

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES
January 16th, 2015



Paul R. LePage
Governor, State of Maine

Bartlett H. Stoodley, Chair
Edwin P. Chester, Esq. Vice Chair

I. Roll Call:

Present: Ned Chester, Esq., Vice Chair, Nickole DeMerritt, Dalene Dutton, Jacinda Goodwin, The Honorable Charles LaVerdiere, Margaret Longworth, Pender Makin, Tessa Mosher, Sgt. Jonathan Shapiro, Barry Stoodley, Chair, Christine Thibeault, Esq., Dr. Lindsey Tweed, Patrick Walsh

Absent with notice: Sgt. Abby Comee-McCourt, Colin O'Neill

Absent without notice: Christian Muhitira,

Staff: Jason Carey, Staff Assistant, Nathan Gagnon, Compliance Monitor, Miranda DiMartino, JJAG Intern

Guest: Page Nichols, The REAL School, Jill Ward, Juvenile Justice Federal Policy Consultant, Marcus Niedner, School Resource Officer, Gardiner Police Department

II. Chair:

The JJAG meeting was called to order by Bartlett Stoodley, JJAG Chair, at 9:10 A.M. and introductions were made.

Barry welcomed Nathan Gagnon as the JJAG's new Compliance Monitor and Miranda DiMartino as an intern for the JJAG until mid-May.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the JJDP Act.

III. Minutes:

The minutes for the December 5th, 2014 JJAG meeting were approved.

Motion: To approve the December 5th, 2014 Minutes

Moved: Jonathan Shapiro/Christine Thibeault

Abstained: Tessa Mosher

Action: Approved

IV. JJ Specialist Report:

Training through OJJDP's training center, Center for Coordinated Assistance to States, requested on 1/22/15 after discussion with Dr. Lisa Hutchinson.

Dr. Hutchinson will bundle the requests listed below into one work plan. Training for:

1. subgrantees to train and retain volunteers and training to help this group in working with other non-profits in the sharing of resources and reducing a duplication of efforts;
2. school, court, law enforcement and corrections workers on the adolescent brain and it's development;
3. new SAG members to include youth members;
4. program evaluation, to include the JJAG, the importance of data collection and reporting;
5. our new Compliance Monitor (requested ASAP);
6. the new DMC Coordinator;
7. our system improvement efforts, and
8. the development of our Three Year Plan.

JJAG members and others may request training through Kathryn. This opportunity is made through OJJDP at is at no cost to the JJAG.

The 2015 Formula Grant solicitation has not been released and no potential release date has been suggested.

V. Compliance Monitor Report:

Nathan has hit the ground running. He has reviewed all of the secure and non-secure holding facilities in the state and his 2015 travel schedule is set. He met with the Juvenile Justice Collaborative in the Lewiston/Auburn area. Region 2 Juvenile Community Officers Jay Pennell, Nate Randall, Chris Raymond, and Sue Smith have set this up in an effort to work with the community and reduce the number of juveniles who end up penetrating the system. He suggests the JJAG put together a presentation illustrating the work done by the JJAG as it relates to DMC work.

Nathan has identified a violation of a Mexican youth with no charges being held in detention for four days at Long Creek Youth Development Center. Members suggested informing AAG Sleek, questioned the presence of an agreement with ICE and if this relates to the Interstate Compact.

VI. Three Year Plan Development:

Barry provided the JJAG with an overview of the document Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach which will form the basis of expectations from OJJDP and others as we move forward in our work for the next three years. This new report incorporates all that's important about the JJDP Act. It also takes into account new findings around adolescent brain development, evidence-based programs and other areas.

- A. The Plan will exceed our funding ability however the expectation is that other funds will be used e.g. DOE, DOL, DHHS, DPS and non-government entities.
- B. We will learn what those state departments and non-government entities are doing as it relates to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention
- C. A survey of the programs/work that is happening now must be completed.
- D. We will define the areas in the plan, use the Juvenile Justice Task Force recommendations and refer to list of programs developed by Patrick and the DHHS Prevention Specialist.
 - 1. Several members noted that the mindset of police need changing; youth misbehavior is developmental, normative behavior
 - 2. Dr. Tweed offered that early interventions are needed. Parents need support. He notes that we have difficulty serving aggressive behavioral kids; we don't know where MH kids should go; how do we use the programs we have, and what are the programs we need (acute care). Maine has a capacity for placing 10 kids statewide and we use New Hampshire the Easter Seal facility.
 - 3. The Mendota Wisconsin program has shown a decrease in recidivism and cost. DHHS is looking into the program.
- E. The JJAG should be the “big picture,” pick goals (e.g. reduce expulsion and suspensions, referrals and unnecessary incarcerations), committees survey and gather information to learn what is going on in their area; this is what's going on, here's what's missing; develop matrix; the plan reflects a vision that includes the kids; the plan looks at the whole picture and in the end selects the most needed one; use the Plan for media and informing the legislature; review Kathryn's notes regarding earlier potential needs developed by members: find gaps in the system; may focus on the aggressive kids in residential settings who hurt others and are sent to LC/MV; may focus on kids with MH needs and serious behavioral issues.
- F. The role of the JJAG is to become *the* coordinator for all juvenile services in the State; the JJAG helps guide and coordinate; early intervention is critical; we've identified the problems: lack of MH lack of a place for kids who cannot go home, lack of programs so teachers can identify kids who will be in the system; look at big picture of where we need to go: develop an overall goal and do research.
 - 1. Gaps in the system for youth who are too aggressive
 - a. Mentally ill, youth in emergency rooms
 - 2. Early identification of at risk children

