

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES  
September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015



**Paul R. LePage**  
Governor, State of Maine

Bartlett H. Stoodley, Chair  
Edwin P. Chester, Esq. Vice Chair

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**I. Roll Call:**

**Present:** Ned Chester, Esq., Vice Chair; Jacinda Goodwin, TDAE & Homeless Education Coordinator; Tessa Mosher, Victim Services, DOC; Colin O'Neill, Associate Commissioner, DOC; Sgt. Jonathan Shapiro, Maine State Police; Bartlett H. Stoodley, JJAG Chair; Christine Thibeault, Cumberland County Assistant District Attorney; Patrick Walsh, Director, Prevention Services, Broadreach Family & Community Services

**Absent:** Teresa Barrows, Behavioral Health Director, OCFS; Dalene Dutton, Communities That Care Specialist; Hon. Charles LaVerdiere, Chief Judge, Maine District Court; Margaret Longworth, Director Clinical Services, OHI; Pender Makin, Assistant Superintendent, RSU #14; Christian Muhitira, Cumberland County Youth Advisory Council; Nickole Wesley, Assistant Clerk, Portland District Court

**Staff:** Jerome Bennett, MDOC DMC Coordinator; Jason Carey, Staff Assistant; Robert Deakin, Vista Volunteer; Nathan Gagnon, Compliance Monitor; Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist

**Guests:** Mike Frysinger, Maine Youth Court; Bryn Gallagher, Maine Youth Court; Caleb Gilbert, SAMHS; Marta Haydym, Maine Youth Court; Tracy Horton, Assoc. Professor Forensic Psychology & Criminal Justice, Thomas College; Tamara Manzer, Youth Move Maine; Kaitlyn Megathlin, Maine Youth Court; Page Nichols, The REAL School; Luc Nya, Mental Health Services Coordinator, OCFS; Kelsey Park, Intern Tree Street; Jill Ward, Juvenile Justice Reform Workgroup

**II. Chair:**

The JJAG meeting was called to order by Bartlett Stoodley, JJAG Chair, at 9:00 A.M. and introductions were made.

**Lives in the Balance** - For those JJAG members wishing to attend the [5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lives in the Balance International Summit](#) on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015, please let Kathryn know - JJAG will reimburse members wishing to attend.

**October Meeting date** - The JJAG meeting date for October is being changed to another date and time in that same month. Kathryn will send a Meeting Wizard request. RESPOND ON THE DAYS THAT YOU CAN AND WILL ATTEND A MEETING. If we don't have a quorum the meeting will be cancelled.

FACJJ - The [Federal Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice](#) is accepting applications for new members. Each member represents five to six different, non-contiguous states. Reports from this committee are available on their website. We have two interested members at this point: Pender and Nickole.

CJJ - Coalition for Juvenile Justice dues are now up for renewal. There is a 5% discount if paid before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

**Motion:** To pay and renew the JJAG's CJJ membership for 2016.

**Moved:** Jonathan Shapiro, Christine Thibeault

**Discussion:** None

**Action:** Approved, unanimous

Bylaws - JJAG bylaws amendment – to provide funding to JJAG non-members who attend JJAG supported events (stipends & reimbursements). [Amendment can be read on page 6, section G.](#)

**Motion:** To accept JJAG bylaws as amended.

**Moved:** Christine Thibeault, Patrick Walsh

**Discussion:** None

**Action:** Approved, Unanimous

Second Chance Act – The JJAG to prepare a letter talking about the value of the law and offer information and education related to the Second Chance Act. The Council of State Governments has widely encouraged the study and endorsement of the Second Chance Act. [For more information you may use this link to review the fact sheet online. The Justice Center Website offers general information about the act.](#) You may also contact staff of the JJAG for more information.

**Motion:** To support the Second Chance Act

**Moved:** Patrick Walsh, Ned Chester

**Discussion:** None

**Action:** Approved, Unanimous

Youth Shackling in Court – Comment period ends this month. The JJAG wishes to weigh in on this subject with a letter supporting this court rule.

**Motion:** To support a rule to establish a presumption against the unnecessary shackling of youth in court.

**Moved:** Jonathan Shapiro, Ned Chester

**Discussion:** None

**Action:** Approved, Unanimous

CJJ Youth Summit Report – The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) holds an annual youth conference in Washington, D.C. Maine's JJAG sent four youth members to the [2015 CJJ Youth Summit](#) to participate. Summit attendees have

reports to share.

*Kaitlyn Megathlin* – Kaitlyn thanked the JJAG for this opportunity to participate in this event and is excited to share in the common goals of other youth with similar passions. Kaitlyn highlighted other activities like the summit meetings, Hill visits, and job shadows.

*Marta Haydym* – Marta presented the JJAG with a narrated slideshow presentation outlining the details of the two day venture. [View slideshow at Maine JJAG's website here.](#) You can also visit: <http://www.maine.gov/corrections/jjag/cji-youth-summit-2015.htm>

*Jason Carey* – Jason Carey, JJAG associate, attended the youth summit and has prepared a brief slideshow of the exciting process. [You can view the slideshow of Maine youth activities in DC here](#) or by visiting the Maine JJAG on the web at: <http://www.maine.gov/corrections/jjag/maine-youth-attend-national-summit.htm>

At large members of the Executive Community are required by the Bylaws. Barry asked for interest. None received.

