

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015



**Paul R. LePage**  
*Governor, State of Maine*

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

111 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-  
0111  
Phone: 287-4371 Fax:  
287-4518

**I. Roll Call:**

**Present:** Teresa Barrows, Office of Child and Family Services; Dr. Catherine Besteman, Colby College; Bishop Steve Coleman, Williams Temple Church of God in Christ; Bryn Gallagher, Maine Youth Court; Jacinda Goodwin, Department of Education; Marta Haydym, Maine Youth Court; Dr. Tracy Horton, Thomas College; Abeir Ibrahim, Portland HHS; Margaret Longworth, OHI; Kaitlyn Megathlin, Maine Youth Court; Tessa Mosher, Department of Corrections; Kelsey Park, Tree Street & Restorative Justice Institute; Atlee Riley, Esq., Disability Rights Maine; Sgt. Jonathan Shapiro, Maine State Police; Bartlett H. Stoodley, JJAG Chair; Christine Thibeault, Esq., Cumberland County District Court; Patrick Walsh, Broadreach Family & Community Services

**Regrets:** Jerome Bennett, Department of Corrections; Ned Chester, Esq., Vice Chair, Chester & Vestal; Dalene Dutton, University of Washington; Pender Makin, Brunswick School Department; Tamara Manzer, Youth Member; Julia Sleeper, Tree Street Youth; Nickole Wesley, Portland District Court

**Absent:** Hon. Charles LaVerdiere, Chief Judge, Maine District Court; Colin O'Neill, Associate Commissioner Juvenile Services, DOC

**Staff:** Jason Carey, Staff Assistant; Nathan Gagnon, Compliance Monitor; Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist

**Guests:** Ryun Anderson, Restorative Justice Institute of Maine; Amanda Cureman, Brunswick School Department; Roy Curtis, MDOC Regional Correctional Manager; Caleb Gilbert, SAMHS; Lee Jackson, UMaine Student, Old Town School Board Member; Patricia Kimball, Restorative Justice Institute of Maine; Sarah Mattox, Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast; Kathleen Mahoney, MDOC, PREA; Luc Nya, OCFS; Jill Ward, Juvenile Justice Reform Workgroup

**II. Call to order:**

Welcoming notes and introductions were made.

**III. Minutes:**

The minutes for the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 JJAG meeting were approved.

**Motion:** To approve the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Minutes

**Moved:** Christine Thibeault, Patrick Walsh

**Discussion:**

**Action:** Approved, unanimous

**IV. Chair Report:**

The chair led a discussion orienting new members to the organizational structure of

the JJAG.

**Action:** Staff will send a survey to confirm group’s regular meeting schedule for 2016.

Meeting Dates and Times for 2016 (subject to change):

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
December 4, 2015	Kaplan University, Augusta, ME
January 15, 2016	MDOC Boardroom
February 19, 2016	MDOC Boardroom
March 18, 2016	MDOC Boardroom
April 15, 2016	MDOC Boardroom
May 20, 2016	MDOC Boardroom
June 17, 2016	MDOC Boardroom
September 16, 2016	MDOC Boardroom
October 21, 2016	MDOC Boardroom
December 2, 2016	MDOC Boardroom

JJAG Membership/Committee matching – Each member of the JJAG takes a quick assessment to identify in which committee they are likely to serve.

New members shared their interest in committees. Appointments by the Chair will be made at or after the January meeting.

	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Members to be Appointed</b>
<b>Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)</b>	N. Chester, co-Chair J. Shapiro, co-Chair N. Wesley C. Thibeault	K. Park A. Reilly M. Haydym Bishop Coleman C. Besteman
<b>Training and Education: Delinquency Prevention</b>	M. Longworth, Chair T. Mosher	B. Gallagher
<b>Youth Engagement</b>	D. Dutton, Chair	K. Megathlin K. Park
<b>Systems Improvement</b>	C. Thibeault, co-Chair J. Goodwin, Co-Chair N. Chester J. Shapiro C. LaVerdiere C. O’Neil	T. Horton M. Haydym T. Mosher R. Curtis A. Reilly
<b>Marketing and Outreach</b>	N. Wesley, Chair P. Walsh	L. Jackson (JJAG candidate) K. Megathlin

