

JJAG Minutes 04/18/2025 - FINAL

Members Present: Morgan Hynd (Interim Chair), Megan Anderson, Judge Sarah Churchill, Tessa Mosher, Christopher Northrop, Caroline Raymond, Jonathan Shapiro, Jonathan Solomon, Doran Wright, Jennie Yamartino, Samantha Fenderson (DOL), Bobbi Johnson (OCFS), Christine Thibeault (DOC), Melissa Jankowski, Regina Phillips, Melissa Martin, Kelly Rackler, Bruce King, Abeir Ibrahim, Tanya Pierson, Renee Bernard, Bonnie Porta

Members Absent: Ned Chester (Interim Vice Chair), Kayla Boucher, Chief Tim DeLuca, Jacinda Goodwin, Patricia Niedrorowski, Ladi Nzeyimana, Zubeyda Shute, Jay Philbrick, Chris Bicknell

Members on Leave: Page Nichols (DOE) Jason Madore (DPS)

JJAG Staff Present: Douglas Sanborn (Compliance Monitor), Anwar Whiting (RED/DOC Credible Messenger Coordinator)

DOC Staff Present: Steve Labonte R3

Public Attendees: Dean Bugaj, Betsy Boardman, Sarah Branch, Chiara Liberatore, Mary Lou Michael, Juan Soto-Alvarez, Alice Preble, Jill Ward

Call to Order 9:05 am (via Zoom)

Welcome & Introductions (Morgan Hynd) Introductions

- Election in MAY for Chair & Vice Chair. Members please indicate your interest in these position in an email to Linda Barry Potter Linda.Barry.Potter@maine.gov.
- Request for new members of the JJAG to report their Committee selections to Linda Barry Potter, (Linda.Barry.Potter@maine.gov). A chair is also needed for Legislative Committee. Committee participation is required for members. Members of the public are welcome to join committees as well.

February Meeting Minutes (Morgan Hynd): Motion to approve by Christine Thibeault; Regina Phillips seconded.

- **Adopted 16 Yeas, 0 Nays, 3 Abstentions**

MDOC (Christine Thibeault, Associate Commissioner) Christine has still not heard from the Governor's Office Liaison since they last met to discuss new JJAG contracts given the uncertainty at the federal level. Christine will meet with agencies that have been approved for funding and are awaiting new contracts to they fully understand the situation.

JJ Specialist Report (Douglas Sanborn presented in Linda's absence):

CJJ Conference – CJJ has asked the group that presented at the OJJDP conference which includes ME, MI, and PA to be a part of a panel for one of the plenary sessions. Maine delegates would like to attend at a cost of \$2,895 for three people, including hotel and per diem.

CJJ Conference funding - Motion to approve by Tanya Pierson; Samantha Fenderson seconded.

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- **Funding approved 18 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions**

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice Conference – the JJAG will cover the cost for up to 3 people to attend this conference. Please let Linda know if you would like to attend. The conference is June 18-20, 2025 in San Diego and more information can be found here:

<https://rfknrcjj.org/events/>

Compliance Monitoring Report (Douglas Sanborn): Doug shared updates on upcoming trainings and his visit schedule. Visits have begun, starting with the West Bath District Courthouse, Two Bridges Regional Jail, and Falmouth Police Department. The next visits will be from May 5-8 in Aroostook County in Fort Kent, Madawaska, Caribou, Fort Fairfield, and Presque Isle, and the Aroostook County Jail which is one of two Rural Exception Jails. Fifty visits need to be completed before the end of September.

OJJDP has included a new set of required compliance data that will be uploaded to the Compliance Monitoring Tool when they open it. OJJDP will now require information on Juveniles Charged as Adults. The threshold for that requirement is 14 out of 100,000 juveniles and.

In May, Linda and Doug will provide training to the Old Orchard Beach Police Department on compliance monitoring in the state of Maine. Doug and Linda may also provide the Freeport Police Department with training assistance in the near future.

Committee Reports

R/ED (Regina Phillips & Christopher Northrop): Chris shared that Georgetown has an interactive dashboard that the R/ED Committee would like to launch once it is clear who can have access to the dashboard and the data.

Governance (Ned Chester & Bonnie Porta) Morgan shared that the Governance Committee met recently with the Young People's Caucus team from Cutler to discuss revising and resubmitting their proposal. Part of the proposal includes work to support JJAG in recruiting youth members.

Systems Improvement (Doran Wright) The Committee is beginning to plan for a new Request for Applications. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 23.

Transitional Leadership Committee (Morgan Hynd)

- The Paul Vestal Scholarship was awarded and we hope to share the story of the awardee, Stephanie Pellitier, on our website and in a press release in the near future.

Legislative Committee (Open) Morgan Shared that this committee will meet on May 6, 2025 from 8:00-9:00. The committee still needs a chair. You can find the legislative bill tracker here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tyxYuhXPEJXkdIVLBgeUdWI45EubOjBz5mHWEYfVPR4/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

Youth Council (Jon Solomon, Bruce King) Bruce shared that they have begun meetings with some of the youth members of the JJAG and they have been attending the YPC meetings to make connections with prospective members. This work will continue to grow throughout the year.

Agency Updates

DOC (Christine Thibeault) – Christine shared that she delivered her report to the Legislature on Juvenile Services. DOC is moving away from sole source contracts and moving to RFPs. This year's restorative justice

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work will change as well. Christine also shared that there are currently 35 youth held at Long Creek Youth Development Center. Data on the demographic overview of LCYDC residents will be provided twice a month.

OCFS (Bobbi Johnson) – Bobbi shared that they are working on a strategic plan for all of the work within OCFS. There will be a data dashboard developed. OCFS is also in the process of hiring a Deputy Director who will oversee the plan. They are holding regular meetings with DOC and others to be sure they are coordinating and integrated. One of the biggest challenges is in the Child Welfare division with placement issues.

DOL (Samantha Fenderson) – we ran out of time and requested that Sam present on DOL updates at the May meeting.

Next meeting May 16, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Adjourned 11:00 AM