

# JJAG Minutes 11/17/2023

**Members Present (in person at Williams Temple Church of God in Christ 274 Terrace Ave Portland):** Jill Ward (Vice Chair), Atlee Reilly, Regina Phillips, Abeir Ibrahim, Bishop Steven Coleman, Christine Thibeault (DOC), Bonnie Porta, Chris Northrop

**Members Present (via zoom):** Chris Bicknell, Megan Welter (DOE), Dean Bugaj (for Todd Landry (DHHS)), Samantha Fenderson (DOL), Judge Sarah Churchill, Renee Bernard, Jonathan Shapiro, Kelly Rackler, Tanya Pierson, Tessa Mosher, La Michael Gildersleeve, Jay Philbrick, Melissa Martin (replacement nominee).

**Members Absent:** Ned Chester (Chair), Todd Landry (DHHS), Morgan Hynd, Jacinda Goodwin, Brody Haverly-Johndro, Megan Anderson, Zubeyda Shute, Ladi Nzeyimana, Sierra Dana.

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

**Public Attendees (via zoom):** Swathi Sivasubramanian, Betsy Boardman, Nick Kidwell, Nickole Wesley, Alice Preble, Doran Wright, Luc Nya, Madison Burke

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**Call to Order:** 9:04am

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

**October Meeting Minutes (Jill Ward):** Motion to approve as amended (name and attendance corrections) by Christine Thibeault; Bonnie Porta seconded. **Adopted 16-0.**

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

*Budget & Grants Update* – On track to spend down FY18 and FY19 obligated funds. See budget spreadsheet for remaining balances in the FY20, FY21 and FY22 grants. FY23 solicitation was submitted on August 21, 2023 was approved, but is being held up until we can make progress on appointing at least three individuals with system experience. Outreach to two individuals has been prioritized to meet the requirements. We will continue with grantee updates in December and will hear from MEIRS. Strategies for Youth will hold their first “Policing the Teen Brain” training for law enforcement in Southern Maine November 28-29, 2023 from 8 AM – 4 PM both days. Ten registrants to date and have room for up to 30. Linda will forward the flyer and members asked to circulate it to help fill the slots.

*Compliance Monitoring Update* – No new updates.

*CJJ Annual R/ED Conference* – Held October 30-31 in Louisville, KY. Renee Bernard attended and provided an update and will provide a short summary.

*Save the Date: 2024 CJJ Annual Conference* – Scheduled for May 29 – June 1, 2024 in Washington DC. CJJ is still advertising for an Executive Director.

No grantee update this month.

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## Committee Reports:

### *Executive Committee (Ned Chester & Jill Ward):*

Christine Thibeault announced the new Compliance Monitor has been hired. Christine, Jill and Ryan Andersen served on the panel that conducted 3 interviews. Douglas Sanbourne comes from Long Creek Youth Development Center (LCYDC) and will transition to the JJAG in January 2024. Christine also shared the Long Creek Visitors Board is looking for a couple of members if anyone is interested in being appointed to another gubernatorial appointed board. A description of their role and meeting minutes is here: <https://www.maine.gov/corrections/longcreek/bov>.

Committee recommended postponing JJAG Long Creek visit to better prepare and understand what we want to learn from the visit and tour. Youth Council was asked to participate in a planning process. Concerns to be addressed include how the JJAG should articulate our goals for the visit, how to open conversations with youth and staff to best get answers that bring information that is useful to the Board, and to make sure the youth in the facility understand the role of the JJAG. Anwar, La Micheal, and Doran were identified as trusted mentors inside of LCYDC and should work with the Youth Council and Swathi to develop these groups and conversations.

### \$5K grant requests:

- Lincoln Elementary School in support of its restorative justice program. Brief discussion and motion to approve by Regina Phillips. Seconded by Bonnie Porta. **Approved 16-0.**
- NEAAO in support of its work to support Arabic speaking providers and counselors for restorative circles in the wake of the Lewiston shootings. Brief discussion about the project and motion to approve by Christine Thibeault. Seconded by Regina Phillips. **Approved 16-0.**

*R/ED Committee (Regina Phillips & Chris Northrop):* Committee reported that OJJDP TTA for R/ED work has switched from CCAS to the Center for Reducing R/ED at Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and we will look into having them come to work with the R/ED Committee. R/ED and Systems Improvement Committees will work together on the new 3-Year Plan in incorporate R/ED plan goals from the beginning.

- Recommended support for \$25K renewal for grantee Tree Street's RootED project. Regina Phillips motioned to approve; seconded by Bonnie Porta. **Approved 15-0 with 1 abstention.** Request to share concern raised about grant supplanting school system obligation to work with these students in school. Jill and Linda will work on communication with Tree Street.
- With the Systems Improvement Committee, recommended support for engaging Dr. Carter in a new sole source contract to support us with our 3-Year Plan process. Bishop Coleman motioned to approve; seconded by Bonnie Porta. **Approved 16-0.**

*Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward & Luc Nya):* In addition to the recommendation with the R/ED Committee to engage the Carter Group in supporting JJAG through 3-year plan process, will be recommending an new RFA to support community-based restorative justice work. The committee has asked practitioners and other stakeholders for information on what they see is most needed. Linda will take the feedback and summarize it to help in the development of the RFA. The committee is still also looking at possible RFA in support of substance use prevention and treatment for adolescents. On this second RFA issue, committee is gathering information about how and where JJAG might be able to most effectively contribute to current state efforts.

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**Governance Committee (Ned Chester & Bonnie Porta):** The draft grants policy has been circulated and members have until December 11 to forward any suggested edits. Final policy will be voted on at the December meeting. Also continuing to work on getting application for Melissa Martin (replacement for Elizabeth Ward Saxl) and focused on recruiting individuals with lived experience to meet the statutory requirement and release the condition on our FY23 award. Committee would like to move forward with identifying a youth in Long Creek to be considered for appointment.

**Youth Council (Jay Philbrick):** Youth Council will continue to work with Swathi and others to build out the LCYDC visitation and conversation with the youth inside of the facility. They will work alongside trusted identified mentors known to the youth already. Weekends are better because there less programming so better opportunity to engage youth in conversations/listening circles. Swathi shared that the Young People's Caucus will be having youth check in meetings weekly with justice impacted young people and will loop in the Youth Council. See flyer shared earlier in the week.

**Legislative Committee (Atlee Reilly & Elizabeth Ward Saxl):** No update. See last month's presentation.

**Agency Updates:** Agency representatives have been asked to present on major budget items and initiatives for the coming year(s) to help inform JJAG's 3-year planning process. DOC and DOE will present at December's meeting. Request to have DOL and Judicial Branch present as well, possibly at the January meeting.

**DHHS/OCFS (Dean Bugaj for Todd Landry):** Dean reported on legislation that OCFS continues to work on, as well as policies and programs that they are trying to meet the needs of youth in the department. There is a focus on specialty foster home, training, and working with the CBHC pilot programs. See slide deck for full presentation.

Next meeting is December 15th at 9am.

**Adjourned 11:05am.**