## Committee Structure (excerpted from JJAG bylaws)

- Standing Committees

The JJAG shall maintain the following Standing Committees:

- Systems Improvement  
To assess the systems within the child-serving agencies, both within and outside of government, and support changes which will improve the quality of services available to children who are currently involved, or likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system.
- Legislative  
To review legislation proposed by members of the Legislature, provide information to the JJAG about that legislation, and to provide education and support to members of the legislature with regard to any such legislation.
- Marketing and Outreach  
To steward the JJAG brand and image, assuring that the JJAG has internal and external marketing and communication initiatives that target specific stakeholders and that our goals are consistent with clearly defined objectives to enhance the reputation and recognition of JJDPA and to educate stakeholders such as legislators, Judges, other government agencies, public organizations, law enforcement, juveniles at risk and parents to bolster public support for and engagement with our mission of service to young people at risk.
- Training and Education  
To develop a message on the importance of delinquency prevention with a focus on law enforcement, assessments, and promising practices and to establish training opportunities like a youth summit or state conferences on topics such as adolescent brain development and positive youth development.
- Youth Engagement  
To identify and increase youth participation, develop strategies to keep youth engaged and involved on the JJAG, and to develop solutions to barriers that may inhibit youth retention. The committee shall make every effort to include members under the age of 24 years.
- Disproportionate Minority Contact  
To monitor the interaction between the components of the juvenile justice system and juveniles of color, and to design, support programs and initiatives that will reduce the level of contact between juveniles of color and the juvenile justice system, particularly where there appears to be disproportionate contact.

- Nominating Committee  
To review JJAG membership to ensure compliance with the Act and Bylaws of the JJAG.  
  
To recruit, screen and recommend appropriate candidates for the Board.  
  
To recruit and recommend to the Board the JJAG Chair, Vice Chair and at-large seats on the Executive Committee.  
  
To provide orientation and training to new board members.

Regular presentations – May take place at meetings to inform the JJAG in the following areas:

- Improving and expanding Restorative Justice in Maine
- Disproportionate Minority Contact
- Mental health and its connection with youth in the system
- Poverty and child hunger
- Adolescent development, Brain Development, ACEs, Intergenerational Transfer
- Reduction of child abuse and neglect and community partnerships

The JJAG’s work shall be conducted through its committee structure. Committees are charged to meet monthly for business and take, maintain, and share meeting minutes with the JJAG chair, JJ Specialist, and the JJAG at its regular meetings in the form of committee reports.

Paul K. Vesta, Jr. Award Committee – Committee to annually give a scholarship to an award winner and runner up.

**Motion:** To create an annual JJAG award to focus on kids of significant risk who have overcome significant difficulties and have been able to accomplish things that are measurable and important and more importantly have helped others along the way and have a plan to help others in the future.

**Moved:** Patrick Walsh/Luc Nya

**Action:** Passed, unanimous

A meeting with Paul will be set to present the award to him. There is some urgency to complete this task as Paul is currently ill.

JJAG members wishing to attend **the presentation to Paul:**

- Teresa Barrows
- Margaret Longworth
- Patrick Walsh

**The Award committee** that will operationalize this plan for 2016 include the following Members and staff:

Kathryn McGloin, Marta Haydym, Luc Nya, Bryn Gallagher

Assessment of Restorative Practices (statewide) Request for Proposals (RFP) –

The JJAG is accountable for this federal funding. We are investing in a process to promote RJ in ME as identified in our Three-year Plan. The JJAG is doing due diligence in service to statute by providing this assessment. Potential questions to be learned from the assessment:

1. What is happening with RJ in ME?
2. Where is the need?
3. How do we know current programs are effective?
4. How will programs be sustained?

We hope to learn how to get schools involved in the restorative approach and to learn of models that work both in schools and juvenile justice system.

There was discussion on the evaluation of existing programs, what will that look like? What are the deliverables?