Barry asked for a volunteer to serve as Interim Chair on the Training & Education committee as Pender Makin stepped down due to her new position of Assistant Superintendent. No volunteer.

### **III. Minutes:**

The minutes for the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 JJAG meeting were approved.

**Motion:** To approve the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Minutes

**Moved:** Ned Chester, Jonathan Shapiro

**Abstain:** Tessa Mosher

**Discussion:** None

**Action:** Approved, unanimous

### **IV. Juvenile Justice Specialist Report:**

As noted last month, the JJAG's Three Year Plan has been forwarded to OJJDP. No idea when it will be approved or funding awarded.

The JJAG currently has 15 members. We have submitted six youth member applications and 12 new adult member applications will be submitted shortly.

Kathryn thanked members for completing the JJAG member Feedback Survey.

The topic of presentations at meetings on issues related to JJAG work will go to the Executive Committee.

The Senate Appropriations Committee restored funds for Title II Formula Grant at \$65.5 million. Next, it will go to conference with the House after the full Senate passes it.

Kathryn McGloin and Jerome Bennett will meet with Strategies for Youth in Lewiston next week to review the contract for DMC work in Lewiston and Portland.

The Vermont SAG is not interested in attending a second Tri-State Meeting for a New Member Training for Youth & Adults. The New Hampshire SAG has an interest and the JJ Specialist will confirm shortly. Hopes are that it be scheduled for end of October or early November, 2015. Regardless of whether this works out the JJAG new members will receive the training...current members are encouraged to attend.

Restorative Justice (RJ) is a major component of the JJAG's Three Year Plan. Maine's Department of Corrections is also coordinating efforts to accomplish this statewide initiative however Jonathan Shapiro suggests using a global perspective and coordinating for a complete restorative state. There are pockets of RJ in the state but no coordination of efforts. It is unknown if these RJ locations are practicing with fidelity. Jonathan's concern is also with sustainability. There is a sustained interest and energy for restorative justice in Maine. With the Department we will continue work to solve information sharing problems. While in development, the JJAG will spearhead standards and work with the Dept. of Corrections. Barry Stoodley suggests a Restorative Support Forum targeting the method of expansion of RJ throughout the state with fidelity to standards. The JJAG might consider creation of a Repository for Restorative Justice.

Christine Thibeault raised concern for due process for youth participants and suggests the JJAG take on the issue.

Points to consider:

- Offer expansion to areas of DMC.
- Identification of working national models.
- Identification of costs, resources, and training.
- Broad focus to include outlying issues.
- Creation of an RJ subcommittee
- Which forums are appropriate to promote RJ?
- Inform social workers of RJ options.
- Identify JJAG's role in the organizational structure.

The JJAG will convene forums, gather information, and study RJ for a six month period.

Ned Chester suggests the JJAG's Systems Improvement committee to be the convener.

Members were asked with a show of hands if they wished to make RJ a focus for the next 3 to 6 months. Likewise guests were asked as well. It was unanimous.

**Motion:** To make RJ a JJAG priority for the next six months, to look globally at RJ and to lean how it should be orchestrated in the State of Maine.

**Moved:** Ned Chester, Christine Thibeault

**Abstain:** Jacinda Goodwin

**Action:** Accepted, unanimous

## **V. Compliance Monitor Report:**

### **Inspections Update Since Last JJAG Meeting:**

- Inspections of Hancock, Lincoln, Knox, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo, Washington and York Counties have been completed - 100%.
- Cumberland, Franklin and Penobscot are nearly 100% complete.

### **Meetings attended:**

- Appointed by Commissioner Fitzpatrick to be on the Standards Advisory Committee. The Committee will update the current Detention and Correctional Standards for Maine Counties and Municipalities.
- Nate attended a four day National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Security Audit Training held at the Maine Correctional Center.
- Attended the Maine Youth Summit.
- Had the privilege to sit as a part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Juvenile Justice panel in Lewiston.
- Continues to participate in Androscoggin County Juvenile Justice Collaborative Meeting at Community Concepts in Lewiston.

### **EPIY: Effective Police Interaction with Youth**

This training will be starting back up, contacts have been made with a few of the trainers and currently working on getting all of the former trainers prepared to participate in a refresher training that Janine Roberts, Westbrook Police Chief, has offered to assist with. There has been overwhelming response from police chiefs throughout the state willing to open their doors for this training and host it at their facility.

### **OJJDP Draft Compliance Policy Update:**

The act specifies each State shall "provide for an adequate system of monitoring jails, detention facilities, correctional facilities and non-secure facilities to insure that

requirements...are met, and for annual reporting results...” it says nothing about monitoring court holding facilities, yet we’re still expected to do so. Treating non-secure facilities the same way as secure facilities will reduce our ability to focus on secure facilities where a violation may actually take place.

