

JJAG Minutes 5/19/2023

Members Present: Jill Ward (Vice Chair), Judge Sarah Churchill, Christine Thibeault (DOC), Bishop Steven Coleman, Bonnie Porta, Atlee Reilly, Jonathan Shapiro, Chris Northrop, Chris Bicknell, Jacinda Goodwin, Tanya Pierson, Tessa Mosher, La Michael Gildersleeve, Jay Philbrick, Megan Anderson, Brody Haverly-Johndro, Elizabeth Ward Saxl (Melissa Martin attended)

Members Absent: Ned Chester (Chair), Page Nichols (DOE), Todd Landry (DHHS), Renee Bernard, Regina Phillips, Morgan Hynd, Lt Patrick Hood (DPS), Sienna Dana, Abier Ibrahim, Zubeyda Shute, Ladi Nzeyimana,

JJAG Staff Present: Linda Barry Potter (JJ Specialist and Compliance Monitor); Anwar Whiting (RED/DOC Credible Messenger Coordinator)

DOC Staff Present: Sonja Morse (Manager of Juvenile Evidence-Based Programs); Steve Labonte (RCA, Region 3); Heidi L. Strassberg-Bersani (Juvenile Division Support Specialist)

Public Attendees: Swathi Sivasubramanian, Luc Nya, Betsy Boardman, Nick Kidwell, Alice Preble, Doran Wright, Sarah Branch, Allie Smith

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

Welcome & Introductions (Jill) – Welcome Judge Sarah Churchill!

April Meeting Minutes: Approval of the 4/21/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve by Bonnie Porta; Chris Bicknell seconded. **Adopted 13-0 with one abstention.**

JJ Specialist Report (Linda Barry Potter):

Budget – Revised budget tracker was reviewed. Note that going forward items in red indicate that there needs to be some action by the Board. (see spreadsheet for additional detail).

Current RFA – RFA on *Supporting Community-Based Alternatives to Justice System Involvement* (RFA: 202304096) has been posted and a flyer with all the details has been shared to help get the word out. Info is also on the JJAG website at: <https://www.jjagmaine.com/funding/>. Information session was held on May 16 and 10 folks attended. Working on responding to questions from that session. Deadline is May 31.

Compliance Monitoring Update – There was auxiliary officer training in Old Orchard Beach on May 15 that went really well; this was similar to last year's which helps support the police department there for the summer months. The JCRB board briefed them on how to refer kids to them (note JJAG approved a 5K award to them to assist with outreach. Linda is working in June to confirm with each of the state police warden services / campus services / jetport on compliance around detention (this is done every 2-years)

CJJ Conference – May 24-26 in Washington, DC – Six folks confirmed (Linda, Anwar, Renee, Tanya, Brody and Jay). Delegation will attend conference and Hill Day to visit with Maine's Congressional delegation and each person will present part of the JJAG's work for that meeting. Linda assembling information for those meetings, including the Maine JJAG description and member list fact sheets to be shared with the minutes of this meeting. These will go with materials from CJJ about requests SAGs are making of Congress. Youth members will also be connected to youth members from other states.

JJAG Minutes 5/19/2023

CJJ/Annie E Casey Foundation Probation Reform Training – June 21 in Baltimore, MD – Team to attend (Linda, Christine, Jill, Tanya, Tara Chiasson) – Christine to solicit input (questions & ideas) from staff prior to the training. If there are extra slots, Linda will let those folks know who were also interested in attending.

CJJ Youth Conference – July 30-August 1 in Tacoma, Washington – Work on sending a delegation of youth members if interested. Jay will help coordinate with Swathi to ensure JJAG youth members and other youth are aware of the opportunity.

Presentation: McKinney-Vento Overview, Amelia Lyons Rukema, DOE – Please see attached slide deck and below are several additional links to materials referenced in the presentation:

- [Subscribe to ME McKinney-Vento Newsletter](#)
- [ME DOE McKinney website](#)
- [2-min video on McKinney: For Educators](#)
- [2-min video on McKinney: For Families](#)
- [Liaison look up](#)

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee (Ned Chester & Jill Ward): Reviewed 5K request related to housing and the thought was the request was more suited for referral for a funds request from the appropriate Regional Care Team. Also seemed to be some confusion in the letter of support that this was part of the Paul Vestal award program, so Linda will follow-up with the applicant with the RCT suggestion and the author of the support letter to let them know the decision and to clarify. Item to discuss upping the top level of the small grant awards from 5K to 9,500K postponed until we can get more detail on state procurement rules and make a recommendation at the June meeting.

