

JJAG Minutes 2/17/2023 - DRAFT

Members Present (in-person): Ned Chester (Chair), Jill Ward (Vice Chair), Renee Bernard, Bishop Steven Coleman, Brody Haverly-Johndro, Lt Patrick Hood (DPS), Morgan Hynd, Tessa Mosher, Chris Northrop, Regina Phillips, Bonnie Porta, Atlee Reilly, Christine Thibeault, LaMichael Gildersleeve, Elizabeth Ward Saxl (Melissa Martin attended)

Members Present (zoom): Todd Landry (DHHS), Jonathan Shapiro, Megan Anderson, Chris Bicknell, Tanya Pierson, Kelly Rackler

Members Absent: Page Nichols (DOE), Sienna Dana, Abier Ibrahim, Zubeyda Shute, Jay Philbrick, Ladi Nzeyimana, Jacinda Goodwin

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

DOC Staff Present: Anwar Whiting (RED/DOC Credible Messenger Coordinator), Heidi L. Strassberg-Bersani, B.L.A (Juvenile Division Support Specialist), Steve Labonte (RCA, Region 3)

Public Attendees: Mary Lou Michael, Alice Preble, Doran White, Jamie Nohr (in-person)

Call to Order: 9:00am (via zoom)

Welcome & Introductions (Ned): Ned opened the meeting and turned over facilitation to Jill.

January Meeting Minutes (Jill): Approval of the 1/20/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve by Regina Phillips; Chris Northrop seconded. **Adopted by a vote of 18-0 (2 abstentions).**

JJ Specialist Report (Linda Barry Potter):

Budget – FY18 Title II award has been spent down; this needed to happen by the end of the current federal fiscal year, so good news. FY19 Title II award has a balance that needs to be allocated by September 30 from the community-based and mental health budget lines. Reminder that the total funding available for allocation is approximately \$1.2 million, which includes remaining FY20 funds and the recently awarded FY21 and FY22 grants. (see spreadsheet for additional detail).

Contracts – Contract for Downeast Restorative Justice and the extension for Dr. Carter to cover new JJAG members in the RED training were approved. USM contract extension for additional youth stipends in the pipeline waiting to be approved. Working on contract to pay JJAG youth/young adult stipends for their time that will allow for direct deposit (more streamlined).

Note: JJAG members can be reimbursed for travel to meetings and parking if this is not covered as part of your work. Reach out to Linda if you would like reimbursement for these expenses.

CJJ Conference – May 24-26 (Washington, DC) – We have 6 folks confirmed (Linda, Anwar, Renee, Tanya, Kelly and 2 youth members). Delegation will attend conference and Hill Day to visit with Maine's Congressional delegation.

OJJDP State Training and Tribal Youth Conferences in San Diego (December 13-15) – Youth who attended planning to give short presentation at March meeting.

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Committee Reports:

Revised Committee assignments were shared. Please see attached list for the names and emails of each committee's members and use that updated list for communicating with the committee. Reminder to everyone that off-board members are welcome to join the committees and attend the meetings. Please let Linda ASAP if you have any additions or changes to the committee roster.

Executive Committee (Ned Chester & Jill Ward): New members and mentors have been set up as follows: Ned & Kelly; Elizabeth & Morgan; Christine & Tanya; Atlee & Jay. Michael will serve as mentor for the new Youth Council. Jill will also provide support for the group and connect Swathi and the work happening with the Youth Network grant to the Youth Council. Youth/young adult members are also encouraged to join another standing committee in addition to the Youth Council.

RED/DMC Committee (Regina Phillips & Chris Northrop): Dr. Carter's session 3 training scheduled for this afternoon; did have a zoom session in January to bring new members up-to-speed. Mindbridge training for DOC staff started in January and Vic Viera gave a favorable update; appreciative that the training is extensive (over next 2 years) and flexible to access for new staff.

