

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES
March 28, 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 (by phone), Dalene Dutton, Jacinda Goodwin, Denise Giles, Dan Nichols, Jonathan Shapiro, Barry Stoodley, Christine Thibeault, Paul Vestal, and Patrick Walsh

Absent: Jim Foss, Abigail Comee-McCourt, Jamie Johnson, Charles LaVerdierre, Randall Liberty, Hannah McMullen, Margaret Longworth, Patrick Douglas, and Joan McDonald

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

Guest: Dr. Ross Green, CPS and Alison Beyea, Facilitator JJIC, Margaret Mikolichek, Restorative Justice Project, Debbie Mcaillian, Victims Advocate

Paul Vestal, JJAG Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06AM and welcomed JJAG members and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Minutes:

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

Motion: To approve the February 25, 2012 Minutes

Moved: Jonathan Shapiro/Christine Thibeault/2nd

Action: Approved

III. Chair Report – Paul Vestal, Jr.:

Paul began the meeting stating that the JJAG was asked to write to our Congressional Delegation, Olympia Snow and Susan Collins, for their support of a bill that was going back in and it was the Youth Promise Act. Paul stated that he and Kathryn did a letter and sent it out in support. Paul also mentioned that effective next week, his position will be eliminated at Catholic Charities and he said that it would not affect his participation in the JJAG. Paul then introduced Dr. Ross Greene.

IV. Collaborative Problem Solving – Dr. Ross Greene:

Dr Ross Greene began his presentation by stating that he wanted to give committee members an update on the school project and discuss an idea that he thought was exciting and was hoping the JJAG would be interested in

participating. Dr. Greene stated that the school project is going extremely well. We have 14 schools that are now geographically distributed throughout the state and the schools that are participating are doing extremely well and his data supports that... One school has completed the program and a few are close to being completed. The goal is to personally visit all of the schools before June. Dr. Greene reported that the website is taking a little longer than anticipated but should be up within a week. Dr. Greene stated that he is busy shooting video at the various schools that will be posted on the website and will be an incredible resource for people internationally and in the State of Maine to see what the program looks like to implement collaborative problem solving in a school building... People will be able to see what is going on in schools, the hurdles that the schools have gone through and how they overcame them. In November we had the first annual Lies in the Balance Conference on Collaborative Problem Solving and the subtitle was The Solution begins in Maine. Dr. Greene went on to explain his second project and that he was here to talk about the second annual Lies in the Balance Conference and how he would like to expand the focus of the conference to not just collaborative problem solving but also to include non-punitive interventions. He explained that one thought is for that to become an annual event in Maine and for Maine to be the hub for calling people's attention to these non-punitive interventions. He further explained that he would like to have nationally prominent speakers come in. Dr. Greene then went on explain the second part of his project by stating that since he has been involved in the CPS program with Maine for some time, he would like to establish a partnership between his nonprofit "Lies in the Balance" and the JJAG, not only because we could share resources to do it, but also because there has been a partnership between he and the JJAG for a very long time. It would be a productive thing in many ways and a good idea to formalize that. Dr. Greene also announced that he is going to be moving to Maine and his goal is to devote more time and energy into having Maine as a state in which collaborative problem solving is being implemented in as many school systems as possible. There was a lengthy discussion and comments about the success of the program and this proposal that Dr. Greene presented. Dr. Greene answered questions and provided members with more detailed information.

V. Juvenile Justice Implementation Council – Alison Beyea:

Alison Beyea spoke to the JJAG and provided a little bit of background information on herself and her work experience. Alison stated that she started Law School in Maine and from there she went to work at Pine Tree Legal and worked in York County with children for three years. Alison also explained that she was able to stay at Pine Tree because of the JJAG and the work of Ned Chester. Alison also stated that in 2006 she decided to take time off to spend raising her children. Alison also spoke about her return to work in January and how she first became aware of the JJICS work and that she took over the position which was vacated by Michael Brennan who decided to run for

Congress. Alison spoke of the JDAI Conference which was the Annie E. Casey Project and that co-chairs of JJIC, Ann Haskell, and Chris Northrop, had signed on last year to work on a multi-year model to reduce detention numbers in Maine. Alison went on to further explain that one of the big projects was to have a conference with Casey trainers coming in from out of state from far and away to work with us for a couple of days. The training was based on a national model and they brought in training modules from different areas. The training received mixed reviews. Many of the presentations were not well adapted to Maine. They simply did not know enough about what was happening in Maine and that we are so much farther ahead than any other model that they have ever worked with. Alison also explained that there were also some amazing things to come out of the program. There were 75 people of an incredible group of advocates and voices who had never been at the table, so we were delighted to see it. It was very apparent that we were missing two constituencies. DHHS was not with us and we were not represented by the Education Department. Alison went on to explain that the other thing that was positive was Becky Noreus' presentation on detention numbers. The detention numbers in Maine are phenomenal. They have dropped by 49% in the last 3 years. The work of everyone at the table in DOC has just been just astounding at reducing the number of kids in detention. The last thing that was incredibly useful was on the last day we had a couple of hours in break out sessions where people broke down into 5 categories of work groups. We had a DMC, Alternative Session, Data Group, we had a Special Detention section, and then we had a Case Processing System. We had five groups and each work group came up with interesting goals. From those work groups we have somewhat of a main plan. The next step is what is the JJICS going to do with that plan. We get to choose each year whether or not to continue with this model. At this point, Ann and Chris and I will be going through our Maine plan, and the work that the Annie E. Casey wants us to do and make an assessment on whether or not to continue with the JDAI to access those resources to make sure those models are going to work for the JJIC.

