

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES

September 26, 2012



Paul R. LePage
Governor, State of Maine

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

I. Roll Call:

Present: Mark Boger, Ned Chester Esq., Nickole DeMerritt, Dalene Dutton, Jim Foss, Jacinda Goodwin, Carla Knapp, Dan Nichols, Sgt. Jonathan Shapiro, Barry Stoodley, Christine Thibeault Esq., Christine Theriault, Patrick Walsh, and Paul Vestal

Absent: Richard Brown, Abigail Comee-McCourt, Dalene Dutton, The Honorable Charles LaVerdiere, Sheriff Randall Liberty, Joan McDonald, and Hannah McMullen

Staff: Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist, Ryan Andersen, Compliance Monitor, Noël Bonam, DMC, Elaine Brann, Staff Assistant

Guest: Geoff Miller, Associate Director, and Christine Theriault, Prevention Manager, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Paul Vestal, JJAG Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM and asked for roll call, introductions and approval of the Minutes.

II. Minutes:

The minutes for the June 27, 2012 JJAG meeting were approved.

Motion: To approve the June 27, 2012 Minutes

Moved: Jim Foss/Jonathan Shapiro/2nd

Action: Approved

III. Chair Report – Paul Vestal, Jr.:

Paul announced that Kathryn McGloin, JJAG Specialist, would not be attending the JJAG Meeting, due to the fact she is still unable to drive. Ryan has a report that Kathryn put together and he will be presenting that information. There will be no JJIC meeting this afternoon. Paul reminded everyone that the Governor will be at the next JJAG Meeting, October 24th and asked members to send any questions they have for the Governor to Kathryn with a copy to Paul.

Paul stated that he is trying to work out a meeting at Goodwill Hinkley for the December 5th JJAG meeting and after that set up a focus group meeting with the students. That meeting is still in the works.

Paul introduced guest speaker Geoff Miller, Associate Director of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SMAHS).

After the morning break, Paul spoke of a model that DHHS is looking at called Value Based Purchasing and wanted to give people who are providing services or working with Maine Care a heads up that there will be major changes in how services will be delivered if this goes through.

IV. Geoff Miller and Christine Theriault, SAMHS:

Associate Director Geoff Miller spoke on the integration of the Office of Substance Abuse and the Office of Adult Mental Health Services as of September 4th. Integration of the two offices will be known as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHS). Geoff handed out a couple of diagrams that reflect the service areas and explained the model of continuum of services. Geoff explained that there is reorganization of several offices at DHHS: Office of Child and Family Services, Office of Substance Abuse, Office of Adult Mental Health Services, and Adults with Disabilities Office. Geoff explained the flow of the four service areas with the focus on health and wellness in each of those areas. Geoff explained that he is working on positive challenges with all the changes. Geoff turned the rest of the presentation over to Christine Theriault, Prevention Manager.

Christine gave a general overview of the adolescent services and explained each of the funding resources. Substance Prevention and Abuse Treatment Block Grant, which is federal funding, state general funds, funds for Healthy Maine and other federal grants including the EUDL grant. Christine stated that they do not provide direct services. All are contracted out and are based on evidence based practice and they rely on data to determine where to put their funding. Christine discussed each of the different areas of prevention and the funding.

A question was asked regarding synthetic designer drugs. Geoff responded by explaining that there were so many new drugs out there and drug companies trying to promote their drugs that this was a challenge for his agency.

Christine emphasized that the promotion and focus for all programs is on overall wellness and health. Also focusing on problem gambling, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, awareness of ADHD diagnosis, Maine Youth Action Network, DEEP program, Healthy Communities Model Program and health care screening and referral.

V. FACJJ – Dalene Dutton:

Dalene presented her report that the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) has met three times and are now doing in-person web-based meetings twice a year in between the FACJJ Meetings. The website technology will allow everyone to get together to talk things through and allow more feedback. Dalene reported that the FACJJ has organized standing committees based on concerns that were presented at

the previous FACJJ meetings. Those committees are DMC, School-based Intervention, Family Engagement, Evidence-based Practice, Information Sharing and a group called Young People. The next FACJJ Meeting will be on October 18th and 19th in Washington, D.C. and Dalene stated that she will be attending. Dalene mentioned that she volunteered as the Chair of the Evidence-Based Practices Subcommittee and they have met three times since the last full committee meeting. Dalene felt that the new structure will allow for more regular contact in smaller groups. A question was asked if they would be generating an annual report or if this was more of an informal process directed to the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). “Where all your hard work going?” Dalene stated that the hard work is going to make recommendations directly to OJJDP and she stated that an annual report was discussed, but at this time no report will be done. Committees are generating different reports on different pieces that they have taken up. Subcommittees have been asked to meet every couple of weeks.

VI. Juvenile Justice Specialist Report – Kathryn McGloin:

In Kathryn’s absence, Ryan gave a brief report on her behalf on some of the topics she made available for the JJAG meeting.

Ryan stated that he will be reading through Kathryn’s notes.

- Noël was not available to report because of family medical issues.
- Dr. Ross Green’s second annual conference on November 16th entitled “We’re Not Done Yet.” The conference will be held at the Marriott in South Portland and special invitations are being sent to JJAG Members.
- The Biddeford Primary School is joining our list of Collaborative Problem Solving Schools.
- Our Request for Proposals is at the Division of Purchases for review. We hope to receive approval by next week.
- Please begin thinking of where we might be able to find youth members. Both Emma and Jamie have resigned and we are currently out of compliance.