BIPOC youth RFA update: Four one-year awards have been made in the amount of \$25k each as follows: 1) Tree Street will use grant to expand Roots program for youth suspended or expelled from Lewiston public schools; 2) New England Arab American Organization (Westbrook) to expand girl-centered/LGBTQ outreach; 3) Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services to implement restorative practices in Lewiston Elementary school and 4) Boys and Girls Clubs of Border Towns to add mentors specifically working with young males in the community to address local gun violence and suicides. You can see the scoring and other details on the state's procurement website:

www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/RFP

Request to have a regular grant report that describes the projects JJAG is funding with amounts and timeline. Linda produced something like that for the new member orientation, but we will add this as a regular part of the JJ Specialist report.

Governance Committee (Ned Chester & Bonnie Porta): Discussion about RFA award process and whether final approval requires a vote (and whether it matters once awards have been scored as acceptable). There was also concern about how and when we utilize sole source contracts. Request for Governance Committee to develop a funding policy and protocol that clarifies both RFA/RFP process and scope of the use of sole source contracts. Desire to have the JJAG generate the RFAs/RFPs and other funding requests; but raises questions about how we learn about needs and/or opportunities where sole source would be appropriate. Jill will investigate other SAG policies and share with the committee.

Legislative Committee (Atlee Reilly & Elizabeth Ward Saxl): Update on several pending juvenile bills: LD 39, LD 139 and LD 140. Legislation Tracker with links to bills and updates on where they are in process can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bB7k84zAlptUlXq11oahk9MOOsky2No5F0zR3r-6Xlk/edit#gid=0See>.

Proposal for JJAG to consider providing testimony on two bills LD 148 and LD 433.

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- LD 148, An Act to Allow Detention of Juveniles for Certain Acts. Committee recommends JJAG submit testimony NFNA because there was not consensus in the Committee on the proposal, but acknowledgement that the issue comes directly from a recommendation in the System Assessment that the JJAG funded. This would allow JJAG to provide the Committee with information about what practitioners are experiencing and what are best practices around detention. Jill and Tanya agreed to work up a draft and circulate for review.
 - Motion by Atlee to approve; Bonnie seconded. **Adopted 13-0** (6 Abstentions: state folks abstained; Jonathan & Paige not present)
- LD 433 - Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to Establish a Working Group on the Relocation of the Division of Juvenile Services. Committee recommends JJAG testify in favor of this proposal given that several reports recommend that it is an issue the state should address, including the System Assessment funded by the JJAG. Atlee will circulate a draft for review.
 - Motion by Atlee to approve; Chris seconded. Ned offered amendment to change recommendation for the JJAG to provide testimony NFNA to accommodate ability of JJAG to weigh with important information without having to take a position. **Adopted as amended, 11-2** (6 Abstentions: state folks abstained; Jonathan & Paige not present)

General discussion that state actors cannot participate and would need to recuse themselves from decisions around testimony to avoid confusion and/or conflicts as the state will often also have an official position on bills that may or may not be consistent with the JJAG as a whole. Agreement that the Legislative Process plan/policy needs to be augmented to come up with disclaimer language that articulates a standing recusal for executive branch officials. Tanya will investigate how this applies to her as an ADA.

Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward & Luc Nya): Proposal presented for sole source award to Lewiston PD to work with community partners to translate YouTube videos about different aspects of the law into French, Arabic, Portuguese (to start). General agreement that the idea is good, but perhaps some elements (like translation) could be done at lower cost and the partnerships need to be formally confirmed. Discussion about the process and concern that there is an over-utilization of the sole source funding option and that we should be doing most all our grant-making through RFA/RFP. RED Committee chairs voiced a similar concern about a proposal that came to them. Decision made not to vote on the proposal and instead Committee via Linda would notify Lewiston PD that proposal has merit but that the JJAG needs to clarify its processes so did not take action on the proposal. Same notification to be given to the Boys Club on its proposal. Possible avenue may be that these ideas (esp the translation project) go out to bid, but RED and Systems Improvement will need to consider and make a recommendation. See above direction for Governance Committee to flesh out a clearer procedure and policy.

Agency Updates

None at this meeting. Ran out of time. DHHS/OCFS will provide slide deck of prepared presentation (see attached)

Adjourned: 10:50 AM