

JJAG Minutes 5/21/2021

Members Present- Jill Ward (Chair), Gail Wasserman, Colin O'Neill, Bonnie Porta, Betsy Boardman, Bishop Steve Coleman, Page Nichols, Lt. Patrick Hood, Jonathan Shapiro, Regina Phillips, Christine Thibeault, Todd Landry, and Tessa Mosher.

Members Absent Megathlin, Gifford Campbell, Sienna Dana, Marta Haydym, Taheim Brimage, Abier Ibrahim, Mike Freysinger, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Debra Bader, Atlee Reilly, Tracy Horton

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

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

Public Attendees: Tanya Pierson, Abigail Maycock, Jeanette Plourde, Bruce King, Leigh-Ashley Milne, Mary Lou Michael, and Margot Fine.

Call to Order: 9:10am

Minutes: Approval of 4/16/2021 Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve by Christine Thibeault. Seconded by Bonnie Porta. **Adopted by unanimous vote.**

JJ Specialist Report (*Linda Barry Potter*):

Budget: 2017 Grant will be spent on time and need no other grant extension. Contract for website design is awaiting final approval. Work will start 06/28/2021.

CJJ Conference dates: Virtual Annual Conference is 06/9-11/2021 register by 05/31/2021. CJJ R/ED Conference in Louisville KY 11/1-3/2021 register by 07/31/2021.

Compliance Monitoring: A brief presentation of the role and duties was presented via PowerPoint (see slide deck). Questions were asked and answered by JJAG Board Members, Linda Barry Potter and Colin O'Neill. It was suggested that Betsy Boardman may be helpful if getting into the courts is difficult.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Summit will August 10th and 11th, 9-4:30 pm. Nothing new to report yet. Next planning meeting is set for June 2, 2021 at 10am. Let Linda know if you would like to attend.

Agency Presentations:

DHHS (*Todd Landry*): DHHS supplemental budget will increase PNMI rate. Assumed 25% rate increase based on rate study, actual rate increase wound up being 42-45%; the difference is what is now included in the supplemental budget. Redeploy ARP contract to hire 15 more OCSF caseworkers to be trained and serve as investigators and lessen disparities for families (over the community alternative). All investigations will be done by OCFS caseworkers with remainder of

JJAG Minutes 5/21/2021

ARP contract funding invested as part of implementation of Family First. Last phase of funding to complete development of comprehensive Child Welfare Info System. Using some federal relief funds to expand crisis intervention work from Aroostook County to Androscoggin and Penobscot/Piscataquis counties. Federal Mental Health funding from block grants to help adults and youth access treatment. Discussed were creative solutions to entice professionals into the FFT and MST work, loan forgiveness, free supervision, shorter track of education into those programs at local colleges and universities. See flyer about DHHS ARPA FMAP listening sessions on May 25 and May 28.

DOC (Colin O'Neill): DOC Action Plan eliminates 13.5 staff positions from Long Creek youth Development Center and adds those funds (\$1.2 million) to Community Services budget. DOC will also fund one RJ Resource Staff/Coordinator at both DOC and DOE. Regina Phillips requested that they try to hire a person of color for these positions, and that DOC specifically reach out to communities of color who may be distrustful of DOC. See DOC 2021 Action Plan here: <https://www.maine.gov/corrections/sites/maine.gov.corrections/files/inline-files/DJS%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

DOE (Page Nichols): Supplemental Budget will expand early college for High School students. Students will be able to take up to 12 college credits while in high school. This has improved the graduation rates at local community colleges. \$10 million to expand early childhood pre-K and boost expansion into places that don't yet have it. Restorative Justice in schools diversifying their workforce is also a priority. DOE has hired a Director of Diversity and Ethnic Incentives. See attached slides for additional information.

DPS (Lt Patrick Hood): No update.

Judicial Branch Justice for Children Task Force (Betsy Boardman & Regina Phillips):

Data collection work group looking at resourcing better data collection by courts and looking to coordinate with other agencies to align and avoid duplication. Christine noted the data her office collect in Cumberland County and will share with the work group.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee (Jill Ward):** Due to the solicitation being released and a quick turn around time of July 13, 2021 there will be JJAG Board Meetings in June and July. No meeting in August. Work on website will begin in earnest in July. Open slots for JJAG to be discussed this summer; both adults and youth members.
- **RED/DMC Committee (Bishop Steve Coleman):** Committee met, the training RFP is not ready, Chris Northrop made up a google doc so members can read draft and leave suggestions. R/ED is planning a retreat for June 17 to discuss who is/ who is not an active member of the committee and any member from the JJAG may attend. Email Linda if you want to be included.

JJAG Minutes 5/21/2021

- *Governance Committee* (Christine Thibeault): New JJAG grants \$5K or under was sent around for comments. Some comments were made, and the document changed. Committee will also look at membership and work with Executive Committee to chart out all the slots, terms and committee assignments. As part of the by-laws review this summer will also look at criteria around meeting attendance.
- *Legislative Committee* (Christine Thibeault): Christine provided an update on juvenile justice related bills. Christine discussed what other SAGs are doing around weighing in on pending legislation. Jill is collecting information on this and the committee will work on a policy over the summer/fall to have in place for the second legislative session.
- *Systems Improvement Committee* (Jill Ward for Atlee Riley): Working draft of the Crisis Response RFP was shared. Members should give feedback directly to Atlee or attend June 2nd committee meeting where the RFP will be finalized for review and a vote of the full body at the June 18 meeting. The contract for the Youth Network Proposal is moving forward with the hope it will be executed in June/July.

Next Meeting: Friday, June 18, 2021 at 9am.

Adjourn: 11:32 am