The policy draft also indicates that we will follow the fiscal year, October 1 to September 30, that means that a good chunk of time will be lost for traveling/inspections...that would leave us roughly May through August to do all our site visits and not much time for submitting our annual reports.

## **VI. Departmental Reports:**

*Dept. of Education* – The REAL School offered a Conference on Positive School Climate and Culture this past summer in Portland, Maine. Guest speakers included: Frank DeAngelis, former Principle Columbine High School; Dr. Ross Greene, Lives in the Balance; Karen Williams, Brain Research; among others. A video is forthcoming that will detail The REAL School.

National Dropout Prevention Center is currently working with ten targeted schools in developing a dropout prevention plan. In January of 2016 a second cohort of 10 more dropout prevention committees will have the same opportunity.

The National Center for Homeless Education will provide training for Homeless Liaisons from Maine schools in October.

*ACEs to Resilience* conference November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Northport. Speakers include Dr. Robert Anda, Dr. Kenneth Ginsberg, and Jane Stevens, ACES Connection Website. Maine Quality Counts and the Bingham Foundation are sponsors.

JJAG presenter idea: Maine Resilience Building Network

*Dept. of Corrections* – The Department, after moving nine male juveniles from Mountain view to Long Creek, has created an account to pay travel expenses for families traveling to visit their sons or daughters now at Long Creek and are hard at work creating a seamless transition from place to place. Skype has been set up as well. Reports are that things are going well for the youth and the staff. Mountain View will now see increased usage as an adult treatment facility and should keep most current jobs intact at the facility. Increased mental health treatment will remain intact for the adult prisoners. In the transition 17 positions were eliminated however position were found for all but three.

The Department has released a request for proposals for Restorative Justice inside Long Creek. Colin toured RJ programs. He visited a restorative justice

program at Waldo CO jail. The five-week program serves moderate to high inmates.

The Department will support Youth Court. DOC diverted 80% of first time offenses and the recidivism rate is 8%. The Youth Court rate is around 1% to 2%. They provide mental health, SA, and trauma screening. They use the ACOK and the Developmental Asset Profile (DAP) pre and post and they are able to demonstrate positive youth outcomes.

The DOC has submitted a bill to the Legislature encouraging support of Restorative Justice practices statewide. There are issues around confidentiality and protecting kids when they talk about what they did. Colin will meet with CLAC. The kids need to know that their interviews cannot be held against them in court.

The Region 2 Collaborative has noted that juveniles in Lewiston are arrested most often between the hours of 2:00 and 8:00 pm. The Gorman Foundation is interested in a Day Reporting Tree Street has been asked to provide a day-reporting type of service. The Department will fund the 5:00 to 8:00 reporting center.

The Region 3 Collaborative is working to reduce the rate of commitments/secure confinement by 50% and eradicate the need for Shock Sentences. A coordinator has been hired to coordinate the effort in finding alternatives to confinement programs.

Region 1 is little behind but is getting things together. They are drilling down the data on DMC and looking at making a connection with the school departments.

Each DOC Region has developed a collaborative of child serving agencies to work on issues in their regions.

Christine Thibeault publicly commended the Department for their outstanding work. Last week there were 71 committed/detained kids in the deep end of the system. In a state this size to have only 71 committed residents is remarkable she stated. Colin stated that in 2008 180 kids were committed and in 2014 40 kids were committed. The data for 2015 indicates the downward trend will continue.

Colin has set a goal to end the disproportionality of committed girls and youth of color so that the commitment rate is even with white males.

The Focus is to make the kids better off after having gone through our system.

The Department has used a fee for service contract to have providers work with our highest risk kids. With the decline in numbers the contracts have been changed to promote more services for mid to low risk offenders.

Dept of Health & Human Services – OCFS may have a pediatrician who has experience in emergency rooms as the medical director.

They are working on challenging youth placement; placement for youth who do not necessarily present criminal behavior considered a forensic unit for youth of this demographic. This might be cost prohibitive so they are looking into what work might be done within the parameters of available resources.

To that end the Department is gathering on a list of all the kids in the state who may or may not met these criteria and forming collaborative residential treatment teams with law enforcement and emergency room staff. This collaborative will sift through the list removing from the list those who don't belong at Long Creek.

It was noted that with the absence of services for high-end behavioral issues youth often turn to criminal behavior. Officers are being called to residential treatment facilities because staffs are unable (untrained) to work with these kids.

Often low risk offenders need a cooling down period perhaps for a few hours or overnight however residential settings are not available for this population. Building up the residential treatment community is essential. Savings from the closing of the committed section of Mountain View Youth Development Center might be used to serve youth in this way.

JJAG members are not seeing an issue with heroin use by juveniles. Members are seeing an increase in parents addicted to a substance.

**VII. Committe Reports:** No reports

**VIII. Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**The next meeting will be October 13, 2015 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm  
MDOC Boardroom, 25 Tyson Dr., Augusta, Maine**