

# JJAG Minutes 7/21/2023

**Members Present:** Ned Chester (Chair), Jill Ward (Vice Chair), Megan Welter (DOE), Todd Landry (DHHS), Bishop Steven Coleman, Bonnie Porta, Chris Northrop, Renee Bernard, La Michael Gildersleeve, Chris Bicknell, Regina Phillips, Kelly Rackler, Tanya Pierson, Tessa Mosher, Jay Philbrick, Elizabeth Ward Saxl (Melissa Martin attended for Elizabeth).

**Members Absent:** Judge Sarah Churchill, Christine Thibeault (DOC), Atlee Reilly, Jonathan Shapiro, Lt Patrick Hood (DPS), Morgan Hynd, Jacinda Goodwin, Brody Haverly-Johndro, Sienna Dana, Abier Ibrahim, Zubeyda Shute, Ladi Nzeyimana, Megan Anderson

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

**DOC Staff Present:** Steve Labonte (DOC Regional Administrator, Region 3)

**Public Attendees:** Swathi Sivasubramanian, Luc Nya, Betsy Boardman, Nick Kidwell, Alice Preble, Doran Wright, Carlie Fischer, Darcy Fisher, Sarah Branch, Gabriel Siwady, Allie Smith

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**Call to Order:** 9:02am (via zoom)

**Welcome & Introductions (Ned Chester)**

**June Meeting Minutes (Jill Ward):** Motion to approve by Bonnie Porta; Ned Chester seconded. **Adopted 13-0 with one abstention.**

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

*Budget & Grants Update* – There is a small balance remaining in the FY19 grant that must be spent by the end of the federal fiscal year (Sept 30, 2023) and should be allocated by then to allow for the grant to be closed out on time. The FY18 grant will be closed out once the contract that is being funded by it is completed. See full budget report for remaining balances in the FY20, FY21 and FY22 grants.

FY23 solicitation is out and due by August 21, 2023. The Title II grant is not competitive, but states must apply for the funds each year by submitting a state plan and maintaining compliance with the core protections of the law to access the funds. We are currently in year 3 of our 3-year plan. The Executive Committee will look over our current narrative, but there shouldn't be any changes to what the Board has laid out as far as goals and objectives.

Restoration of Compliance Monitor role: There will be a revised budget to provide dedicated funding for a full-time Compliance Monitor position as JJAG has had in the past. Linda will continue in the JJ Specialist role and the opening for the Compliance Monitor will be posted by DOC in the coming weeks with the hope of hiring someone in the first part of October 2023.

Tribal Pass-Through: There is requirement in the federal law that states allocate a certain amount of each year's grant to tribes. The Board has generally surpassed the minimum amount required (about \$1200) and has passed through \$17,000 (FY21) and \$15,000 (FY22), respectively. Request for Systems Improvement and R/ED Committees to review this as part of the new 3-year plan process to ensure fairness and equity among all the tribes. Linda is reaching out to the Chiefs to get their input.

# JJAG Minutes 7/21/2023

Youth Engagement Grant: Last meeting the Board voted to extend USM's youth engagement contract to match DOC's contribution for the upcoming fiscal year. The contract is underway and should be completed within the next week or so.

*Compliance Monitoring Update* – Compliance Monitoring report is due in August. Linda is working to complete that for submission to OJJDP. This documents the states adherence to the four core protections in the JJDPA and is required as a condition of receiving the Title II grant.

*CJJ/Annie E Casey Foundation Probation Reform Training – June 21 in Baltimore, MD* – Delegation included Linda, Christine, Jill, Tanya, and Tara Chiasson. Christine will reach out to JCCOs in each DOC region to solicit input on probation reform goals. One goal will be to revise the list of conditions that come down through the courts for a child on probation to make it more individualized and incentive-based. There may also be a work group or some other next steps that involve others. More about that will be coming from DOC. Betsy raised interest in being involved to be part of the discussion about revising court forms and processes that might be impacted by the reform goals.

*CJJ Youth Conference – July 30-August 1 in Tacoma, Washington* – Zubeyda Shute and another non-JJAG youth applicant applied for scholarships to attend (including airfare and lodging). Zubeyda was not able to accept the scholarship to travel in person, but will attend on-line. Two other Maine youth are attending in person.

*Federal Update* – House Appropriations Committee proposed cutting funding for the JJDPA, while the Senate proposed level funding (\$75 million for Title II). See attached summary. May want to ask the Legislative Committee to reach out to the delegation to reiterate support for this funding as follow-up to the JJAG delegation meetings with congressional staff during the CJJ conference.

Coalition for Juvenile Justice has started working on its recommendations to Congress for re-authorization of the JJDPA which is called for in the law to occur every 5 years; it was last reauthorized in 2018 after a long hiatus. Suggestion to add tracking this to the Legislative Committee agenda.

## **Committee Reports:**

***Executive Committee (Ned Chester & Jill Ward):*** Update on progress separating JJ Specialist and Compliance Monitor (CM) roles back into two separate jobs (see Budget Update above). Review of 5K grant proposal from MCILS to support stipends for trainers for upcoming juvenile defender training being hosted by Maine Law. Question about how presenters are chosen and MCILS clarified that most are already rostered practitioners and others selected based on experience and expertise. Confirmed that no JJAG Board members are among the presenters who will receive a stipend. Discussion about purpose of the training and inclusiveness/collaboration with other system stakeholders to present. Motion by Ned Chester to approve the application; seconded by Bonnie Porta. **Approved 10-2 with no abstentions.**

***RED/DMC Committee (Regina Phillips & Chris Northrop):*** Committee reported out its conversation about R/ED data collection; both what is required by the JJDPA and what we want to know about what is happening in Maine. Committee is working out what to recommend to meet both these needs and has asked Anwar to give a report at the next meeting to inform then discussion. Possible request to fund a new report as part of the new R/ED 3-Year plan.