Ned spoke by phone stating that there was a great group of people there and he was quite pleased with the statistics between 2007 and 2011 and that we reduced our detention by 50% with limited resources. Ned stated that this was a huge tribute to Barry and the DOC. People who work in the system share common goals. Ned also expressed his concerns about our funding declining in the next few years and we need to be careful where we spend our money. We have a lot of good people on board now and have a healthy JJAG. Kathryn and Paul have done a great job keeping everything in place. Ned stated that we need to focus on where we go from here. Ned stated that his other focus of concern needs to be on the DMC.

Alison spoke of the two basic goals of JJIC:

1. Girls Task Force met with us and presented to the JJIC. They have studied

and embraced the Missouri model and made their presentation about that. It was well received and well presented.

2. Maine Children's Alliance is undergoing a leadership and there will be a new Executive Director. They have reached out and made it clear that Maine Children's Alliance is interested in refocusing to become more engaged in advocacy and be more at the table and that they are particularly interested in juvenile justice as it relates to disenfranchised youth between the ages of 13 and 24. Initial conversations have been very positive.

Alison spoke of the District Councils and the report that Sue Lieberman sent around regarding full disclosure. Alison spoke of getting back on track on that issue and that is an important part of the JJICS work.

VI. Research – Emma Burke:

Emma handed out information on some raw data that she had compiled of a list of every single kid that was detained for something in 2011. She also stated that she did one in the summer of 2010. This one was updated from the last one. Emma asked if anyone had any specific county that they wanted to know about. Emma explained some of the other information contained in the data. Christine had a question regarding offenses and where the information came from. Christine also wanted to know if the offense is at arrest or offense at their petition or offense at the adjudication. Emma responded that the offenses listed were offenses that caused their detainment. A question was asked about data collection on alcohol and drug offenses. Kathryn reminded members that this data was only in draft form and has not been put out on the web yet. They're just looking for feedback right now.

VII. Committee Department Reports:

Legislative – Christine Thibeault, Christine. Received a call from Ann Haskell last Friday regarding a bill that went through that would have allowed police to disclose identities of juveniles at the time of arrest. The bill went through committee with a lot of opposition. JJAG opposed it, Prosecutors, Mack Dolt, CLAC, Maine Civil Liberties Union and a lot of other people. It went through committee with an "Ought to Pass" recommendation and "Ought Not to Pass" minority report. Christine stated that she received a call from Ann Haskell on Friday that despite the "Ought to Pass" recommendation from the committee, it was voted down in the House 122 to 14 which is a pretty resounding bumping. It died in the House on Monday. Christine also stated that she didn't hear the testimony, but apparently people here did. Denise mentioned that she did and that Ann did a wonderful job. Barry also heard the testimony and commended Ann for a great job. Alicia Melnick of the Maine Civil Liberties Union was

also commended for doing a wonderful job. Christine also suggested we send a note to members on the committee for not allowing another bill to pass through and that was putting juveniles on the registry.

Department of Corrections – Barry Stoodley. Barry stated that Troy Varney and he will be heading out on an invitation from Dr. Greenwood who is a guru on Evidence Based Practices and who is putting on a regional conference in Connecticut on Friday. Barry and Troy will be participating on that with some of our recommendations for the future. Meeting this afternoon with our Thrive Initiative which is going forward with some enthusiasm. Karen will be coming for three days. One day will focus just on juvenile corrections.

Department of Education, Grants Committee. Jacinda Goodwin. Jacinda reported that she has taken over Shelley Reed's position with the Department of Education and that the position has changed. Focusing on homeless youth. Making sure we are breaking down barriers to get youth back to school. Many meetings with key people to try to figure out my role. Will remain on OSA's Advisory Board. Jacinda explained that there are still many changes going on at DHHS. Still waiting to hear about the application for funding on Healthy Maine Program and what's happening with that. Jacinda asked that everyone let her know what she should be doing in Shelley's job as it pertains to the JJAG. A question was asked about the Underage Drinking Laws. Jacinda responded that they took a cut and they are trying to internally have some conversations on how they can continue to support that work. Not sure at this time where that's going to go.