The RFP will require a team of assessors and the convening of a panel of experts in the restorative approach in a forum to be decided at a later date.

**Motion:** To draft a RFP for an amount not to exceed \$75,000 to hire an expert to complete the assessment and a potential path for RJ the State.

The details of the RFP will be drafted by a RFP committee that will include stakeholders.

**Moved:** Jonathan, Tracey

**Abstain:** Marta

**Action:** Accepted

**RFP Development & Review Team:**

Kathryn McGloin, Jonathan Shapiro, MDOC, Jacinda Goodwin, Tracey Horton, Christine Thibeault, Ned Chester, Patricia Kimball

The timeline for the RFP will be targeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January – to be presented in draft form at the next meeting.

A survey will be sent to the Team to establish a meeting time.

Continuation of the JJAG Restorative Justice Work

Jonathan Shapiro raised a concern for the nine restorative justice sites currently funded by the JJAG citing a severe decline in service to youth when the funding ends 12/31/15. He suggested that the JJAG fund the current project to keep the sites running until the assessment of the restorative approach in the State is completed. This would mean an amendment to the current RJIM contract.

In response to members questions Ryun Anderson, RJIM, advised members that the Restorative Justice Institute is building a restorative approach network and growing restorative justice in the State. RJIM ensures that each of the nine communities currently participating in the project decides what restorative justice will look like in their community. RJIM provides training and technical assistance, hires per diem facilitators, and offers coaching, training, and support for facilitators of the circles and to build the circle service.

A motion was made by Jonathan Shapiro to fund this continuation and it was seconded by Marta Haydym.

During discussion Patrick Walsh shared his concern with not funding prevention programs at this time. Christine Thibeault stated that as a point of order a vote should not be taken on something that is not on the agenda and that this action is unprecedented

More discussion ensued and Jonathan withdrew the motion to offer another. Marta withdrew her second.

**New motion:** The JJAG authorizes the Executive Committee to take action and inform the JJAG in accordance with JJAG Bylaws.

**Moved:** Jonathan/Marta

**Opposed:** 1

**Abstain:** 2

**Action:** passed

Executive Committee At-large Election:

**Motion:** To appoint Pender Makin as an at large member of the Executive Committee.

**Moved:** Atlee, Marta

**Action:** Passed, unanimous

Closings and cancellations – If Augusta or Portland schools are closed there will be no JJAG meeting that day. Also, if the state of Maine has closings there will be no meeting that day. There will be postings to news channels on days of inclement weather to notify the public of meeting cancelations.

**V. Juvenile Justice Specialist Report:**

PREA Report – Kathleen Mahoney, PREA Coordinator for MDOC was present to deliver a report on the Prison Rape Elimination Act to the JJAG. If you would like more information about this please contact a JJAG staff member.

TRI STATE Youth Engagement Meeting – We have the opportunity to share a facilitated training incorporating youth voice on engaging youth members, and sustained and meaningful youth engagement. Travel expenses are paid by the JJAG. Kathryn will consult with the Specialists in NE and VT regarding a meeting date, possibly a weekend. The location is planned to be central to all three SAGs.

**Motion:** To authorize the Juvenile Justice Specialist to explore this opportunity with and coordinate Tri State Youth Engagement Meeting with Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

**Moved:** Christine, Marta

**Action:** Accepted, unanimous

JJAG Meeting at Long Creek – The JJAG has an opportunity to meet at Long Creek Youth Development facility for a regular meeting and to conduct focus groups with facility administrators and residents. The event will take place in February with a

March snow date. If there is the need to use the snow date a conference call on the regular meeting date will take place to take care of JJAG business.

New Member Training – The new member training took place on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Portland Region 1 Office. New members in attendance were instructed on JJAG operations and given JJAG Handbooks for later reference.

Kathryn will meet with new members who were unable to attend the trainings.

