

SAG Minutes 2/19/21

Members Present- Jill Ward, Ned Chester, Christine Thibeault, Gail Wasserman, Colin O'Neill, Todd Landry, Tracey Horton, Bonnie Porta, Jonathan Shapiro, Atlee Reilly, Bishop Steve Coleman, Chris Northrop, Page Nichols, Tessa Mosher, Debra Baeder, Regina Phillips

Members Absent - Abier Ibrahim, Kaitlyn Megathlin, Maria Woodman, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Gifford Campbell, Sienna Dana, Mike Freysinger, Marta Haydym, Lt. Patrick Hood

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

DOC Staff Present: Anwar Whiting (RED and Credible Messenger Coordinator), Sonja Morse (Juvenile Data and Research Coordinator) Galen Williamson (RCA Region 3), Jason Greenlaw (JCCO)

Public Attendees: Tanya Pierson, Betsy Boardman, Mary Lou Michael, Margot Fine, Alice Preble, Fenton Jones.

Call to Order: 9:02am

Minutes: January 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes, Debra Baeder moved to accept the minutes this was 2nd by Chris Northrop. **Adopted by Unanimous vote.**

JJ Specialist Report: Linda Barry Potter

Budgets have been submitted for approval for FY 19 and FY 20 to open these grants up to be spent, no notice from OJJDP yet about this. Most performance measures are completed and ready for submission as soon as Just Grants puts access in place so they can be uploaded. Waiting on Wings performance Measures. No new information on the FY 2021 solicitation.

Agency Presentations:

Request that agencies outline the legislation they are following that may be of interest to JJAG.

OCFS/DHHS (Todd Landry): See attached slide for list of bills

- LD 81 pertains to children experiencing homelessness, would increase the number of days a child can be at a homeless shelter from 30 – 60. Possible other bill to increase this to 90 days.
- Truancy bill - last year DOE changed definition of truancy. Proposing we align with the new definition so there is no conflict w/r/t statutes among DOC and DOE
- Moving Maine laws into compliance with federal requirements regarding assessment of commercial sexual exploitation of children regardless of the perpetrator's relationship to the child.
- Statutory requirement for Judicial Review of a child's case every 90 days. This would bring Maine into compliance for the Families First Program.
- LD 335 to clarify requirement for criminal history record checks to make them more comprehensive.

SAG Minutes 2/19/21

DOC (Colin O'Neill):

- LD 320 - Will influence length of stay; set commitment age for juvenile court jurisdiction provide judicial review.
- Rep. Brennan bill coming out of the work of the Task Force; similar to last year's proposal to provide a plan for reducing use of secure commitment and increase community investment

DOE (Jonathan Shapiro and Page Nichols):

- LD 474 Ending suspension and expulsions for 5th grade students or below and compile a list of free legal services that are available to youth.
- LD 325 Disruption Diploma would apply to education disruptions of 15 days or longer, would have a sunset clause of 09/2025 to help the youth affected by the pandemic to graduate.
- LD 429 Emergency Safety Planning for Schools; create health safety teams in time of emergency; in line w/best practices; clarifying some language

Legislative Committee is putting together a legislative tracker and will provide updates on bills of interest to the JJAG.

Changing Companies Journaling Program Presentation (Galan Williamson, Sonja Morse and Jason Greenlaw from the DOC)

Interactive journaling program for working with youth was piloted in DOC's Region 3 for 6 months. See slide deck for data on presentation and full report is on DOC website here:

https://www.maine.gov/corrections/sites/maine.gov.corrections/files/inline-files/Updated%20Change%20Companies_Pilot%20Program_2192021.pdf

Aroostook County Boys and Girls Club Update (Fenton Jones): Aroostook Boys & Girls Club is the only Native American Boys & Girls club in Maine. There are no fees for their services. During the pandemic they have increased community engagement by going out into the community to provide their services. Between Aroostook & Washington Counties over 800 children are service. Mobile units are providing parents with support and engagement, cultural outreach work, academic assistance, food distribution and activity kits. Since the pandemic began, they have distributed over 300,000 meals and 20,000 activity kits. They are building a new shelter that will be named Safe Haven and will be a place where social interactions can take place while observing social distancing. In the future they would like to obtain a grant for a 24 hours youth homeless shelter as this is a need in their communities. They received this information via talking circles and community conversations.

SAG Minutes 2/19/21

Committee Reports:

- *Executive Committee* (Jill Ward): CJJ Conference Dates are June 9–11, 2021. Members should let Linda know if they want to attend by April 30. Jill is reaching out to VT SAG Chair to do a presentation about ME and VT response to Covid 19 with expedited funds 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): Still on community org list who are working with youth of color. Looking for training for the JJAG, and trying to complete and post the started RFP for racial equity training, to hopefully hold training in late summer 2021. Race Forward; Community Change; People’s Institute, Mindbridge; and Racial Equity Institute were mentioned as possible trainers.
- *Governance Committee* (Christine Thibeault): By laws are tabled until after the legislative session. This committee will work on a process for weighing in on or signing letters supporting more money or promising federal legislation for juveniles.
- *Legislative Committee* (Christine Thibeault): We will begin tracking bills and will make a tracker regarding all applicable legislation this session. In addition to the tracker, the Committee will work on process for notifying JJAG of key bills and for taking a position and/or providing information to the Legislature.
- *Systems Improvement Committee* (Atlee Riley): Discussion about Values & Priorities for Year One of 3-year plan. See one-page chart. Committee will incorporate suggestions and the next Committee meeting will focus on refining possibly opportunities for the crisis response and training priorities. We will also solicit a more detailed proposal from Young People’s Caucus to in support of the youth engagement priority. Committee will make some final recommendations around the 5K grants program (caps, focus areas, etc) and work with the Governance Committee to shape up description and application process.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2021 at 9am.

Adjourn: Noon