

SAG Minutes 3/19/21

Members Present- Jill Ward (Chair), Ned Chester (Vice Chair), Christine Thibeault, Gail Wasserman, Colin O'Neill, Bonnie Porta, Jill Ward, Tessa Mosher, Atlee Reilly, Todd Landry, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Betsy Boardman (for Judge Maria Woodman), Bishop Steve Coleman, Chris Northrop, Debra Baeder, Page Nichols, Lt. Patrick Hood, Tessa Mosher.

Members Absent- Abier Ibrahim; Jonathan Shapiro; Regina Phillips; Tracey Horton; Mike Freysinger, Kaitlyn Megathlin, Gifford Campbell, Sienna Dana, Marta Haydym, Taheim Brimage.

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

DOC Staff Present: Anwar Whiting (RED and DOC Credible Messenger Coordinator), Sonja Morse (DOC Juvenile Data and Research Coordinator).

Public Attendees: Alice Preble, Kelsey Park, Tanya Pierson, Mary Lou Michael, Abigail Maycock, Jeanette Plourde, Steve Labonte, Monica Bouyea, Kelsy Cromie, Luc Nya, Bruce King, Jon Ruterbories and Alyssa Malcomson (OJJDP Program Manager)

Call to Order: 9:04am

Minutes: February 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes, Bonnie Porta moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Christine Thibeault. **Adopted by Unanimous vote.**

JJ Specialist Report: Linda Barry Potter

Budget: FY 2019 was accepted by OJJDP award funds were released. FY 2020 is approved by OJJDP just waiting for the OK from Just Grants to upload and release those funds. Reviewed new layout for the budget and explained OJJDP has updated the rules for the budgets.

CJJ Conferences: Annual Conference June 09-11, 2021 (virtual), early bird registration ends 05/31/2021, cost is \$200. Members wanting to attend should get in touch with Linda via email to reserve a spot – in the past 5 members have attended, but can have up to 13 in virtual platform. CJJ R/ED Conference November 01-04, 2021 (Louisville, KY), early bird registration ends 07/31/2021, cost to attend is \$295. Linda requested direction from the Executive Committee on how many members can attend (usually 4 for this one) as there have been no in person conferences since 2019.

Compliance Monitoring: New monitoring universe is complete. All non-holding municipal, state and county facilities have been sent out, there has been about a 40% return response. This was an area that Maine was out of compliance with and the hope is to have a 100% return rate on these forms.

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Agency Presentations:

DOC (Colin O'Neill): Presented the DOC DJS 2021 Action Plan, based on CCLP report recommendations. Moves funding from Long Creek to two staff secure residential programs (STEPS for girls and one for boys at location TBD), data tells us it should be located in Auburn or South Portland area, as that is where the youth come from. There is a hope to contract with a provider in Northern Maine for a similar capacity. Eliminating about 14 of those vacant LC positions to turn into additional funding (\$1.2M) to work w/community partners to develop programs services to youth “up river” – serve kids at front end of the system. Staff will have a separate juvenile certification program for Long Creek and for the residential programs. Training will be juvenile-specific, mental health issues, trauma informed treatment, adolescent brain devo, restorative justice. DOC is using information from the Regional Care Teams to help inform services offered by DOC. DOC will be funding 2 positions for Restorative Justice Coordinators one at DOE and one at DOC to help expand access to RJ programs for youth involved with DOC. See Action Plan here: <https://www.maine.gov/corrections/sites/maine.gov.corrections/files/inline-files/DJS%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Discussion about on-going efforts to reduce number of youth at Long Creek. Noted a shift in more folks working together to keep youth out of detention (JCCOs, judges, DAs), in part due to COVID. Still some concern about potential spike in the summer when the weather is better, more of the population is vaccinated and out and about. DOC is getting the message about the desire for increased local decision-making. Task Force town hall mtgs indicated local municipalities wanted to have opportunity and resources to make decisions locally. Not just top-down decision-making. Data-driven way to look at where are kids coming from, where are gaps, reach out to those places and partner with them to see what they think their kids need. Great to have money follow the youth.

OCFS/DHHS (Todd Landry): Presented summary and update of Family First Services Prevention Plan developed over last year. It's now in hands of the federal ACF for review and approval. Maine will have 60 days to respond; likely get into negotiation; would like to implement on Oct 1, 2021, pending all necessary approvals. Link to summary: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/sites/maine.gov.dhhs/files/inline-files/Maine%20Family%20First%20Prevention%20Services%20State%20Plan%20FINAL%202021.2021.pdf>

DOE (Page Nichols): Presented on the Threat Assessment program. Schools are asking for training on it, so far it appears to be successful. 37 schools are also asking for training in social emotional learning: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/sel/sel4me>. DOE will offer a free event on April 1 from 9 AM – 3 PM with the focus on mental health in schools, why this is important, reducing the stigma, importance of mental health can have on learning.

