

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES
October 24, 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, Nickole DeMerritt, Jacinda Goodwin, Carla Knapp, The Honorable Charles LaVerdiere, Sheriff Randall Liberty, Margaret Longsworth, Joan McDonald, Dan Nichols, Sgt. Jonathan Shapiro, Barry Stoodley, Christine Thibeault, Esq., Christine Theriault, Patrick Walsh, and Paul Vestal

Absent: Ned Chester, Esq., Jim Foss, Abigail Comee-McCourt, Dalene Dutton, Hannah McMullen and Dr. Lindsey Tweed

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

Guests: The Honorable Paul R. LePage, Governor, Dr. Ross Greene, Lives in the Balance, Collaborative Problem Solving, Carmen Dorsey, George Shaler, Becky Noreus, and Desireé Girard, from the Muskie School, Judy Plummer, Cheryl Miller and Troy Varney, Department of Corrections, and Sarah Maddox, Court Diversion Coordinator, Restorative Justice Project on the Maine Coast.

Paul Vestal, JJAG Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed Governor Paul R. LePage and asked everyone to introduce themselves. After introductions, Paul turned the meeting over to Governor LePage.

Governor LePage thanked the members of the JJAG for inviting him to the meeting and also thanked everyone who served on the JJAG. The Governor stated that his administration takes a very serious position on juveniles. The Governor expressed the importance of mentoring, especially for at-risk kids in single parent homes that do not get proper parenting because of difficulties in the family and parents having to work. Governor LePage also spoke of the importance of the educational system and keeping kids interested in school and how each student learns differently. He further stated that Maine schools and teachers are doing a great job, but our schools need to do better in keeping kids occupied and interested in education so that they don't get bored and drop out. Governor LePage spoke about putting a big push on technical vocational education so that students have options other than 4 year colleges. The Governor expressed the difficulties to succeed for anyone that does not have a high school education and expressed the need to find ways to keep our kids interested and involved. The Governor also spoke of mentors and how they played an important role in his life, challenging him to do better at school and the value of work.

JJAG Members asked questions of the Governor and he responded to those questions.

The next part of the meeting with the Governor was turned over to Carmen Dorsey, Becky

Noreus, George Shaler and Desireé Girard from the Muskie School of Public Service and they gave a brief presentation of their work on the 2012 Maine Juvenile Justice Data Book and answered questions.

After break, Paul called the meeting back to order and asked for approval of the minutes.

II. Minutes:

The minutes for the September 26, 2012 JJAG meeting were approved.

Motion: To approve the September 26, 2012 Minutes

Moved: Mark Boger/Dan Nichols/2nd

Action: Approved

III. Chair Report – Paul Vestal, Jr.:

Paul announced that Jonathan Shapiro had information on the Juvenile Community Review Board of York County and a request for funding and he asked Jonathan to explain his request.

Jonathan gave a brief overview of a project he has been working on in RSU 23, Old Orchard Beach, called the Juvenile Community Review Board and explained that funding is needed to train 20 community volunteers, including stakeholders and other law enforcement professionals who will be working with the Old Orchard Beach School Department, DHHS and DOC. Policies and procedures are in place and they are ready to start in January of next year. Funding in the amount of \$2,238.72 is requested.

Motion: To allocate up to \$2,500 out of Systems Improvement to train 20 volunteers on behalf of the Juvenile Review Board of York County.

Moved: Christine Thibeault/Judge LaVerdiere/2nd

Action: Approved with 1 Abstention and no Opposition

IV. Specialist Report – Kathryn McGloin:

Kathryn stated that the JJAG By-laws need to be updated. We are following some of the laws but not others. She asked for volunteers to go over the By-laws and make recommendations on changes. Patrick Walsh, Joan McDonald and Sgt. Jonathan Shapiro volunteered to help out with that project. Kathryn will send out the By-laws and highlight the ones that need to be revised.

Kathryn explained that Noël's mother is still ill and he is back in India and would not be at the JJAG meeting to give his report at this time, but hopes to return to the U.S. around November 17th. Kathryn reported that one of the DMC subcommittees wondered if refugee kids were being visited by their families at Long Creek and if not, what the reason was. She spoke with Pam Richards and several residents and learned that distance and embarrassment play a role.

LearningWorks has a small DMC planning grant from the Hudson Foundation. We (LearningWorks and the JJAG DMC committee) are working to avoid duplication of efforts. They are in collaboration with the Institute for Civic Leadership and the Center for Preventing Hate.

Kathryn mentioned Dr. Ross Greene's Conference on November 16th, from 8:00 to 3:30 PM, at the Marriott Portland at Sable Oaks in South Portland and all JJAG Members will be receiving an invitation.

The RFP is being reviewed by the Division of Purchases and we should be hearing from them soon as to a release date. The RFP will be for three program areas, Alternatives to Detention, School Programs and Delinquency prevention.

V. Compliance Monitor Report – Ryan Andersen:

Ryan handed out a State of Maine, Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, Compliance Monitoring Quarterly Report, dated October 24, 2012 which had information on inspections of Police Departments in Maine and a Juvenile Data Sheet showing information on numbers in custody, sex, race, Secure Detention Hours and Violations by cities and towns. Ryan explained and went over the information contained in each sheet.

Ryan spoke of some counties falling behind at the municipal level as far as keeping their policies up to date with state and federal regulations and gave an example. Ryan stated that he will be working on posting some sample policies which will reflect state and federal regulations, on the JJAG Website and let the police departments know that it's available.

