

# JJAG Minutes 2/18/2022

**Members Present** - Jill Ward (Chair), Ned Chester (Vice Chair), Todd Landry (OCFS), Jonathan Shapiro (DOE), Christine Thibeault (DOC), Bonnie Porta, Bishop Steve Coleman, Christopher Northrop, Judge Mary Kelly, Elizabeth Ward- Saxl, Tessa Mosher, Tracey Horton.

**Members Absent:** Page Nichols (DOE), Atlee Reilly, Deb Baeder, Regina Phillips, Lt Patrick Hood (DPS), Kaitlyn Megathlin, Gifford Campbell, Sienna Dana, Marta Haydym, Taheim Brimage, Abier Ibrahim

**JJAG Staff Present-** Linda Barry Potter (JJ Specialist and Compliance Monitor)

**DOC Staff Present:** Anwar Whiting (RED/DOC Credible Messenger Coordinator), Sonja Morse (Data and Research Coordinator), Heidi L. Strassberg-Bersani (Juvenile Division Support Specialist)

**Public Attendees:** Steve Labonte, Betsy Boardman, Mary Lou Michael, Tanya Pierson, Sarah Branch, LaMichael Gildersleeve, Luc Nya, Nick Kidwell, Alicia Rea.

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**Call to Order:** 9:05am

**Minutes:** Approval of 1/22/2021 Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve by Bonnie Porta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bishop Steve Coleman. **Adopted by unanimous vote.**

**JJ Specialist Report (*Linda Barry Potter*):**

Update on funding for the specialist position which needs to be adjusted. Those who want to participate in discussion about how to do this should email Linda and/or attend the next Executive Committee meeting (3/15 at 4:30pm).

CJJ conference is coming up May 18-21 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. JJAG Members should email Linda by February 28 if interested in attending (include name, address, cell phone number to start the process of beginning to book travel). After it is clear how many JJAG members are attending, additional slots may be opened up to others.

Title: Creating a New Normal: Drawing on Lessons From the Pandemic to Comprehensively Address Young People's Needs. See: <https://juvjustice.org/events/conferences/cjj-2022-annual-conference>

**Committee Reports:**

***Governance Committee (Ned Chester & Christine Thibeault)***

Ned is seeking new co-chair. Christine presented review of proposed changes to the by-laws. During discussion, two minor adjustments were proposed: Section 7(B) should read up to \$5,000 and Title of Section 7, change to distinguish between in-person/zoom meetings and votes taken over email between meetings. Motion to approve by laws as presented by Governance Committee and modified by Board discussion. Moved by Bishop Steve Coleman; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Todd Landry. **Adopted by unanimous vote.**

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**RED/DMC Committee (Bishop Steve Coleman):** Debrief of January 20 retreat will be 3/8, guided by Erica King and Mara Sanchez. Mindbridge Center and members of the committee will be meeting prior to Long Creek training. Propose moving the RED meeting to 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 4:30pm.

**Legislative Committee (Elizabeth Ward Saxl):** Defer real planning until the summer to make a plan for the 131st Legislature. Meeting sporadically until the end of this short session.

**Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward):** Luc Nya and Jill will get together and set a regular meeting date, next item will be re-visiting 3-year plan goals and objectives, think about next RFP/RFA process, and set a regular (quarterly) schedule to check in with each other and DOC on the CCLP report recommendations.

**Executive Committee (Jill Ward):** Website is live, but still needs some revisions that Jill and Linda are working out with DOC and the web designer. Board will be alerted when it is ready to be utilized/shared. Working with the Governance Committee to compile list of recommendations for open seats to send governor's office in March. LaMichael Gildersleeve, Chris Bicknell and Tanya Pierson have application materials. The Youth Network folks are putting forward two young people for consideration. We are still looking for additional youth/young adults, a local elected official and at least two native/tribal representatives. Please email Jill and Linda if you have suggestions or would like to help with outreach.

## **Agency Presentations:**

**DHHS/OCFS (Todd Landry):** The Children's Cabinet published its annual report, which you can read here: [https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov/future/files/inline-files/GOPIF\\_CC\\_AnnualReport2021.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov/future/files/inline-files/GOPIF_CC_AnnualReport2021.pdf)

**DOE (Jonathan Shapiro):**

Acquired new staff. Planning school safety summer summit, getting speakers and courses lined up. Working on a new/updated plan for the school safety center for the next 2 years - if folks have feedback or input, please reach out. In the surplus would be \$30M stabilization fund to get state's 55% to support the schools. The supplemental budget includes extension of the free lunch program. Proposal for free community college is also in the supplemental budget as well as \$3M for preschool. Interest from Board in getting more information and getting the word out about this to justice involved youth, especially the community college opportunities.

**DPS (Lt Patrick Hood):** Not present.

**Judicial Branch (Judge Mary Kelly):** No major updates; trying to accommodate more court activities on Zoom.

**DOC (Christine Thibeault):** See attached written update. Unity Place in Auburn is scheduled to open on April 1, operated by DOC and staffed by Day One. 3 months-ish program. Populations include youth on community reintegration who are coming out of Long Creek, youth who are at risk of going to Long Creek or need a short-term place of stabilization. Up to 4 beds for boys with

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full range of case management and youth services, no age limitations. And additional 2 beds will come on-line July 1 for attendant care - up to 72 hours – staffed by New Beginnings. JCCOs will work with others to recommend placements at Unity Place and community supports like YAP will be integrated.

MDOC Setting up two technical assistance groups:

1. How to implement elements of the Brennan bill (create 2-4 small, community-based programs with one in Cumberland County, one in Bangor, two others), where do these youth go to school when committed to DOC, look at how other states have tackled this, create a continuum of resources, challenges around staffing, resources, culturally responsive education.
2. Inviting folks to help decide how to spend funding, savings from vacancies at LCYDC and governor/legislature needs to sign off on converting staffing funds into other categories, looking to distribute to the communities and strengthen those community resources
  - a. Catholic Charities is closing FFT program, not available in Bangor region soon, does DOC want to build this out with the funding?
  - b. Hear from youth and families to make strategy for community investment

## **Open Discussion:**

- Christine: Invite Lynne Allen, new LCYDC superintendent to future meeting, perhaps April
- Anwar: youth are utilizing credible messengers model in Maple Unit; youth are bringing up topics on their own, including staff-related issues, concerns. It is going very well and hoping to open up program to other units in the future.

**Next Meetings:** Regular meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month. Next meeting is March 18, 2022 at 9AM via Zoom.

**Adjourned:** 10:45am