

DOC Updates for JJAG Meeting 2/18/22

1. Unity Place program in Auburn - MDOC and Day One have finalized the agreement for staffing of Unity Place (formerly known as Bearings) in Auburn. The anticipated first admissions will be in April 2022.
2. DOC is seeking input from community partners for two ongoing initiatives. Meetings will be held over the next 6 – 10 weeks to seek input and/or technical assistance on:
 - a. Creation of 2-4 small residential placements as alternatives to Long Creek as required in Section KKKK of the budget (formerly referred to as the “Brennan bill,”
 - b. Re-investment of funds that will be made available for community programs as a result of savings on staffing positions at Long Creek.
3. New Superintendent at Long Creek - Lynne Allen began serving as LC Superintendent on January 30, 2022. Many of you may have already met her, but we should invite her to a JJAG meeting this spring – April perhaps?
4. Over the next two months, Sonya Morse (just this week reclassified as Manager of Juvenile Programs) and I are looking at all existing contracts and preparing for FY 2023. We should consider how DOC can collaborate with JJAG to achieve joint goals and objectives.
5. DOC Juvenile Services will begin developing a strategic plan for 2022 that aligns with Section KKKK mandates, implements recommendations of CCLP report, and builds on progress made toward reducing confinement and improving outcomes for all youth.
6. Commissioner Liberty is scheduled to meet with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in March to presenting the curriculum for a specialized training for Juvenile Corrections Officer certification. The curriculum would allow Long Creek staff to become certified without going through the adult Corrections Officer academy, and is heavy on ACEs, adolescent development, trauma informed care, and best practices for interacting with youth.
7. There have been many staffing changes at Long Creek Youth Development Center and several new JPWs have been hired. The new officers have NOT been placed in the adult correction officer training because we’re hoping that the JV certification program will be approved soon and they can receive training specific to working with youth.
8. I’ve reached out DOE Commissioner Pender Makin to discuss education plans for justice-involved youth in the community, at Long Creek, at Unity Place and at CCJ. My goal is to ensure that all justice-involved youth receive uninterrupted education services regardless of where they are residing.