

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES
February 22, 2012



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, Emma Burke, Ned Chester, Dalene Dutton, Jim Foss, Jacinda Goodwin, Randall Liberty, Joan McDonald, Dan Nichols, Doug Patrick, Barry Stoodley, Christine Thibeault, Paul Vestal, and Patrick Walsh

Absent: Abigail Comee-McCourt, Denise Giles, Jamie Johnson, Charles LaVerdierre, Hannah McMullen, Margaret Longworth, and Jonathan Shapiro

Staff: Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist; Ryan Andersen, Compliance Monitor, Emma Burke, Staff Assistant

Guest: Honorable Leigh Saufley, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine

Paul Vestal, JJAG Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed JJAG members. .

II. Minutes:

The minutes for the January 25, 2012 JJAG meeting were approved.

Motion: To approve the January 25, 2012 Minutes

Moved: Dalene Dutton/Randall Liberty seconded

Action: Approved

III. Chair Report – Paul Vestal, Jr.:

Paul stated that he and Kathryn had a chance to sit down with the new Associate Commissioner of Corrections, Melissa Grondin, and had a really good chat. Melissa mentioned that she had already been to the JJAG website and we provided her with more information. She spoke of her experiences and stated that she would not be testifying this year as she needs more time to catch up to speed. Paul stated that she was really interested in the JJAG. Paul also spoke of the CJJ budget. We will be seeing a lot more information in the future. Emma's appointment was sent over to the Governor's Office and that is now in the process. Emma stated that she was appointed on February 17th. Paul also mentioned that there is the JDAI Training March 21st and the 22nd and due to other commitments, he will not be able to attend the first day, but will be attending the second day. Paul then went on the next item on the agenda and asked Christine to give her report on We will now move on to the Legislative Committee.

IV. Committee/Department Reports:

Legislation – Christine Thibeault. Christine stated that it was interesting. We were involved in two bills since we met last. The first one was put forward by Mark Boger to create a separate council for juveniles under the Interstate Compact. Some of the JJAG members will be appointed to be members of the council. It was a very easy bill and there was no opposition. Only one member asked for more time before going in to a work session. The other bill was LD 1727 An Act to Ensure that the Public is Duly Notified When Certain Juvenile Crimes Are Committed. That was Commissioner John Morrison’s bill to allow law enforcement officers to disclose the identity of juveniles upon arrest. It went through some amendments. The current iteration of the bill allows only the chief officer, Sheriff or the Chief of Police or someone in the State Police to disclose that information and they limited it to a dozen or so offenses, murder, rape, etc. The only proponent of the bill was the Commissioner of Public Safety and a lot of opposition. The committee voted 8 in favor of Ought to Pass and 4 Ought Not to Pass. Legislators seem to think it will go through because it is the Commissioner’s bill. Christine stated that she was very disheartened by the attitude in Augusta and expressed her concerns if this bill passes. Ned asked if the language stayed intact as to whether or not law enforcement may disclose that information or if it must disclose the information. Christine stated that there is still a clause in the bill that the law enforcement officer could chose not to disclose that information, however, she felt that if the media is aware of the case at all, law enforcement may feel pressured to disclose the information. Barry suggested that, once this is voted on, it might be useful if the JJAG could reach out to the law enforcement community to let them know of the impact this bill could make by disclosing this information. Barry hoped that law enforcement officers will at least wait for the District Attorneys to make its decision before releasing the information.

Department of Corrections - Barry Stoodley stated that the Department of Corrections is still undergoing a lot of changes. Many things are still being discussed that he will be able to report at a later date. Collaborative Problem Solving is moving ahead very nicely. Collaborative Problem Solving is also going to be reinitiated at Mountain View and Long Creek to train the trainers and coach each other. The TARGET Program is moving ahead with significant enthusiasm.

Office of Substance Abuse – Jacinda Goodwin stated that there will be some changes going on at OSA again. Maryann will be announcing to the Underage Drinking Task Force that she will be leaving. We are working internally on an application to release some money for prescription medication, marijuana and the Reintegration Intervention Program. OSA is waiting to learn whether the Healthy Maine Partnerships to see if it will be taken away. Everyone is in a holding pattern right now.

DHHS - Doug Patrick - Doug stated that we finally have full staff at Mountain View and Long Creek and will continue to work on some of the transition issues. We are undergoing some restructuring changes. We still need to address how our residential treatment facilities are going to be funded for both the adults and juveniles. OSA, Elder Services, Mental Health, all have to work with the Commissioners Office to reformulate how our residential services are done. We have had a round of stakeholders meetings and minutes from the meetings are available on the DHHS website. We may be looking at developing waivers, alternatives. Facing some budget proposals that could result in reductions and funding. Dollars may have to be moved around.