***Governance Committee (Ned Chester & Bonnie Porta):*** On-going work to filling open slots on the Board. Lt. Hood is retiring. Committee will reach out to DPS Commissioner for another recommendation for that slot. Noted again that we are lacking youth members and youth and family with lived experience. Board also needs to contact the Secretary of State's office to ensure the roster they have is reflective of the slots that are required by the JJDPA. Jill will reach out. The committee is working on a draft grants policy

# JJAG Minutes 7/21/2023

and should have something ready to vote on for the September meeting. As part of that process the committee will also look at the Tribal pass-through issue.

**Legislative Committee (Atlee Reilly & Elizabeth Ward Saxl):** The committee is off for the summer but would like time in the October or November JJAG meeting to debrief, provide information and brainstorm about the legislative session.

**Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward & Luc Nya):** Jill, Morgan, Bonnie and Alice met June 28<sup>th</sup> to review applications for the Community-Based Alternatives to System-Involvement RFA. Linda should have approval back from procurement soon and will email the Board once the awards are official. Thanks to everyone for their time! It's a good way to contribute to the work of the JJAG.

Strategies for Youth proposal is being worked on by Linda and Heidi to get the word about the training opportunity and solicit input from state law enforcement associations as to who is interested. The Chiefs and Sheriffs associations have agreed to recommend the training on behalf of their association to help with attendance. Both associations wanted JJAG to know they appreciate the fact that the Board voted for this funding.

Regional Care Team initiative has continued to support youth through the emergency funds that are provided by JJAG and now also through the DOC budget. Federal allocation has run out and request was made to approve third year of funding by matching DOC's contribution of \$10K for each of the provider organizations (\$10K for The Opportunity Alliance and \$10K for Wings) to continue the braided funding of the initiative. Motion by Regina Phillips to allocate \$20K total, \$10K each to Wings and The Opportunity Alliance, to match DOC funds to continue support of RCT initiative. (Noted that FY19 funds can be used and this will allow that grant to be closed out on schedule). Seconded by Bonnie Porta. **Approved 10-0 with one abstention.**

**Youth Council (Jay Philbrick):** Youth Council is working with Linda and Swathi at USM to organize a retreat this summer (August 18-19) for youth to connect, organize and decide how they want to be involved with JJAG. Board members interested in support this effort and/or can serve as a mentor should let Linda know.

## Agency Updates:

**DOC (Christine Thibeault):** From written update: Linda covered the probation reform update in the JJ Specialist report. Just add that Christine would like to have JJAG 3-year plan reflect probation reform goals. Preliminary conversations with the Children's Cabinet, OCFS and DOC have begun around the work group called for in LD 155, as well as work on other reporting and data requirements called for in the bill. At the time of this meeting the bill had not passed, but assuming it will, it and the activities related to it will come into effect in late October.

The DOC budget is generally similar to last year, with no major decreases or increases but it does allow for the transfer of unused Long Creek funds to community-based programming. DOC has executed the majority of its contracts and will continue support for community-based programs from last year. Continuing efforts with Day One to reopen Unity Place; challenges have been with hiring, particularly for overnight shifts. PREA audit of Long Creek was completed. Report will be publicly posted on DOC website soon.

There are currently 32 youth in long creek: 2 female, 13 committed males and 16 detained males and 1 transgender detained youth.

# JJAG Minutes 7/21/2023

**DHHS/OCFS** (*Todd Landry*): Governor's proposals re: Children's Behavioral Health Services were included and passed with minor changes in Part 2 of the budget, but won't be able to access those dollars until end of October at earliest. As a reminder, those efforts are: High-fidelity wraparound, changes to therapeutic foster care, implementation of therapeutic foster care, and multidimensional family therapy.

District 1 and 2 are doing a limited pilot in these districts through federal system of care grant dollars to implement the "Intercept Program". Evidence-based program administered or owned by [Youth Villages](#) In-home, in-community program; quite good results but also quite complicated to implement to meet the evidence-based requirements of that model. For those in York and Cumberland counties: if you hear folks referring to that model, there is more information about the Intercept Program is available online They will be monitoring, evaluating pilot for potential consideration of expansion in the future

**DOE** (*Megan Welter*): Focusing on strengthening relationships and building positive school cultures. "Whole-student approach" - focuses on putting initiatives and supports in schools to do this. Continuing to support restorative justice practices in schools (through Maine School Safety Center) BARR: Building Assets & Reducing Risks - setting up [BARR schools](#); previously had 35 in the state and this Fall will be up to 90. This is a huge investment. Model works w/ individual schools to work alongside the initiatives they have in place. Looks at how to arrange schedules, teachers, students to create smaller teams that foster connection SAMHSA blueprint model.

Maine School Safety Summit will be August 7-10, 2023, at the Augusta Civic and is now part of larger Education Summit. Goal is to talk to SROs about how school environment is different and to make educators, law enforcement work together positively and constructively. Topics on brain science, trauma-informed practices, how to be a guest speaker or presenter in a classroom. See more here: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/MaineEducatorSummit2023/SchoolSafetySummit>

**DPS:** No updates.

**Judicial Branch:** No updates.

No August meeting. Next meeting is September 15th at 9am.

**Adjourned 10:39am.**