

# JJAG Minutes 12/15/2023

**Members Present:** Ned Chester (Chair), Jill Ward (Vice Chair), Atlee Reilly, Bishop Steven Coleman, Christine Thibeault (DOC), Megan Welter (DOE), Dean Bugaj (DHHS), Samantha Fenderson (DOL), Bonnie Porta, Morgan Hynd, Renee Bernard, Jonathan Shapiro, Kelly Rackler, Tanya Pierson, Tessa Mosher, La Michael Gildersleeve, Jay Philbrick.

**Members Absent:** Judge Sarah Churchill, Chris Northrop, Regina Phillips, Abeir Ibrahim, Chris Bicknell, Jacinda Goodwin, Brody Haverly-Johndro, Megan Anderson, Zubeyda Shute, Ladi Nzeyimana, Sierra Dana, Melissa Martin (replacement nominee).

**JJAG Staff Present (in person):** Linda Barry Potter (JJ Specialist and Compliance Monitor), Anwar Whiting (RED/DOC Credible Messenger Coordinator), Steve Labonte (RCA, Region 3), Julie Leavitt (JCCO)

**Public Attendees (via zoom):** Ana Hicks, Swathi Sivasubramanian, Betsy Boardman, Nick Kidwell, Alice Preble, Doran Wright, Patricia Buck, Hannah Conkin, Heather Fogg, Callie Ferguson, Rilwan Osman, Abdi “Lalee” Awad, Abidikadir Negeye

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**Call to Order:** 9:12am (via zoom)

**Welcome & Introductions (Ned Chester)**

**November Meeting Minutes (Jill Ward):** Motion to approve by Tanya Pierson; Samantha Fenderson seconded. **Adopted 16-0.**

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

*Budget & Grants Update* – No new updates on the budget from last month. FY23 award for \$603,000 was released by OJJDP and available. Working to finalize budget for OJJDP, including ensuring there is enough in the Compliance Monitor line to cover the newly hired Compliance Monitor (CM). Contracts are all up to date and we will be closing out the FY18 and FY19 grants.

*Compliance Monitoring Update* – No new updates. New CM, Douglas Sanborn, starts in January.

*Save the Date: [2024 CJJ Annual Conference](#)* – Scheduled for May 29 – June 1, 2024 in Washington DC. *OJJDP 2024 National Conference* celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the JJDPA scheduled for November.

*Grantee Update: MEIRS* – Presentation by Patricia Buck and Hannah Conkin about the Circle of Care Restorative Practice Action and Advisory Group. Focus is on reducing racial disparities in school exclusion in Lewiston. [See slides for additional information.](#)

**Agency Updates:**

Agency representatives were asked to present on major budget items and initiatives for the coming year(s) to help inform JJAG’s 3-year planning process. DHHS presented in November and DOC, DOL, and DOE were on today’s agenda. DOE will finish its presentation at the January meeting and Ana Hicks from the Children’s Cabinet will also be presenting in January.

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**DOC (Christine Thibeault):** Christine presented the DOC's draft strategic plan for 2024 for the three general areas of Juvenile Community Corrections, Community Programs and Resources and Long Creek, which included a description of youth unmet needs as identified by JCCOs. The presentation also covered community and agency partnerships. See the DOC power point for additional details and the full presentation.

**DOE (Megan Welter):** Megan only got a few minutes into her presentation, Youth-Centered Initiatives with JJAG Implications, when the connection was lost. She will complete DOE's presentation (see slides) at the January meeting.

**DOL (Samantha Fenderson):** Samantha provided an overview of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation supports and services. See the DOL power point for additional details and the full presentation.

## **Committee Reports:**

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

\$5K grant request:

- Spiritual Care Services of Maine to provide support to teens and staff at the New Beginnings center in Lewiston. Brief discussion and motion to approve by Morgan Hynd. Seconded by Renee Bernard. **Approved 15-0, with one abstention (Tessa Mosher).**

***R/ED Committee (Regina Phillips & Chris Northrop):*** No updates.

***Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward & Luc Nya):*** Committee is working with the R/ED Committee and Carter Development Group to develop a plan for the 3-year plan process to begin in January.

### ***Governance Committee (Ned Chester & Bonnie Porta):***

Grants Policy (over \$5000):

- Motion to approve Grant Policy by Bonnie Porta. Seconded by Tanya Pierson. **Approved 16-0.**

***Youth Council (Jay Philbrick):*** No update, but the Council will be working with Linda to recommend alternative Board meeting days/times for 2024 beyond January's meeting.

***Legislative Committee (Atlee Reilly & Elizabeth Ward Saxl):*** No update.

Next meeting is January 19th at 9am.

**Adjourned 11:20am.**