

# JJAG Minutes 11/15/2024 - FINAL

**Members Present:** Ned Chester (Chair), Jill Ward (Vice Chair), Morgan Hynd, Judge Sarah Churchill, Page Nichols (DOE), Samantha Fenderson (DOL), Christine Thibeault (DOC), Dean Bugaj (DHHS), Chris Bicknell, Bonnie Porta, Tessa Mosher, Abeir Ibrahim, Tanya Pierson, Kelly Rackler, Atlee Reilly, Christopher Northrop, Jacinda Goodwin, Jonathan Shapiro, Megan Anderson, Melissa Martin (for Elizabeth Ward Saxl), Renee Bernard.

**Members Absent:** Aaron Turcotte (DPS), Bobbi Johnson (OCFS), Brody Haverly-Johndro, La Michael Gildersleeve, Sierra Dana, Ladi Nzeyimana, Jay Philbrick, Zubeyda Shute.

**JJAG Staff Present:** Linda Barry Potter (JJ Specialist), Douglas Sanborn (Compliance Monitor), Anwar Whiting (RED/DOC Credible Messenger Coordinator)

**DOC Staff Present:** Roy Curtis (RC, Region 3), Kelly Hebert (JCCO)

**Public Attendees:** Luc Nya, Jon Solomon, Alice Preble, Juan Soto-Alvarez, Betsy Boardman, Sarah Branch

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**Call to Order:** 9:01am (via Zoom)

**Welcome & Introductions** (Ned Chester)

**September Meeting Minutes** (Ned Chester): Motion to approve by Chris Northrop; Chris Bicknell seconded. **Adopted 14 Yeas 0 Nays 4 Abstentions** (Judge Churchill, Page Nichols, Jonathan Shapiro, Jacinda Goodwin)

**JJ Specialist Report** (Linda Barry Potter):

*Budget & Grants Update* – Budget has been updated showing all new contracts and balances. Still waiting on OJJDP response to application for FY24 funding allocation.

*OJJDP National Conference:* November 19-21, 2024, in Washington D.C. OJJDP Conference “Celebrating 50 years of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA)”. Maine’s delegation includes Linda, Doug, Anwar, Tanya Pierson, Jill Ward, and prospective member Jon Solomon. Maine will be presenting in one of the workshops on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM to talk about innovative uses of Title II funds, including support for tribal youth and Regional Care Teams. A summary from the attendees is being compiled to share with the Board.

**Compliance Monitoring** (Douglas Sanborn): Recap of October 18 Augusta Teen Center Site visit attended by Doug, Jill Ward, Morgan Hynd, and Alice Preble.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Committee** (Ned Chester & Jill Ward):

\$5K grants proposals:

- United Youth Empowerment Services to support youth field trips and sports field access. Motion to approve request by Tanya Pierson; seconded by Christine Thibeault. Adopted 14-0-1 (Abstention: Judge Churchill)
- Lincoln Middle School for stipends regarding mentoring with restorative practices. Practice language that can help youth be heard respectfully by school administrators. \$100 for each facilitator with eleven sessions. Youth-Led Justice will provide oversight/support. Motion to approve request by Tessa Moser; seconded by Tanya Pierson. Adopted 13-0-1 (Abstention: Judge Churchill)

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Decision to continue to hold JJAG Board Meetings on the 3rd Friday of the month in 2025. Linda will send a calendar invite for the year. Decision to use the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting time from 9-11am to schedule a tour of Long Creek for Board members. The tour is optional and there will be no business meeting. Christine Thibeault will help coordinate; due to pending DOJ lawsuit members will not be able to speak to staff but may be able to interact with residents. More guidance to follow.

***R/ED Committee (Regina Phillips & Chris Northrop):*** Anwar Whiting gave an update on the CJJ October R/ED conference – themes included, “People closest to the problem are closest to the solution,” “We want families to thrive and not just survive,” “Allow communities to flourish” and data is important in order to track progress and identify problems. See attendee summary. Committee continues to work with Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and National Juvenile Justice Center to provide TTA on our R/ED data report. Discussion about age of data and 18 month-2-year lag time for federal data; but that is standard nationally. Last Maine report is more than 10 years old so even with lag time mix of current federal and state data will be more accurate/informative.

***Governance Committee (Ned Chester & Bonnie Porta):*** Update on pending (6) appointments needed for our State Advisory Group requirements; still waiting for response from the Governor’s office. We have reached out to the Secretary of State’s office to get the list of required seats updated as they are working from an older list that does not reflect the current federal JJDP. Linda and the Committee are also working on reaching out to members who have not attended for more than 4-6 months to ascertain their status and/or ask them to step down if they are not interested in participating any longer. Sustaining adequate youth members remains a major focus. Looking for someone to fill forensic clinical spot (formerly Deb Bader).

***Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward & Luc Nya):*** Presentation on Probation Transformation will be given at January meeting. Two main goals are to make probation (and all of community supervision) smaller and better. Core team is working on the Capstone write-up and work plan. Discussion about the JJAG priorities for 2025 based on the goals and objectives outlined in our 3-year plan. Priorities are school pushout (need for data to understand the scope of the issue), crisis response, housing, restorative justice, prevention/early intervention programming, mental health, and mentoring. Also continued concern/support for growing youth engagement and connecting to more youth with lived experience and helping to sustain and grow RCTs. Next Committee meeting will be moved to December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4pm and will allow for the conversation to continue.

***Legislative Committee (Atlee Reilly & Tanya Pierson):*** Discussion about the plan for the upcoming legislative session and the role of the JJAG. Committee walked through the Legislative Action Plan from last session and got input on revisions. Generally, we will follow a similar plan this session. Center on Youth Policy & Law fellows will maintain legislative tracker of juvenile justice and related youth bills that will be shared with the JJAG. Christine will propose some revised language on ex officio members and DOL needs to be added to the ex officio list. Betsy will ask if the Judicial Branch should be included in disclaimer language. Revised Action Plan will be circulated to the Board for review and approval at the next meeting.

No Agency Updates.

Next meeting will be a JJAG MEMBERS ONLY tour of Long Creek during the regular meeting time day/time of December 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am.

**Adjourned 10:56am**