- a. At risk youth are younger, beginning at ages 10 to 13
 - 3. Developing a unified approach to juvenile mental health versus criminality
 - 4. Improvements in juvenile defense to be made
 - 5. School connectedness; liaison with schools preventing juvenile delinquency and responsive improvements
 - a. Adolescent brain development training for school policy makers
 - b. *Safe School* funding spent for mental health supports for kids rather than hardware to change the culture of the school
 - c. Some departments have a zero tolerance policy for violations
 - 6. Pervasive education and training for mental health hospitals, residential treatment centers, first responders, schools, and other institutions holding and/or caring for youth
 - 7. Safe, supervised, secure housing for youth
 - a. Kids get eaten by the streets within the first three days
 - 8. Forensic services for seriously dangerous but mentally ill youth
 - 9. Quality care for youth while being transported to and from the courthouse
 - 10. Raising public awareness for Maine's most vulnerable kids and what they can do about it
- G. Maine has one of the most expensive JJ system (we get good results) and the most expensive MH services. The questions are: Are the programs accessible at the right time for the right kids? Are we spending the money wisely? Are they evidence based programs? Do we collect data on outcomes? Is the system coordinated? It is important to do prevention work and work with kids in court.
- H. It was suggested that an outline be developed today using Rare, Fair and Beneficial. Rare: increasing diversion, increasing tolerance at school, continuum of services; Fair: RJ, improved beneficial defense; Beneficial: MH and RJ.
- I. The group must come to consensus on the goals and we must measure whether we are successful.
- J. The JJAG's strategy is to create goals that the population will care about with respect to the kids. How can the JJAG coordinate agencies across the state, and also include the community, while infusing the goals of the Act with respect to the kids?
- K. The JJAG will incorporate Rare, Fair and Beneficial; "*Juvenile Justice in Maine will be Rare, Fair and Beneficial.*"
- L. Barry will speak to CJPS Committee and his presentation will go up on Facebook.
- M. There is interested in data on disability and poverty for kids in detention.
- N. The Ex-officio members will meet to coordinate gaps and needs in their departments.

O. The Department supplied today's lunch and we thank you.

P. Committee Breakout

1. Members divided into committees

- a. Training and Education, Page, Tessa, Pender
- b. Marketing and Outreach, Patrick, Nickole
- c. DMC, Jonathan, Ned, Nathan, Marcus
- d. Systems Improvement has not met and chairs think they should wait to meet until after the whole group decides on goals; however will meet now, Lindsey, Christine, Jacinda

2. Jill offers to serve on any committee(s) the JJAG suggests.

VI. Committee Reports:

Please forward all committee minutes to Kathryn for distribution to all members. Minutes will be ratified at regular meetings and committee minutes will be included in the full JJAG meeting minutes and posted at mainejjag.org.

When committees have work to move forward they will send the work product along to Kathryn who will send it to the Executive Committee to be evaluated and reviewed.

A. Training & Education

1. Plans to date:

- a. A Summit March 27, 2015 at Orono
 - b. 2 presentations, round robin resource sharing, lunch (by someone else), table conversations that may result in recommendations for the JJAG
 - c. Building a matrix of model sites in Maine
 - d. Have goals relating to Rare, Fair & Beneficial, activities and action steps
 - e. Messaging: Why Rare, Fair & Beneficial?
2. Fiscally responsible, adolescent brain development, punishment doesn't teach, this could be your kid
3. Restorative justice practices have a positive effect on a youths future

B. Marketing & Outreach

1. Will use the *Rare, Fair & Beneficial* in its work

2. Public service announcements
3. Five in 40 information sheets for legislators (to distribute weekly perhaps, regularly)
4. Court Expectations pamphlet –
 1. Mike Mack developed a parent resource handbook that we can use to distribute to courts, juvenile prosecutors
 2. Having Social Workers or AmeriCorps in the court lobby to offer the Handbook and comfort
 3. The Committee questions whether the one page information sheet currently under development may be more beneficial to parents
 4. The lawyer for the day could give out the handbook
5. Video on the court process,
 5. could run in a loop at court lobby
 6. YouTube video
6. Facebook postings
7. The Training & Education Committee offered to send the Handbook to the Marketing & Outreach Committee
8. A Marketing Plan needs to be developed
9. All these suggestions will go into the Plan, including cost

C. Disproportionate Minority Contact

1. The Statewide committee has been on hiatus however will move ahead with the hiring of Nathan, Compliance Monitor, who will staff the Committee.
2. The Committee met with a Lewiston coalition
 - a. Tree Street, Root Cellar, ME Immigrant and Refugee Services who are all in the same neighborhood
 - b. They provide services for youth and parents
3. The Coalition is building a Restorative Justice program with JJAG funding
4. The Root Cellar has a program in Portland so some of the RJ program may be transferable. The Chair notes that Portland refugee communities are not as organized as Lewiston communities,
5. The Committee and others have provided initial training on the JJ system
6. The Committee's goal is to work more directly in Lewiston and move into Portland.

D. Youth Engagement

1. The Committee will be meeting with youth from both facilities on February 6th at Long Creek Youth Development Center. The Mountain View Youth Development Center youth will use Adobe Connect to take part.

E. Nominating Committee

F. Systems Improvement

1. The Juvenile Justice system should not be a default for other systems
2. Children shouldn't have to come into the system to get services
3. The Committee will partner with the DOE Truancy, Dropout and Alternative Education Committee
4. The question arose as to breaking down the committee because SI may be too broad
 - a. Attorneys, education, mental health, homeless
5. The Committee suggests high risk youth in facilities may be the biggest issue
6. The danger is that we think bureaucratically rather than kid centered – funding/developing options

VI. Departmental Reports:

- A. In the interest of time there were no reports

IX. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**The next meeting will be February 20, 2015 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
MDOC Board Room, 25 Tyson Drive, Augusta, Maine**