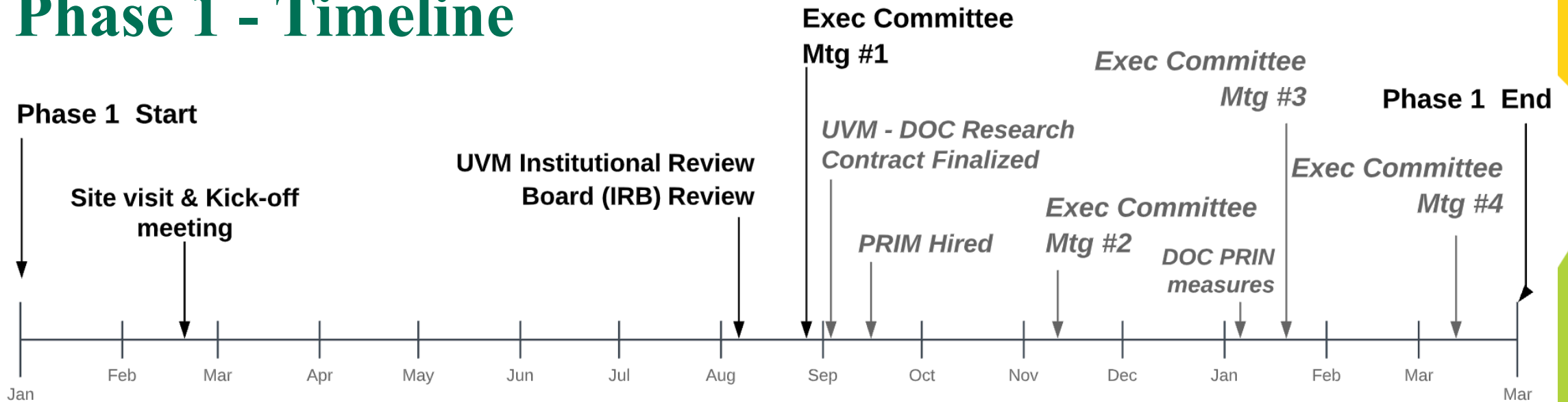
**Survey Development, Administration, and Analysis**

**Administrative Data Extraction and Analysis**

**Data Walk**



# Phase 1 - Timeline



**COVID19**

**Recurring Steering Committee Meetings**

**Survey Development, Administration, and Analysis**

**Administrative Data Extraction and Analysis**

**Data Walk**

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# Questions?

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