

# JJAG Minutes 10/20/2023

**Members Present:** Jill Ward (Vice Chair), Chris Bicknell, Megan Welter (DOE), Atlee Reilly, Regina Phillips, Abeir Ibrahim, Bishop Steven Coleman, Morgan Hynd, Renee Bernard, Christine Thibeault (DOC), Todd Landry (DHHS), Samantha Fenderson (DOL), Judge Sarah Churchill, Bonnie Porta, Jacinda Goodwin, Jonathan Shapiro, La Michael Gildersleeve, Kelly Rackler, Tanya Pierson, Tessa Mosher, Brody Haverly-Johndro, Melissa Martin (replacement nominee).

**Members Absent:** Ned Chester (Chair), Chris Northrop, Jay Philbrick, Megan Anderson, Zubeyda Shute, Ladi Nzeyimana, Sierra Dana.

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

**DOC Staff Present:** Heidi L. Strassberg-Bersani (Juvenile Division Support Specialist)

**Public Attendees:** Swathi Sivasubramanian, Betsy Boardman, Anna Schmidt, Alice Preble, Sarah Branch, Doran Wright, Zoe Sahloul, Julia Sleeper-Whiting

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

## **Welcome & Introductions (Jill Ward)**

**September Meeting Minutes (Jill Ward):** Motion to approve as amended (name and attendance corrections) by Bonnie Porta; Renee Bernard seconded. **Adopted 15-0 with two abstentions.**

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

*Budget & Grants Update* – Grant extensions for FY18 (6 months) and FY19 (12 months) approved by OJJDP and will allow for obligated funds on current contracts to be spent down. FY20 grant is on track to be spent down on time. See budget spreadsheet for remaining balances in the FY20, FY21 and FY22 grants. FY23 solicitation was submitted on August 21, 2023 and has been accepted by our federal program manager and is moving through the approval process at OJJDP. All new contracts that started in FY24 are accounted for.

*Compliance Monitoring Update* – No new updates.

*CJJ Annual R/ED Conference* – Scheduled for October 30-31 in Louisville, KY. Chris Northrop and Renee Bernard will attend. Info and draft agenda can be found [here](#).

Noted that CJJ Executive Director Naomi Evans is stepping down at the end of October, she has been there for 10 years. There is an interim director who has stepped in while they conduct a search for the new ED.

## **Grantee Updates:**

- Presentation by Julia Sleeper-Whiting from [Tree Street Youth Center](#) on their RootED program, See power point slides for details from the presentation on the grant supporting their work with Lewiston Middle School.
- Presentation by Zoe Shaloul from [New England Arab American Organization](#) (NEAAO): They have been using their grant to hold skill building classes for girls that are culturally appropriate

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and teach the girls how to stand up for themselves in hard places like school. It encourages conflict resolution, art classes and experiences, and understanding the harm that can be caused in school, by the youth and the parents. There has been cross over attendance from their summer program into their after-school programming as well and there are bringing in community providers for self-defense and bystander action for contentious situations, LGBTQ agencies for better understanding of an individual's rights and socially appropriate activities and recreation.

## Committee Reports:

**Executive Committee (Ned Chester & Jill Ward):** Compliance Monitor (CM) position interviews are complete. Three candidates were interviewed and an offer is pending. Also noted that we will be polling members to come up with a new meeting time in 2024 to allow for greater youth member engagement. Next meeting is Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

\$5K grant requests:

- Smooth Feather – Brief discussion and motion to approve by Christine Thibeault. Seconded by Morgan Hynd. **Approved 17-0.**
- Youth Led Justice & Restorative Justice Institute in Maine – Discussion about the project and concerns were raised by the sexual assault and domestic violence groups about the organization chosen for the training and in general about criteria and outcomes consistent with the recommendations of the RJ Blueprint report that the JJAG funded several years ago. Board agreed table vote and go back to YLJ and RJIM with these concerns and invite them to attend the November Systems Improvement Meeting for a larger discussion about whether there should be an RFA issued by the JJAG to support this type of project. Linda will follow up with the organizations about these next steps.

**Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward & Luc Nya):** Possible RFA areas in addition to restorative justice include substance use prevention and treatment for adolescents. On this second issue, committee is gathering information about how and where JJAG might be able to most effectively contribute to current state efforts. Committee will also discuss the planning and timeline for developing the next Three-Year plan for the FY24 application at the next meeting, which will be Wednesday, November 8 at 4pm.

**R/ED Committee (Regina Phillips & Chris Northrop):** Committee has begun talk about R/ED goals for the next Three-Year plan. JJAG and DOC trainings coming to a close - last two JJAG sessions with Dr. Carter will be this afternoon (remote) and then in person after the November Board meeting on 11/17. Next Mindbridge meeting is 10/19. Question asked about new employees getting access to the training. Next Committee meeting will be Tuesday, November 14th at 4:30pm.

- Crater Group Contract adjustment – Committee recommended approval of adjustment to Dr. Carter's contract by \$21K to cover the differences needed regarding the change to more in person trainings than virtual. Jill Ward moved to approve the recommended approval, Bonnie Porta seconded. **Approved 16-0.**

**Governance Committee (Ned Chester & Bonnie Porta):** The committee continues to work on revisions to the draft grants policy and will circulate a new draft via email. Also continuing to work on getting application for Melissa Martin (replacement for Elizabeth Ward Saxl) in as well as outreach to other possible nominees raised in prior meetings. Next meeting is Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.

**Youth Council (Jay Philbrick):** Youth Council asked to move its presentation on its goals and priorities for the JJAG/Three-Year plan to the November meeting. Council meets monthly on Tuesday evenings.

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**Legislative Committee (Atlee Reilly & Elizabeth Ward Saxl):** The committee presented an overview of the legislative process and relevant bills from the first session of the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature. See power point for details. The next Legislative Committee meeting is Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 8am.

**Agency Updates:** No updates this month. Agencies will give presentations related to relevant state initiatives and budget priorities at the November meeting to help inform the Three-Year plan/process.

Next meeting is November 17th at 9am.

**Adjourned 11:07am.**