

JJAG Minutes 04/19/2024 FINAL

Members Present: Jill Ward (Vice Chair), Megan Anderson, Chris Bicknell, Renee Bernard; Judge Sarah Churchill, Bishop Steve Coleman, Morgan Hynd, Brody Haverly-Johndro, Page Nichols (DOE); Christopher Northrop, Tanya Pierson, Bonnie Porta, Christine Thibeault (DOC); Jonathan Shapiro, Melissa Martin (replacement nominee for Elizabeth Ward Saxl)

Members Absent: Ned Chester (Chair), Dean Bugaj (DHHS), Samantha Fenderson (DOL), Aaron Turcotte (DPS), Abeir Ibrahim, Atlee Reilly, La Michael Gildersleeve, Jacinda Goodwin, Zubeyda Shute, Ladi Nzeyimana, Sierra Dana, Jay Philbrick, Regina Phillips, Kelly Rackler, Tessa Mosher

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

Public Attendees: Betsy Boardman, Alice Preble, Doran Wright, Joanna Crispe, Lillian Bissett, Steve Labonte (DOC), Jeff Upton, Jon Solomon, Doran Wright; Mary Lou Michael, Anna Schmidt, Stacey Barlow (DOE), Austin Pine, Victoria Morales, Rod Mahoua.

Call to Order: 9:03AMa (via zoom)

Welcome & Introductions (Jill Ward)

March Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by Tanya Pierson, 2nd by Bonnie Porta. **Adopted 12 Yeas 0 Nays 2 Abstentions** (Morgan Hynd and Renee Bernard).

JJ Specialist Report (Linda Barry Potter):

Budget & Grants Update – Contracts are all up-to-date with 21 active contracts currently. Received OJJDP approval on the formal budget for the FY23 solicitation; still awaiting the solicitation for FY24.

Strategies for Youth (SFY) trainings are scheduled in Rockland (May 16-17) & Fairfield (May 14-15) and there is outreach going on through the Police Chief's Association, Sheriff's Association, JCCOs, and SROs. Please circulate the flyer as well to help get the work out.

BIPOC/LGBTQ RFA closed April 5, 2024 and there were 14 responses, several from programs JJAG hasn't heard from before. Request for another JJAG Member evaluator for the review team who has not served on an evaluation committee before. Committee meets on April 26 in Lisbon (and via zoom). Distribution of federal funds is an important function of this Board and all members are encouraged to participate. Note: Tanya Pierson stepped up to do this.

CJJ Conference: May 29-June 1, 2024 in Washington, D.C. Conference forms have been submitted and approved flights and hotels remain with DOC for finalization. Delegation from the JJAG includes Christine Thibeault, Douglas Sanborn, Anwar Whiting, Renee Bernard, and Linda Barry Potter.

Save the Date: November 19-21, 2024 in Washington D.C. OJJDP Conference "Celebrating 50 years of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA)".

Compliance Monitoring (Douglas Sanborn):

Working on compliance monitor certification that will be completed within a week. No reported violations. Continued to work his way around the state to do site visits.

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Presentation by Quality Housing Coalition: Victoria Morales, Executive Director; Austin Pine, Foster Youth Independence Housing Navigator and Rob Mahoua, Director of Programs presented information about their organization, focusing on the work they do with families to prevent eviction and their program with youth 18-24 who are coming out of OCFS custody; there are 39 slots in the program and they are currently working with 20 young adults. They provide case management to these youth to assist them in remaining housed and employed or attending school. The cost to support a youth is \$16K a year, much less expensive than having them use services being homeless or incarcerated. For families an average of \$3K- \$5K helps families avoid eviction, remain house and stabilized. McKinney Vento Act Reporting in 2022-2023 showed statewide that there are 4,393 homeless youth, a figure that is higher than ever before. <https://www.qualityhousingcoalition.org/>

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee (Ned Chester & Jill Ward): Work continues with Dr. Carter on the 3-Year Plan. Carter. One \$5K grant request was submitted by MEIRS to fund stipends to train civil legal advocates who will attend school hearings with youth and families and ensure understanding of the process, rules and potential consequences.

- Motion to approve MEIRS grant request by Christine Thibealt; seconded by Bishop Coleman. **Adopted 13-0, with 1 abstention** (Judge Churchill).

R/ED Committee (Regina Phillips & Chris Northrop): No meeting was held; no updates.

Systems Improvement Committee (Jill Ward & Luc Nya): Maine was accepted to the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform's Transforming Juvenile Probation Certificate Program. See more here: <https://cjjr.georgetown.edu/certificate-programs/transforming-juvenile-probation/>. A delegation supported by the JJAG will attend the week-long certificate training in Washington D.C. from June 10-14. Maine is the only statewide system accepted this year. The team consists of Steve Labonte (DOC), Joe Hansen (DOC), Tara Chaison (JCCO/DOC), Jill Ward (Policy), Chris Northrop (Defense), Tanya Pierson (ADA); Betsy Boardman, (Judiciary); Emma Schwartz (USM Researcher), Doran Wright (Straight Ahead Ministries); T.G. and his mother (System Impacted Youth & Family Member). DOC is funding their contingent; JJAG will fund JJAG Members, & Doran Wright; USM will fund Emma; Judicial Branch will fund Betsy; and Annie. E. Casey will Fund T.G. and mom.

3-Year Plan Writing Group: Dr. Carter has continued to lead the group on development of the 3-year plan. Other Board members have responded with what they would like to see in this report and members are encouraged to continue to provide feedback. Discussion on the latest draft will continue in the afternoon Board session with Dr. Carter following this regular business meeting. Final draft to be presented at the May Board Meeting.

Governance Committee (Ned Chester & Bonnie Porta): Presented minor revision to \$5K policy.

- Motion by Bonnie Porta to approve revision; Morgan Hynd 2nd the motion. **Approved 14-0.**

Youth Council (Jay Philbrick): No update at this time. Swathi, lead on JJAG's USM youth engagement grant, has returned from parental leave and will support reconvening the group. Important to identify new (non-youth) JJAG Board member to help.

Legislative Committee (Atlee Reilly): Committee is taking the summer off, no updates at this time.

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Agency Updates:

DOC (*Christine Thibeault*): DOC has applied to OJJDP for a grant for Transformative Leadership Vanguard for Long Creek staff, to improve work environment, hiring practices, and retention of line staff within the facility.

JUDICIARY (*Judge Churchill*): The courts welcomed 6 new District Court judges so expect to see new faces in the court, this group is looking especially for any manner of community programs, and diversion to assist the youth of Maine.

DOE (*Page Nichols*): DOE announced 30 more schools are moving to the BARR model for the 2024-2025 school year, bringing the total 101 schools participating. Connection to community funding to maintain this trend is required after 12/2025.

DOE Presentation: Stacey Barlow from DOE's Maine School Safety Center provided an update and presentation on the MSSC's work creating a culture of care in schools using restorative practices. See slide deck presentation for details. More at: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/safety>

Next meeting is May 17, 2024 at 9-11 am at the Augusta Teen Center, 244 Water Street, Augusta. Zoom option will be available as well for remote participation.

Adjourned 10:58 AM