A question was asked if there was some way to identify specific geographic areas where there seems to be a significant number of problems with youth that are in trouble and identify those areas so we can better understand what's going on and see if we can coordinate resources to help them.

Kathryn suggested that we could have a graduate assistant do this data work, but we would have to pay someone to do it. Jacinda mentioned that there is some data available on the web regarding schools, school dropout rates, truancy and homelessness and she would e-mail information to Kathryn.

VI. Committee/Department Reports:

Christine Thibeault, Esq. – Legislative Committee – Christine did not have any legislation to report but did mention that at a Prosecutor's Meeting last week she spoke to Charlie Leadbetter about some of the issues regarding confidentiality of juvenile adjudications and juvenile procedures. The Criminal Law Advisory Committee (CLAC) may be undertaking that portion of the juvenile code.

Patrick Walsh – Communications Committee – Patrick had nothing to report at this time, but will get together with Kathryn on the Annual Report to figure out simple ways to

communicate the work of the JJAG to the Legislators.

Jacinda Goodwin – Had nothing to report, as she had not been in her office for a while due to illness.

St. Jonathan Shapiro – Dept. of Public Safety – Sgt. Shapiro stated that he met with a representative of the Volunteers of America Community Mediator Services and she stated that their mediators in the State of Maine are underutilized. Jonathan stated that she mentioned that we have the capacity to make direct referrals from the complainant to the mediation services. Jonathan explained that about 10% of their calls were family problems and out of the purview of his officers and these calls involved a lot of family and child custody issues that could be referred to mediation services to work through this process. Jonathan stated that he drafted a policy on how to refer those calls and will also have feedback on tracking their quality. This would be for civil matters only.

Paul stated that we will be having our December 5th JJAG Meeting at Goodwill Hinckley. There will be a brief JJAG Meeting and a focus group discussion with the students.

Barry Stoodley – Dept. of Corrections - Barry reported on the four year, four million dollar grant the Department received to work with DHHS and SAMSA on developing trauma focused treatment programs for mental health behaviors. Final approval from the Governor to accept the award was received. Barry updated everyone on the scope of this work and stated that right now the Department is in active negotiation with THRIVE to develop contracts. Barry stated that he expects the JJAG will be supporting this effort along with JJIC and others who will be brought into it in a way that was previously done in previous grants. This grant is focused on juvenile corrections and some of the goals will be to expand practice throughout the state to develop a trauma tool that will be used in corrections at both facilities and community corrections similar to what's going on in mental health agencies across the state. Barry stated that there will be an RFP for services in regions one and three. After proposals have been made, all kids who are diverted out of the system in the formal court processing system and who meet the standards will all be referred to high fidelity wraparound. Barry stated that this is a big challenge for the department and we're hoping to take kids into the program sometime in March or early April.

Barry also updated everyone on changes the Department has made based on information from Muskie on recidivism and disproportionate minority contact. Barry explained that most of the recidivism is happening within 30, 60, or 90 days during the time the kids are placed on supervision. The Department has made adjustments based on a new process which is reviewed every month with the Commissioner and the regions to monitor progress. Barry spoke about the new approach to community reintegration for kids who were leaving the facilities and returning at a high rate. Each facility has identified two highly qualified staff, classified them as Community Reintegration Specialists and assigned them to work with kids, families, folks in the facilities, and everybody in the community well in advance of kids leaving the facilities. The Specialists follow these kids in the community, sometimes after 90 days. They are also available to the families and the kids to provide

support on nights, weekends, holidays, and times when JCCOs are not readily available. This has already resulted in significant improvement and the recidivism rates have decreased significantly by as much as 60 to 70% in terms of returns.

Barry then focused information on the Interstate Compact and asked Mark Boger to give everyone an update on the formation of the State Council.

Mark spoke about the formation of the State Council for the Interstate Compact for Juveniles. Under the legislation recently enacted the State Council will include members that are also current members of the JJAG. Specifically a member of the judiciary, a prosecutor, a law enforcement representative, and a victim advocate representative among others. Mark will be working with Barry and the Commissioner to make the required appointments to the State Council over the next few months.

Christine Theriault – Substance Abuse & Mental Health – Christine reported that the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health has been very busy with some grants and reported on a 2.6 million dollar Partnerships for Success II Grant which is focused on three areas: Prevention of prescription drug abuse, marijuana use among 12 – 25 year olds and prevention of underage drinking from 12 to 20 year olds. This is a three year grant and each public health district will get approximately \$80,000 to be funneled out to the HFPs for use within the district to be doing some of this prevention work. The Adolescent Treatment Program received notification about a grant they received to enhance adolescent treatment services.

Christine spoke about the Student Intervention and Reintegration program and stated that these are educational type programs for youth throughout the state who have either violated school policy or who have been arrested for a minor offense. This is a program with six sites, Brunswick, Rockland, Oxford County, Skowhegan, Gardiner-Augusta area and Auburn. It's a 12 hour program that happens in each of the different sites. Christine explained that from information they received on the success of the program they are looking for referrals and trying to get the word out about the program. Christine spoke of the EUDL-ACME Grant and the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces that are focusing on underage drinking.

VII. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 11: 24 A.M.

The next meeting will be December 5, 2012 at Good-Will Hinckley School in Hinckley.

DRAFT