

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES
September 28, 2011



Paul R. LePage
Governor, State of Maine

Paul K. Vestal, Chair
Edwin P. Chester, Esq. Vice Chair

I. Roll Call:

Present: Mark Boger, Richard Brown, Ned Chester, Dalene Dutton, Jim Foss, Denise Giles, Jacinda Goodwin, Jamie Johnson, Charles LaVerdiere, Randall Liberty, Joan McDonald, Dan Nichols, Jonathan Shapiro, Barry Stoodley, Christine Thibeault, Paul Vestal, and Patrick Walsh

Absent: Abigail Comee-McCourt, Hannah McMullen, and Doug Patrick

Staff: Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist; Ryan Andersen, Compliance Monitor; Noël Bonam, DMC Coordinator

Guests: Ben Love; Rod Bouffard, Superintendent of Long Creek Youth Development Center

Paul Vestal, JJAG Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10A.M, and welcomed JJAG members and guests. Paul noted the postponement of the meeting at Long Creek Youth Development Center until the January 2012. Paul then asked members to introduce themselves.

II. Minutes:

The minutes for the June 2011 JJAG meeting were approved.

Motion: To approve the June 22, 2011 Minutes

Moved: Dan Nichols/Jim Foss seconded

Action: Approved

III. Rod Bouffard, Superintendent – Long Creek Youth Development Center & Barry Stoodly, Associate Commissioner of Juvenile Services

Barry discussed recent changes in the Department of Correction's central office and a facility. The new staffing matrix at Long Creek Youth Development Center has changed staffing levels and scheduled shifts. The substance abuse and education contracts remain the same however the mental health, medical, and dental services will be combined into one contract. A Request for Proposals for a privatized approach is being discussed. The division is expecting an increase in desired outcomes without a change in standards.

Rod Bouffard sees first hand how committed to making MDOC efficient with quality programs and fiscal responsibility.

Long Creek will have a reduction in the day force. In an effort to have better outcomes for students the teachers have the students all day and will monitor them at lunch and other relevant activities. Unit staff will follow a resident from the home unit to SMU rather than staff the SMU full time. This is possible due to the use of Motivational Interviewing and Collaborative Problem Solving with residents. Rod recognizes the stress placed on staff with this change however is optimistic that the changes will result in better outcomes and will optimize the dollars spent.

Barry stated that food services will go out to bid as well and this will mean a loss of State jobs. The Commissioner has laid off and eliminated positions in the Department. Community Corrections staff will be used to help with recidivism and community reintegration. This may mean a change in community corrections.

In answer to a question of lock-downs Rod stated that he had not approved any lock-down and requested to be informed if members hear anything about them. He did say that there are regular, short times when residents must stay in their rooms for things like counts and situations where the safety of the staff and residents is at stake.

More questions for Barry or Rod may be sent to Kathryn.

IV. Chair Report, Paul Vestal:

Paul reported that Dalene is the Federal Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice representative for Maine and four other states. He noted that he and Kathryn are working on reappointments to the JJAG.

Paul reported that two letters concerning juvenile justice funding had been sent to the Congressional delegation, as well as one that recommended reauthorization of the Act. It was also noted that Dick met with them in July.

Also reported was that Shelley Reed's position on JJAG will not be filled, considering her work is now being shared by three people at the Department of Education. It was mentioned that DHHS representative is not able to attend meetings.

Paul recommended the JJAG approve the Juvenile Justice Implementation Council agreement to support administration of JJIC. Members raised a concern about JJIC District Council goals to reduce detention, increase the graduation rate, and increase community programs and that some JJAG members are not seeing commitment for the community programs at the community level.

Motion: To continue to support the Juvenile Justice Implementation Council.

Moved: Ned Chester/Joan McDonald seconded

Action: Approved

Discussion centered on the indirect cost rate of the UM System schools; 32.8%. Muskie does split the cost with us however members want to know if it can be

lowered first of all and secondly what is it covering? Kathryn will talk with Mike Brennan and will ask more questions on the next UM system agreement.

Paul then proposed to continue to fund the Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator at \$45,420, an increase from \$37,000 for last year.

Motion: To continue and increase funding for the DMC Coordinator position

Moved: Christine moved/Joan McDonald seconded

Action: Approved

V. Juvenile Justice Specialist:

Kathryn reported on the progress of Collaborative Problem Solving into middle schools around the state, and the possibility of bringing it into police departments. She also reported that our RFP for school suspension and expulsion and delinquency prevention has been released and bids will be reviewed on the 18th of October. Reviewers will be Joan McDonald, Jacinda Goodwin, Jim Foss, Jamie Johnson and Denise Giles.

Emma Burke, the JJAG intern for the summer, had been hired as the new JJAG assistant to replace Elaine, who retired. Dr. Ross Greene will hold a Collaborative Problem Solving (Lives in the Balance) conference on the 14th of November.

The Compliance Monitor budget line must be raised due to the salary of the new compliance monitor. The current amount is \$65,000 which is not enough to support the monitoring position. Kathryn suggests increasing the line to \$85,000 with the \$20,000 coming out of our Systems Improvement line.

Motion: To increase funding for the Compliance Monitor line.

Moved: Joan McDonald moved/Jim Foss seconded

Action: Approved

The American Indian Pass through funds for FY 2010 and 2011 should be combined to allow a tribe more financial support to implement a program.

Motion: To combine American Indian Pass through funds FY 2010 and 2011.

Moved: Christine Thibeault moved/ Joan McDonald seconded

Action: Approved

VI. Compliance Monitor

Ryan Andersen discussed his reworking of the CM duties, including updating of the CM filing system, including more facility photos, photocopies of booking

logs, etc. Everything is now also kept in digital folders as well to pass auditing standards. Updated the on-site review form to clear up inaccuracies and reduce paperwork. Ryan now has 275 facilities that need to be reviewed for DJS compliance. Ryan discussed how he views his inspections as “site reviews” and that he stresses he is there to share information about compliance and to enhance preventative measures. Ryan reported that he submitted his response to the 2009 audit for OJJDP to the DOC Commissioner, and that it included a policy revision regarding sight and sound separation for juveniles from adults. There is another revision regarding policy for the juvenile facilities that is currently being reviewed by the superintendents at Long Creek and Mountain View.

When asked to clarify his view of his position, Ryan stated that he viewed his job as mainly to protect the \$600,000 funded by OJJDP, and that he wanted not to find many violations, but to keep them from occurring.

VII. DMC Coordinator:

Noël discussed the meeting held at Long Creek with minority youth, and how important it is to keep these youth engaged and involved because the youth are really interested in sharing their experiences. Noël also reported on the Undoing Racism follow-up meeting and how the participants discussed how to leverage what they learned at the workshop to DMC work. He suggested that doing Undoing Racism trainings in the state would be extremely helpful, and asked if it would be possible to combine the youth at the LCYDC meeting with those of the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). Noël reported that three police departments would be providing quantitative data for our Cumberland County DMC project. He is a member of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Cultural Diversity committee and takes part in conference call meetings. Noël would like the YA to attend a JJAG meeting in the future. A strategic planning meeting for the Cumberland County project is set for October 6th. He will attend the OJJDP training and conference.

A question was raised about the December 7th JJAG meeting being held at Long Creek so the YAC could be in attendance. Kathryn will check with Barry to see if it would be appropriate. She will work on a solution.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

The next meeting will take place on October 26, 2011 at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