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Question about upcoming SRO summit and discussion about having a breakout session on the alternative to SROs in school as this appears to be a direction Portland school district and other districts may want to explore. Discussion that world has changed since JJAG agreed to fund that summit and some want to make sure other school safety approaches are considered. Some feel police shouldn't be in schools at all. If JJAG is funding it, there should be representative of different voices. Same conversation is happening at CJJ/national level, too. Next planning meeting is April 7 at 10am.

Christine provided an update re: 3-day on-line training around child sexual abuse and exploitation/sexual trafficking – social workers, treatment providers, prosecutors, law enforcement etc. Perhaps this model may work well for the JJAG to consider \$6000 allowed for over 600 hundred professionals to be trained.

DPS (Lt Patrick Hood) – Presented he does not have a lot of contact with youth but will circle back with DPS and others to provide agency update and or see if there is a more appropriate representative to attend the JJAG meetings. Reported that all police have had Implicit Bias training, presented by Officer Elgin Physic.

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. Members interested in helping with website development, please let Jill know. Also, Governance Committee will start putting a more formal process in place for nominations and referrals for open JJAG seats.
- *RED/DMC Committee* (Bishop Steve Coleman): Presented that the committee met last Tuesday and looked at the flexibility in their budget to see about doing internal JJAG training. Discussed the RFP for larger training and the committee is looking at it and revising it currently. Starting to gather data on Race/Gender/ Ethnicity of Maine's police forces. Asked Lt. Hood if he could assist with this. He stated some of the ideas the committee has had include for having someone trained in MH go out with officers when there is a call of this nature; programs that might encourage youth to seek careers in law enforcement. Elizabeth Ward Saxl stated police are required to received de-escalation training as a part of their mandatory training, if they don't take it they cannot retain their position on the police force. DOC recently hired Roy King, a diversity specialist to work on RED issues. Suggestion to incorporate RED into agency updates going forward.
- *Governance Committee* (Christine Thibeault): Work on the by-laws has been set aside until after the legislative session in June. Committee will make policy recommendation for requests for letters of support what Chair can sign off on and what needs to be brought to the board for a vote before sending a letter of support. Work on developing the grant-making process discussion will help the board remain fair and transparent and spend the award money with

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consistency to the boards established values & goals. Performance Measures will now be defined for sub-grantees when awards are made. Process for revised \$5K application form being worked on. Christine would like the full board to vote on expenditures of any kind, including sole source justifications and RFP's rules.

- *Legislative Committee* (Christine Thibeault): Christine gave a brief overview of pending bills related to youth/juvenile justice. Still working on a legislative tracker that will be shared with the group. The Committee is also continuing to work on process for notifying JJAG of key bills and for taking a position and/or providing information to the Legislature. Next meeting is 3/22 at 4pm.
- *Systems Improvement Committee* (Atlee Riley): Small group with some JJAG members (Jill, Regina, Mike, Erica King, Claire Schroder & Ali Abdul) met on comprehensive youth engagement vision. Possible sole source opportunity for JJAG to contribute to some state-wide, foundational work and get assistance for our youth engagement needs; proposal will go to the Systems Improvement and RED Committees for review and possible proposal for full JJAG consideration at April meeting. Atlee discussed the presentation from DHHS regarding children's crisis response pilot in Aroostook County and his eagerness to determine best way to structure JJAG investment. Discussion of possible DHHS needs to gap filling for agency trainings for staff. Discussion around possibly resourcing project focused on schools as the 2nd largest crisis response consumer. Question about data around police response to children in crisis. Not really. Hard to rely on self-reporting. DOE looking at better data are exclusionary practices in Maine schools. Interest in cross-systems collaboration on this. Betsy Boardman mentioned the Justice for Children Task Force workgroup has formed a subcommittee focused on racial equity cross system data collection. Justice Gorman will be head Judicial Branch representative on the committee. This can serve as an opportunity to enhance intersystem data collection more broadly. Those interested in working more on shaping JJAG crisis response project should attend next meeting, which is April 7 at noon.

Guest Presentation: Juvenile Restorative Justice Council (JRJC) - George Shaler, Co-Chair
Presentation on background of JJAG-funded restorative justice project that led to the creation of the JRJC and update on where it is today. Currently the JRJC has 2 co-chairs and meets 4-5 times a year (all volunteer). See slide deck for presentation details. Discussion about coordination of this work with the new DOC & DOE positions.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2021 at 9am.

Adjourn: Noon