RED/DMC Committee (Regina Phillips & Chris Northrop): Board members received and email with the DEI training schedule for the rest of the year. May's 90 minute remote training is today, the rest of the schedule is posted below:

- June 16, 2023 from 11:30 AM -3:30 PM (4 hour in-person training)
- July 21, 2021 from 11:30 – 1 PM (90 min virtual training)
- September 15, 2023 from 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM (4 hour in-person training)
- October 20, 2023 from 11:30 AM – 1 PM (90 min virtual training)
- November 17, 2023 from 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM (4 hour in-person training)

Mindbridge update re: training of JCCOs /Long Creek staff – Baseline survey got 67/80 response rate which is good. In the midst of an asynchronous component; Christine and others are tracking participation; there is also good side conversation about hiring in DOC and it sounds like Laura and Christine have worked out an arrangement where Laura will support w/ hiring processes and looking to attract more diverse applicants. Discussion about getting the Opportunity Scholars into Long Creek and also engaging/supporting a youth in the facility to join JJAG. Committee will work with Swathi at Opp Scholars and DOC to work on this. Also raised need to update/invest in better RED data; it's been over 5 years since the last comprehensive report and worth doing going into next 3-year planning process.

JJAG Minutes 5/19/2023

Governance Committee (Ned Chester & Bonnie Porta): Currently working on draft grants policy and a need to focus on identifying impacted youth and family members for nomination to fill open seats.

Legislative Committee (Atlee Reilly & Elizabeth Ward Saxl): There were two bills that JJAG agreed to weigh in on NFNA to provide information.

- LD 148, An Act to Allow Detention of Juveniles for Certain Acts -- Work session → tabled → second work session; vote was ONTP but it was 7-6; no floor vote yet.
- 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 voted ONTP at the work session. This was opposed by the DOC and ultimately a part of the bill was included in LD 155, directing the administration to look at best practices in this area.

Tanya mentioned LD 1731 on juvenile records that was ultimately withdrawn. There are more than 2000 bills introduced and things are moving very fast – not much notice and lots of bills being heard. 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>.

Discussion about the interest in presenting more information about the session, the budget and other related activities on topics impacting youth in the state (in addition to getting more details from the agencies about their final budgets, etc.). Committee will discuss and see if there is a series that can be organized and presented.

Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward & Luc Nya): Discussion about proposal to fund Strategies for Youth to provide training on adolescent brain development for law enforcement with a possible train the trainer component. This is consistent with the training objectives in Goal 3 of the 3-year plan and could be leveraged with DOC investment in providing similar training for JCCOs. Feedback was generally positive. Questions about whether the Academy could resource this and whether there are other federal funds that could be applied. Jonathan Shapiro will take that feedback and come back with a specific recommendation. Swathi gave an update on the Youth Network grant work; the Young People's Caucus conference and key takeaways, including youth empowerment, bridging transitional gaps, adult and peer mentorship, validation, resource sharing. There will be more outcome data in June.

Youth Council (Jay Philbrick): Discussion about connecting more directly with Swathi and the Youth Network to help get the Youth Council going to engage youth outside the JJAG youth members. Also hope to work with DOC to allow youth in Long Creek the opportunity to participate.

Agency Updates

Ran out of time for this, but below is OCFS' update forwarded by Dr. Landry:

OCFS Written Updates:

JJAG Minutes 5/19/2023

- Since the last meeting of the JJAG, the Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the Maine Child Welfare Action Network, released the Child Safety and Family Well-Being Plan. The plan can be found [here](#) and the press release regarding the plan can be found [here](#).
- On May 10, 2023, the Governor has announced the Change Package for legislative consideration. The press release from the Governor on the Change Package can be found [here](#). Of note, the Change Package includes a request for \$4.9 million in ongoing funding to establish High-Fidelity Wrap-Around Program for Medicaid-eligible youth, \$1 million in one-time funds to support the previously mentioned Child Safety and Family Well-Being Plan, \$4 million in ongoing funding to double the Credit for Child Care Expenses, and other initiatives that support children and families in Maine.
- On May 16, 2023, DHHS released a [blog update](#) on boosting implementation of Maine's Children's Behavioral Health Plan.

Next meeting is June 16 at 9am.

Adjourned: 11:02 AM