

# JJAG Minutes 3/17/2023 - Final

**Members Present (in-person):** Ned Chester (Chair), Jill Ward (Vice Chair), Renee Bernard, Bishop Steven Coleman, Brody Haverly-Johndro, Morgan Hynd, , Chris Northrop, Regina Phillips, Bonnie Porta, Atlee Reilly, Jacinda Goodwin, Christine Thibeault (DOC), Todd Landry (DHHS), Jonathan Shapiro, Megan Anderson, Chris Bicknell, Tanya Pierson, Kelly Rackler LaMichael Gildersleeve, Jay Philbrick, Ladi Nzeyimana Elizabeth Ward Saxl (Melissa Martin attended)

**Members Absent:** Lt Patrick Hood (DPS), Page Nichols (DOE), Tessa Mosher, Sienna Dana, Abier Ibrahim, Zubeyda Shute

**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:** Luc Nya, Betsy Boardman, Bruce King, Margot Fine, Mary Lou Michael, Nick Kidwell, Doran White, Sarah Branch, Allie Smith, Jamie Nohr

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**Call to Order:** 9:05am (via zoom)

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

**February Meeting Minutes (Jill):** Approval of the 2/17/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve by Bonnie Porta; Todd Landry seconded. **Adopted unanimously.**

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

*Budget* – On track to get last of FY19 spent by September 30<sup>th</sup>, so should not need to ask for an extension. Remaining balances are as follows: \$11,000 in the FY20 grant, \$435,000 in FY21 and \$504,000 in FY22. (see spreadsheet for additional detail).

*Contracts* – Three of the four contracts for the BIPOC community grants have moved through final approval. Still waiting to receive back the contract with the New England Arab-American Organization.

*CJJ/Annie E Casey Foundation Probation Reform Training – June 21 in Baltimore, MD* – Team to attend (Linda, Christine, Jill, Chris, Brody, Tanya, Kelly)

*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; meetings are set with all members except Senator King.

*Juvenile Justice funding in President's FY24 Budget Proposal*

- \$50 million for a new Alternatives to Youth Incarceration program to repurpose youth prisons
- Title II is funded at \$157 million (up from \$75 million in the current budget)
- Title V is proposed at \$151 million (currently \$65 million)
- \$40 million is included for juvenile indigent defense
- \$30 million is included for a new child welfare and JJ collaboration
- \$15 million is included for sealing and expungement

# JJAG Minutes 3/17/2023 - Final

- \$6 million is included for a new training and technical assistance program focused on youth and family engagement.

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

*Grantee Presentation: Maine Inside Out Lewiston Middle School Program* – Video, breakout discussion and slide deck. Links can be found here: [If Not Us Then Who Film](#) and [Slide Show](#)

## Committee Reports:

***Executive Committee (Ned Chester & Jill Ward):*** Board considered three 5k grant applications as follows:

- Maine School Safety Center for travel to present at the CJJ conference – Chris N. moves to approve; Christine seconds. **Approved 18-0 with 3 abstentions.**
- Old Orchard Beach Police Department for a coordinator to expand the reach of the RJ Board program – Christine moves to approve, Tanya seconds. **Approved 21 - 0.**
- Police Athletic League (PAL) in Lewiston to pay for scholastic books to be handed out in the community – Regina moves to approve, Chris N. seconds. **Not approved 8-9 with 2 abstentions.**

***RED/DMC Committee (Regina Phillips & Chris Northrop):*** Discussion about Mindbridge contract and concerns being raised by them about engagement in the DEI training with DOC for JCCO's and LCYDC staff. Committee chairs will set up a meeting with Mindbridge and DOC to try to come to a resolution and allow the training to continue. Bonnie Porta reported out on Swathi's presentation to the R/ED Committee regarding the Youth Caucus and Opportunity Scholars program. Discussed how going into LCYDC to expand Opportunity Scholars Financial Literacy Program (approved last Board meeting) may be a way to introduce committed youth to the work of JJAG and to gauge interest and appropriateness for youth to participate to fill out the Board requirement of 1/5 being people with lived experience or related to people who have lived experience.

- Young People's Caucus annual Youth Caucus will be on Tuesday, March 28th, 6-8pm on Zoom [Click here to register!](#)

***Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward & Luc Nya):*** Based on community feedback in places like Rockland and Fairfield, among others, the Committee recommends JJAG continue to focus grant awards in line with Goal #1, Objective a). The recommendation to revise and renew the crisis response RFP to be reissued as an RFA that community organizations are eligible to apply for in partnership with a local school or schools to support alternative, community-based crisis response programming and supports. Applicants can apply for up to \$25K for two years; maximum of \$50K. Proposed total allocation for this RFA can be up to \$150K. Jill moves to adopt the recommendation; Bonnie seconds. **Approved 19-0.**

***Legislative Committee (Atlee Reilly & Elizabeth Ward Saxl):*** Update on juvenile bills JJAG agreed to submit NFNA testimony: LD 148, An Act to Allow Detention of Juveniles for Certain Acts, which had its hearing on 3/13 and LD 433, Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Corrections and the

# JJAG Minutes 3/17/2023 - Final

Commissioner of Health and Human Services to Establish a Working Group on the Relocation of the Division of Juvenile Services which has not been scheduled for a hearing yet. Thanks to Jill and Tanya for drafting LD 148 testimony. See it on-line here:

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getTestimonyDoc.asp?id=10012300>).

Tracker with links to bills and updates on where they are in process can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bB7k84zAlptUlXqI1oahk9MOOsky2No5F0zR3r-6Xlk/edit#gid=0See>.

**Governance Committee (Ned Chester & Bonnie Porta):** Updates on four policies:

- Civil Rights Policy required by OJJDP; should be able to use partner agency (DOC) policy
- Grant-making Policy (above 5K) is being drafted.
- Legislative Process: Legislative Committee has updated, and it will be circulated.
- Youth Council: Will likely eventually need a policy or by-laws change but will wait until the Council is a little farther along before drafting something.

## Agency Updates

*DHHS (Todd Landry):* Dr. Landry reported that in February the HHS Committee endorsed the children's behavioral health recommendations from the slide deck sent around last board meeting.

*DOC (Christine Thibeault):* Daily average population remains low. Department continues to look for ways to expand the use of community-based least restrictive options for detained and committed youth. Still looking at Goodwill Hinckley as option for more secure residential care closer to the northern half of the state. Report to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee required by Rep. Brennan's language in last year's supplemental budget will be circulated.

## Other Updates

Judicial Branch's annual Child Welfare Conference is March 30 & 31 with a focus on parents and children with lived experience. Regional Care Teams will be presented. First in-person conference since 2019.

OJJDP webinar on Common Problems, Common Solutions Looking Across Sectors at Strategies for Supporting Rural Youth and Families Toolkit is March 28<sup>th</sup>. RCTs will be presented there as well.

Link to the registration:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwUCIrUYTpz8VkJ59w8\\_o8KlBfFxUu0Y5M3OFwKijwOUPLPQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwUCIrUYTpz8VkJ59w8_o8KlBfFxUu0Y5M3OFwKijwOUPLPQ/viewform).

Link to the toolkit: <https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/mbamtdmc4ogbxar6n9z4v0lygikb1j0l>

**Next meeting is April 11 at 9am via zoom.**

**Adjourned: 11:09 AM**