

JJAG Minutes 4/29/2022

Members Present - Jill Ward (Chair), Ned Chester (Vice Chair), Christine Thibeault (DOC), Atlee Reilly, Regina Phillips, Lt Patrick Hood (DPS), Tracey Horton, Tessa Mosher, Betsy Boardman (for Judge Kelly).

Members Absent: Page Nichols (DOE), Todd Landry (OCFS), Jonathan Shapiro (DOE), Deb Baeder, Bonnie Porta, Bishop Steve Coleman, Christopher Northrop, Judge Mary Kelly, Elizabeth Ward- Saxl, 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) and Heidi L. Strassberg-Bersani, B.L.A (Juvenile Division Support Specialist)

Public Attendees: Mary Lou Michael, Tanya Pierson, Bruce King, Chris Bicknell, Swathi Sivasubramanian, Steve Labonte, Kelly Hebert, Jason Greenlaw, Alice Preble, Kelly Rackler, Robert Susi, Ladi Nzeyimana, Renee Bernard, Faduma Mohamed, Margot Fine, Zubeyda,

Call to Order: 9:05am

March Meeting Minutes: Quorum not present. Will approve minutes at next meeting or email vote.

JJ Specialist Report (*Linda Barry Potter*):

Budget - Native Youth Summit Postponed - The Maliseet tribe has decided not to hold the summit this spring due to the pandemic. Contract will end on 4/29/2022 and the funds will revert back to their original lines of funding \$15K to Tribes in the 2019 budget: and \$10K to Community Based Services in the 2019 budget. We will talk with them about how else these funds could be used for a similar purpose since we have set them aside for this population.

CJJ Conference - May 18-21 in Washington, DC. Those attending (Jill, Linda, Christine, Chris B., Anwar, La Michael, Tanya) please sign up for your workshop sessions now. Group will report back on the Conference at the June meeting.

No May meeting. June meeting will be Friday, June 17 at 9:30am in-person at the Central Office Board Room, 25 Tyson Drive, Augusta, ME. Dr. Carter will conduct the JJAG RED training after our regular business meeting (which will be shorter than usual). Directions will be included in the June reminder email with the agenda or email Linda or Heidi.

School Safety Summit at Windham High School (June 21-23) – Rob Susi (DOE) provided an update and overview of the School Safety Summit. 22 presenters – Commissioner Makin is the keynote. Information and registration flyer will be circulated (hopefully May 2) so JJAG members can register and share with others. It is open to all. Suggestion to reach out to Maine Supreme Court Justice Rick Lawrence and invite him to address the Summit. Betsy Boardman will reach out to him. For next year, JJAG will post when planning meetings are happening so folks can get involved earlier if interested.

JJAG Minutes 4/29/2022

Agency Presentations:

DHHS/OCFS: No updates.

DOE: No updates other than School Summit.

DOC (Christine Thibeault): As the fiscal year ends DOC is focusing on spending down contracts. Increasing support for housing, evidence-based practices in the home, high-fidelity wrap-around services. Working to stabilize staffing at Long Creek and regional offices. Day One is in the process of hiring for Unity Place, day staff is hired, overnight staff is still being sought. Plan is to start off with two male youths. Question about girls' residential alternative. STEPS is there but there are not sufficient staff to re-open. Day One has a building in Windham that needs renovations and DOC did support Day One in seeking federal funds to help with this. Memo on this and other updates that was provided to the Legislature earlier this month will be shared (attachment).

DPS (Lt Patrick Hood): No updates.

Judicial Branch: No updates.

Presentation: Maine Juvenile Justice System Assessment Update & Review

Postponed until additional information can be collected from agencies and other stakeholders. Will plan for the review later in the year.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee (Jill Ward): Website is live, but still needs some revisions that Jill and Linda are working on. 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 April; deadline to have applications for this round is March 31. Still looking for additional youth and a local elected official. Move five recommended replacement slots to the Governor (Tanya Pierson, La Michael Gildersleeve, Chris Bicknell, Ladi Nzeyimana and Zubeyda). Youth members need to be filled to be in compliance with OJJDP. August will likely be an off month. Committee meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4:30pm.

RED/DMC Committee (Regina Phillips): JJAG member RED training will happen in June as part of the monthly meeting. Request to expand grant for DOC staff RED training will be voted via email due to lack of quorum. RED data report will be on the agenda for July's meeting. Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:30pm.

Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward): Next issue priority to be recommended is likely to the one coming from the RED plan to increase support for community organizations working with BIPOC youth. Waiting until agency budget processes are complete to get a better idea of the gaps. Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4pm.

JJAG Minutes 4/29/2022

Legislative Committee (Atlee Reilly): No set meetings at this time, possibly August or September, but need more voices on the committee. Work to be coming in the summer to work on how the JJAG will address legislative issues for the next session.

Governance Committee (Ned Chester): Completed work on the by-laws and now turning to on-boarding new members and developing needed policies to make it easier to do the work, define rolls, increase a sense of fairness. Ned described two draft policies that are moving through the process: one on the JJAG 5K grant process and a second on reimbursement for non-members to attend CJJ Conferences and OJJDP Conferences; this would be allowed but it would not include training. The two policies are being reviewed by the Executive Committee and will be circulated via email in May for review and approval by the full Board.

Next is a nominations policy. The five replacement nominations will move forward, but need a policy and process to recommend new members. There are 33 spots on the board and there are specific criteria for those positions. Need to look at the spots and the applications together and see which applicants may be appropriate. Proposal is the Governance Committee will do this and draft a policy to recommend folks to the Governor. Also noted that the Governor can appoint anyone at any time as long as it doesn't violate the criteria in federal law.

Question about appropriateness to put a poster up at USM to open call. Concern about an open call as there are statutory requirements and should have a process that reflects that and encourages participation of folks who understand the JJAG and its purpose. Suggestion that interested parties be encouraged to attend Board and Committee meetings to get a better understanding of the JJAG before expressing interest in applying.

Question about how many JCCOs should be on the board; historically the JJAG has had one, although not in recent years. That number likely makes the most sense as the federal statute prohibits more than 50% of the Board being government employees. Important to also keep in mind those on the front line would have an invaluable input. Focus going forward is to have community members and fill needed slots per the federal requirements; really need young adults and family members with lived experience, local elected official, and tribal representation.

Question about how to make this space more friendly to youth members. Stipends for youth members to recognize their contribution are available, but also need to think about other meeting formats to make participating in the JJAG more inclusive to young people. Suggestion to pair youth with a mentor to provide support before, during and after meetings and all that time is paid. Request was made to have youth engagement as an agenda item at the next Committee meeting. Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 4pm.

Next Meetings: Regular meetings are the 3rd Friday of the month. Next meeting is June 17, 2022 at 9:30 AM at the Central Office Board Room, 25 Tyson Drive, Augusta, ME. There will be a remote option for those who cannot be there in person.

Adjourned: 10:36am.