

SAG Minutes 4/16/2021

Members Present- Jill Ward (Chair), Ned Chester (Vice Chair), Gail Wasserman, Colin O'Neill, Bonnie Porta, Atlee Reilly, Betsy Boardman, Judge Maria Woodman, Bishop Steve Coleman, Chris Northrop, Debra Baeder, Page Nichols, Lt. Patrick Hood, Jonathan Shapiro; Regina Phillips; Tracey Horton

Members Absent Megathlin, Gifford Campbell, Sienna Dana, Marta Haydym, Taheim Brimage, Abier Ibrahim, Mike Freysinger, Tessa Mosher, Christine Thibeault, Todd Landry, Elizabeth Ward Saxl.

JJAG Staff Present- Linda Barry Potter (Compliance Monitor and Acting JJ Specialist),

DOC Staff Present: Anwar Whiting (RED and DOC Credible Messenger Coordinator), Steve Labonte (JCCO), Heidi Strassberg-Bersani (Colin O'Neill's Assistant).

Public Attendees: Tanya Pierson, Abigail Maycock, Jeanette Plourde, La Michael Gildersleeve, Bruce King, Kelsy Cromie.

Call to Order: 9:08am

Minutes: 03/19/2021 Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve minutes as amended to correct a misspelling. Bishop Steve Coleman moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Bonnie Porta. **Adopted by unanimous vote.**

JJ Specialist Report: Linda Barry Potter

Budget: All awards are available to spend currently. Brought up the 2017 award must be spent by 09/30/2021, suggestions were to move the funding from SY IM 18 to 2017, award and use the remaining to fund the SRO Summit. Also possible to use 3k of the remaining funds for website contract. Other suggestions welcome. Executive Committee will take suggestions and make recommendations to make sure funds are spent down before the end of the federal fiscal year.

Went over CJJ Conference dates: Virtual Annual Conference is 06/9-11/2021 register by 05/31/2021, (Two members have requested to attend). CJJ R/ED Conference in Louisville KY 11/1-3/2021 register by 07/31/2021 (Two members have requested to attend).

Compliance Monitoring: Monitoring schedule is set for the next two years. This is a required piece of the three-year plan.

Solicitation is not yet published a reminder to those working on pieces of this report to make sure your pieces are ready to go, so when it does come out, we can quickly turn it around.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Summit will August 10th and 11th, 9-4:30 pm. Format will be one 90-minute keynote presentation with either three breakout sessions or one training session all day. On the 10th, Linda is inquiring about a speaker from Community Change Inc. and then on the 11th will be a showcase on Restorative Justice options. Presenters will be Old Orchard Beach

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Community Board; Youth Court; Diversion Panel (Anwar Whiting); Portland High RJ. Looking into Windham High School as the venue. Anticipating a hybrid model for in person attendance as well as virtual. Will have a rough agenda for the next JJAG meeting in May. Next meeting of the summit planning group is May 5 at 10am. Let Linda know if you want the zoom to attend.

Agency Presentations:

DOC (Colin O'Neill): DOC has signed a lease for a non-secure residence for boys in Auburn and hope to open mid-June to early July. There are a lot of offices there, more than the DOC needs for resident's rooms. DOC is starting to reach out to community agencies to see if they would like to partner with DOC for social supports for residents. They will also partner with Tree Street for education and support.

DOE (Jonathon Shapiro): Three schools (Calais, Rumford and Westbrook) are trained fully in the Behavioral Threat Assessment; it was used to ensure that one youth was not suspended or expelled. The process was a success and ended with the parents and involved parties coming together and administering a fair outcome. The eventual hope is to train JCCOs, prosecutors, and police in the Threat Assessment. Working with the ME Criminal Justice Academy on the SRO Certificate program. Right now, it is voluntary and will be free and open to any Police not just SROs following the belief that Police will interact with youth even if a school is not using an SRO. Link for the Social and Emotional Learning webpage: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/sel>.

Courts (Judge Maria Woodman): The Judge brought up the need for a centralized resource index that is available to Judges to better understand what alternatives to Long Creek are in the community. Jill mentioned that some of this is available and being built through the Place Matters project: <https://placemattersmaine.org>. She would also like to see more Judges hearing the cases consistently and mention on the Child Welfare side its one Judge one family. Ned suggested that she could have a conference before sentencing with attorneys and JCCOs to see what programs are available in urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state. Also discussion of the Judicial Branch's Justice for Children Task Force effort around BIPOC data collection across systems.

DPS (Lt Patrick Hood) – Presented that State Police have limited involvement with youth, but he does find Troopers who are sprinkled through different areas that youth will encounter. He stated there is a Trooper serving on a Community Justice Panel, another who has developed a relationship with a group home, come summer there is a plan to engage residents with him in a mentoring relationship to assist when he responds to issues there.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee (Jill Ward):** Jill will co-presenting with VT SAG Chair about ME and VT response to Covid-19 for the CJJ Conference. Website work has been pushed back to start in June due to contract issues, which have been resolved and dates have been extended.

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- *RED/DMC Committee* (Bishop Steve Coleman): Bishop reported that next R/ED meeting would be spend working on the RFP. He has been having conversations with local law enforcement about engagement with youth of color (Yarmouth, Westbrook). Regina Phillips brought up wanting to fund a summer program for youth of color and the police to begin to build trust between those parties. Jill suggested this program: <https://vpm.org/news/articles/2452/in-richmond-art-brings-together-police-and-incarcerated-youth>
- *Governance Committee* (Christine Thibeault): No updates. Working on forms/criteria for 5K grants.
- *Legislative Committee* (Christine Thibeault): No updates. Working on policy for what national policy requests chair can sign off on.

Systems Improvement Committee (Atlee Riley): Atlee reported out that they are trying to complete an RFP to get it out in June, so it will be in place for the 2021-22 school year. He is hoping to partner with community-based services to be the Crisis Response for schools as an alternative to law enforcement. There is a lot of federal money coming into the state that schools have to address impacts of disruptions, including social-emotional impacts, we could help schools leverage that with this RFP in a couple of districts. There is a google doc where an outline of the RFP is being developed. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Next meeting is May 5 at noon, so those interest in helping write the RFP, please attend. Link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZimMojQfHr37WuyYNcdIIMHsyNS1xGmFs0fM8toh4Cw/edit?usp=sharing>

Jill reviewed the Youth Network proposal and presented the Systems Improvement Committee recommendation that JJAG to vote to fund the request from Claire Schroeder at the Young People's Caucus at \$50K for 2 years for a total of \$100K. Bonnie Porta motioned to approve the request. Regina Phillips seconded the motion. **Adopted by unanimous vote.**

Next Meeting: Friday, May 21, 2021 at 9am

Adjourn: 10:55am