VII. Compliance Monitor Report – Ryan Andersen:

Ryan reported that since the last meeting in May he one jail and seventeen police departments. Ryan stated that Dalene joined him in her area to visit four police departments. Ryan reported that on July 23rd and 24th he attended the Positive Youth Development Institute and was pleased with the number of youth in attendance.

VIII. Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Update – Ned Chester:

Ned reported that as soon as Noël is available they will start their fall schedule of DMC work. The schedule will include a follow-up on the courts from last year. They decided to work with the city to invite the Immigrant Community to a meeting, probably at Long Creek. Ned clarified that Long Creek was not chosen because many of their kids may be committed or detained, but more to just soften the face of

the Department of Corrections through the juvenile justice system. There will be a Planning Committee Meeting this Friday to collaborate with the City of Portland and will be holding an open house sometime this fall. Ned stated that they are also following up on the court house open house held earlier this year. There is a plan to meet with the Congolese and Sudanese leaderships to prepare for community wide meetings mostly to listen regarding the open house with the court. The plan is to listen to them talk about their struggles and the interactions between parents and adolescents to come up with some thoughts to support the parents and immigrant kids. Ned mentioned that the Youth Court Program in Cumberland County received a \$200,000 grant and they are up and running. Ned stated that he will be attending their Board Meeting to talk about immigrant issues. Ned spoke about the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting at Long Creek and stated that a total of 27 people, including three or four youth from Long Creek, discussed what they had accomplished over the past year and developed priorities for the new year.

VIX. Committee/Department Reports:

Christine Thibeault - Legislation – Christine stated that there was no legislation to report on at this time, but did express her gratitude with all the JJAG members who worked on legislation that gave courts authority to make recommendations on who is competent in the juvenile justice system. There are now definitions in place so courts now have authority to make recommendations directly to DHHS on what happens to a young child or place that child in DHHS custody.

Christine asked if anyone had any thoughts on Legislation for next session. A suggestion was made that Legislation to stress the coordination of efforts with information sharing between multiple agencies.

Jacinda Goodwin – Grants Committee – Jacinda stated that probably in November the Grants Committee would convene to review the RFPs. Jacinda also mentioned that she is on the Collaborative Problem Solving Planning Committee and they have chosen Associate Commissioner Barry Stoodley as their keynote speaker.

Jonathan Shapiro – Department of Public Safety – Jonathan reported that he has been working with the Old Orchard Beach Police Department, RSU 23, DHHS and Robert LaPlante, JCCO Supervisor, to develop the Juvenile Community Review Board which is in its final stages of development and will be operational before the start of the new year. Jonathan explained that this board will consist of professionals from DHHS, Corrections, DOE, Law Enforcement and specific members with expertise depending on what cases come before the Board. Jonathan gave an example of some of those scenarios and explained that the board will use restorative practices and will take a look at what services are in place for children and their families to determine if they need support services. Sgt. Shapiro stated that the University of New England

will provide interns for support as well as data collection. Jonathan expressed his concerns regarding difficulty in the ability to share information with other agencies and that there should be something straight forward in support of legislation so that we can have that good flow of information and immediate response to services on multiple levels. Sgt. Shapiro reported that the police reporting system will be accepted as a referral mechanism on information for early assessment.

Barry Stoodley – Department of Corrections – Associate Commissioner Stoodley reported that the Department is moving toward a plan to focus on youthful offenders in the adult system in a way that is compatible to some of the techniques used in the juvenile system at Long Creek and Mountain View and planning for that is going forward. Barry explained that Commissioner Ponte has adopted many of the principles and techniques of the youth in the juvenile division to build into the adult division. Barry spoke of Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET) and stated that JJAG had supported it financially. It has been implemented in the girls unit at Long Creek, the women's unit in Windham and also the Women's Transition Unit in Alfred. Barry reported that we now have a Community Reintegration Specialist who is working at both Long Creek and Mountain View to ensure a better transition into community programs. He expects this will be successful for families and kids when they leave the facility.

Barry mentioned the ongoing collaborative cooperative agreement between the Department of Corrections and Muskie for many years is now going to stop under this Administration and will be pursuant to a competitive bid. Barry stated that we currently have a cooperative agreement with Muskie to collect data and provide a report on kids who are diverted to informal adjustment and kids who are diverted to the Diversion to Assets Program. Muskie will do a comparison report on the effectiveness of diversion as far as recidivism. Barry also spoke of beginning work on Cost Benefit Analysis. Maine has done none of this compared to other states. We are starting this process with the current Muskie Cooperative Agreement and analysis on the diversion of youth. At the end of this Fiscal Year we will have a recidivism report, committed youth placed under supervision, and we will also have the Cost Benefit Analysis. Barry mentioned the Downeast Magazine article on juvenile corrections in Barry handed out information on the Adult and Juvenile Female Offenders Conference coming up on October of next year in Portland.

The Department of Corrections applied for and been awarded a four year, four million dollar (4,000,000.00) grant through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The Department is awaiting the Governor's approval before we may accept the award. Barry discussed a few of the projects

included in the grant:

- Performance Based Standards
- TARGET will be expanded.
- All evidence-based programs will be expanded.
- Assessments will be enhanced in mental health.
- Implementing an upgraded model of the YLSCMI.
- Wraparound will be revitalized.

The JJAG is a significant part of project and is mentioned throughout the grant. Family and youth participation will be critical. The focus will be on positive youth development outcomes.

X. Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 11: 33 A.M.

The next meeting will be October 24, 2012 at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Governor Paul R. LePage will be our guest.