V. Juvenile Justice Specialist Report – Kathryn McGloin:

Kathryn handed out the most current list of JJAG Members from the Secretary of State Committee Member’s list. She asked that members look it over and report any changes or corrections. The Penquis CAP Contract was finalized. Kathryn gave members an update on the Collaborative Problem Solving and stated that 14 schools are participating. Mars Hill will need to bow out and perhaps try again later. We are picking up more schools. Kathryn stated that since there has been no solicitation out for the 2012 Formula Grant, no date has been set for submission. The Act indicates that we have to 45 days from notification to submission. Since we have not been notified, it won’t be due on March 31st. We’ve had no word on the allocation. We know we are not going to get Title V. The number given to me several months ago was in a range of \$295,000 to 400,000. Elaine Brann comes in on Tuesdays and does most of our administrative work, as Emma is doing a lot of research for us. Ryan and I met Peter Pare, Director of the Bureau of Employment Services, who is very interested in JJAG work. We have had some e-mails back and forth. He told me about the Young Adult Networking program and it looks very impressive. I will keep you posted on this.

JABG – Our 2012 allocation is \$167,214.00. Last year we got 276, 279. Lost 109, 065. Bring your notebooks to the next meeting. Elaine is redoing it completely and bringing everything up to date. You will be getting a packet of changes and it will tell you where to put what. The website is down because it is in terrible shape. Our site is so old that it has to be updated. I have requested Tova, DOC’s last Webmaster and builder of our page, be contracted to come back for an update. We also have the opportunity to hire another Intern. I need to know from you if we should do it. A vote was taken and it was agreed to request an intern for the summer.

Motion: To Approve the Hiring of an Intern for the Summer
Moved: Joan McDonald/Ned Chester
Action: Approved

VI. Compliance Monitor Report – Ryan Andersen

Ryan stated that the Maine Compliance Monitoring Policy and Procedure Manual is complete and in draft form. Ryan stated that he is looking for any suggestions or revisions anyone might have. He asks that these come to him by next meeting March 28, 2012. Ryan went over some of the changes and explained that they are in bold. Ryan also put together a Facility Compliance Master List, which OJJDP lists as a universe. Ryan also explained that he has been going through all his municipal files and collecting data from police departments and municipalities on policies for arrests and detention procedures to make sure they're consistent with the federal regulations as well as the juvenile code.

VII. DMC Coordinator Report – Noël Bonam and Ned Chester

Families of children who have been summonsed is under revision with help from the Muskie school, the DMC Committee and the youth at Long Creek. The current letter is at a college sophomore reading level. The new letter is at a grade five reading level. The group of us who are charged with reaching out to the various communities and educating them with regard to how the juvenile justice system works met with the Congolese community and it was a lovely meeting. We got to give a three minute presentation about the JJAG and the DMC process and will be following up with that group. We will work with the Congolese first and then we'll be working with the Sudanese and Somali communities separately. We feel this will work out much better than if we try to lump them altogether in one large meeting.

Christine stated that she spoke to Regina Phillips who is with the City of Portland and who has a student intern who is willing to work in an administrative capacity as opposed to a policy capacity. One of the suggestions that was made was to have an open house at the court house for folks to actually come and observe what the court room is about and give a basic overview of what our court system is like. Christine will talk to Justice Saufley about that idea.

Barry stated that the numbers are going up on the percentages of refugees coming into our system and it is alarming. Barry mentioned that Colin O'Neil, Administrator, in the Region I Office in Portland, has provided a proposal to the Commissioner to add staff in Region 1 specifically to look at the preliminary interviews and the diversion components of our work, therefore, allowing the JCCOs to devote more on the high risk kids. If this moves ahead we will be hiring a couple of JCCOs to work with the refugees in Portland.

VIII: The Honorable Leigh Saufley

Paul introduced Justice Leigh Saufley to the JJAG Members. Justice Saufley gave an update on what has been happening from the judicial branch's perspective.

Justice Saufley expressed her concern that we still do not have a lot of cases in the Bangor region and are not sure why.

Justice Saufley stated that she has hired a new Access to Justice Coordinator and her first responsibility is to look at language as a barrier. Another person will be hired to look at all of the court forms to make sure they are consistent with state and federal law and then dropping them to fourth grade readability in English and then translating them to about ten or twelve of the most common frequently spoken languages.

There was a discussion on diversity and the work the JJAG is doing on addressing the disproportionate minority contact.

Justice Saufley expressed her concerns on different cultures and how difficult it is when parents do not speak English yet or not at all at a level to where they can understand the concepts that everyone is dealing with and it is really troubling.

Paul thanked Justice Saufley for her presentation and the information that she provided to the JJAG members.

XIV: Research – Emma Burke:

Emma gave her presentation on a study done in the State of Texas on kids and the effect on expulsions. The reason they used the State of Texas is because it has a remarkable tracking system for all kids from elementary through high School and it tracks them each year. Through three academic years they were able to track every single child that was in the seventh grade in the Texas Public School system, which amounts to close to a 7 million children. What came out of this study was information to use on our DMC work. 83 % of African American Males were suspended at least once.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

The next meeting will take place on March 27, 2012 at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.