Department of Public Safety – Jonathan Shapiro – Sgt. Shapiro mentioned that the Juveniles in the Crime System Program is wrapping up. It looks like numbers are down and it looks like the program was successful and had no negative reports from parents, stakeholders or police officers. Repeat numbers are down. Looking forward to a good annual report. Jonathan spent a lot of time trying to develop a review committee for repeat cases, but stated that that was put on the back burner because there were no repeat cases. Sgt. Shapiro gave an update on the Shared Youth Vision Council that District I is working on with Old Orchard Beach Police Department in RSU 23 with the Restorative Justice Project that bridges the community and the school. Series of meetings on that and the Superintendent of RSU 23 is on board. Thornton is interested in joining us on that, Dayton is interested, as well as other schools in the community. All will be able to use the Juvenile Review Board. Would like to get the Kennebunk School involved with the Restorative Justice Project if they are in the CPS system since they are next to Old Orchard Beach and it would work out well to merge these two schools together. Timeline for the Old Orchard Beach project is to have that up and running by September.

VIII. Juvenile Justice Specialist Report:

Kathryn passed around Ryan Anderson's report and stated that he was in training for the Effective Police Interactions with Youth Train the Trainer Program. This is his report and it's the report we sent to OJJDP on the kids who have been arrested and compliance monitor stuff. Kathryn reported that Karen Williams will be in the State, paid for by OJJDP, on June 18th through the 20th. The 18th she will be in Bangor and the 20th in Portland and Barry mentioned that she will be in Augusta on the 19th. Kathryn stated that she and Noel will be attending the JDAI Conference in Minnesota. Kathryn mentioned that the file each member has are updates for the JJAG Policy Manual and there are tabs to indicate where the new pages should go. The website is not up yet and having a bit of trouble getting it going as the web master has retired and has not been replaced.

Kathryn stated that we lost \$200,000 on our formula funding and we have to be very strategic with our plan about what we want to do in 2013. CJJ Conference, June 21 and 24, Bethesda, MD., they're looking for presentation proposals for the conference. Kathryn asked for some suggestions for the conference. Maybe there is something we can do. We also have a request from the Positive Youth Development people. They are having a workshop on July 23rd and 24th and they have been able to raise some money but are asking for help in funding the rest and they are asking the JJAG for \$5,000. A question was asked where that money would come from if the JJAG agreed to give them the money. A suggestion was made that it could come from the Delinquency Prevention or schools programs. Paul asked if we had any 2010 money left. Kathryn responded that we did and it was suggested that it could also come out of that money. It was suggested that if we do provide funding, then the JJAG should ask that we be able to have break out groups.

Motion: To approve funding for the Positive Youth Development Workshop in the amount of \$5,000 with the request that JJAG be able to have Breakout Sessions.

Moved: Barry Stoodley/Jacinda Goodwin/2nd

Action: Approved Unanimous

IX: DMC Coordinator Report – Noel Bonam:

Noël reported that things have been very busy. There has been a lot going on and we have three very active work groups and that work is self-motivated and taking things to a different level. Three areas that we are working on are: Access, Awareness, Education and Training and Diversions. Not just DMC Committee Members, but also members of the community are involved in these work groups. The Access work group is primarily with the youth at Long Creek working on the notice to interview letter. That work is trying to connect youth with employers because many of the youth at Long Creek feel that once employers find out where they are coming from, they are reluctant to hire them. He has been in conversations with the Diversity Hiring Coalition of Employers to really connect with them. They would like to partner with us to bring in

speakers from the private sector to meet with the youth. The other work group is the Diversions work group and they had a meeting with stakeholders to bring everyone together to start working proactively.

1. Establish open houses.
2. Give out information – Who’ who.
3. Training for community liaisons.

The other one is the Community Engagement Fund that Christine is a part of. Noël asked Christine if she would talk about the Open House that is being planned at the Court House.

Christine stated that she spoke to Chief Justice Saufley with the idea of holding an open house with various members of the immigrant/refugee new arrival communities to help build some trust in the court system and to explain the mission of the juvenile court and how we work together. Justice Saufley thought that that was a great idea and suggested that she work with Regina Phillips to start the discussion and get some interpreters to work with the court.

Noël also spoke of his meeting with the Congolese community. Noel also mentioned that he and Kathryn have been working on a Three Year Plan to submit to the OJJDP. Noel gave an explanation on what was in the plan. Noël explained that we should have community liaisons. Do some targeted training in the community of how the system works for us. New England DMC Conference and maybe partnering with some of the other New England States. Lastly, we want to start looking at DMC as a statewide effort to include some of the other counties.

XI: Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at noon.

The next meeting will take place on April 25, 2012 at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.