## **VI. Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator:**

### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) Conference – Jerome Bennett Report

The ACE's conference was a very positive experience as reported by JJAG attendees. Information gained will support efforts to reduce DMC and support youth across Maine. Ken Ginsburg, professor of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, spoke about the need to recognize the ways in which social context and stressors impact our physical and emotional health. As more research is gathered about adverse childhood experiences, it is becoming more evident that systems will have to better be in tune with and navigate interpersonal challenges that living in toxic stress environments create in our educational, juvenile, health care and social service systems.

Studies show that kids with juvenile justice (JJ) contact are at higher risk of going into the deep in of our system. To help address DMC in our JJ system we need to provide support to our schools and our community so that they are better equipped to deal with challenges young people face in their community.

Massachusetts and Washington State are leading the initiatives in school reform. In these states ACE's is used as a platform toward making their schools more trauma-informed. Doing so creates a safe space for indiscriminate learning to take place. These states are creating trauma-informed school districts that work in tandem with local police departments, Departments of Children and Family Services, Youth services, school clinicians, school officials, and other stakeholders to prevent youth from falling through the cracks. For example, when police arrest a parent for a domestic dispute they will contact the school clinician so that the school is better informed of what is going on in the kid's life and why they may be behaving the way they are.

Waterville High School has developed an ACE's Steering Committee to implement policy change and effective school initiatives to help address school issues. They are in the process of scheduling a site visit and to bring the ACE's Steering Committee idea to Androscoggin and Cumberland Counties.

Coffin Elementary school also has a program called 'Second Step' that may be replicated in other schools. Second Step is an emotional intelligence program that combines skills for learning, empathy, emotion management, and problem solving skills. Apparently, this program has also been very effective in promoting better behavior and reducing suspensions, disciplinary actions, and truancy.

Since the ACE's Conference I have connected with and am meeting with a variety of school officials, teachers and allies to begin the conversation about further developing initiatives in communities and schools. In January we will use an ACE's tool that

tracks the number of different types of adverse childhood experiences with youth from different school settings in Maine to get a better understanding of the risk factors our youth are exposed to.

## **VII. Compliance Monitor Report:**

Inspections Update Since Last JJAG Meeting:

All compliance checks (excluding Richmond Police Department) have been completed for 2015 and all departments are found to be in compliance.

All follow up compliance reports are being completed and mailed out to facilities that have been inspected.

Richmond PD has notoriously been uncooperative with the compliance monitor and the monitoring for the JJDPA.

Meetings attended:

- Standards Committee - continuing to work on the update of the Maine Jail and Lockup standards.
- David Walker, Strategies for Youth, gave a presentation to the Juvenile Justice Collaborative in Lewiston. It was well attended by several stakeholders in the community. Attendees showed the “What can we do to help” attitude to SFY in supporting their work in the community.
- Juvenile Justice Collaborative – A second Community Dinner hosted by the United Front (funded by the JJAG the initiative not the dinner) will be held at the Root Cellar in Lewiston. The first dinner was well attended and United Front will continue to help make connections between stakeholders and the refugee and immigrant community.

### **Strategies for Youth, Lewiston Plan of Action:**

Juvenile Justice Jeopardy Game Development (Sept-Nov)

Juvenile Justice Jeopardy roll-out (Jan 2016)

- 2-day on-site train-the-game-leader and pilot demonstration effort with 2 groups of youth

Assessment of City Law Enforcement Agency (Dec 2015 - January 2016)

- Anticipated 4 man-days of assessment work
- Assessment report to detail strengths, identify trends, and provide suggestions.

Policy Review & Recommendations (Nov - December 2015)

- Conduct in-depth review of policies and procedures and produce report, recommendations, and policy models.

Policing the Teen Brain Train-the-Trainer (Late January 2016)

- 4 Day Train-the-Trainer for up to 25 officers
- 2 SFY Coached Trainings
- Provision of Curricula, Materials, Training
- Evaluations & Summary of Evaluation Responses

- On-going technical assistance
- Curricular updates

Policing the Teen Brain Coached Trainings (March 2016)

- Two 2-day coached training events with Psychologist/Psychiatrist & SFY Trainer provided

#### **VIII. Departmental Reports:**

*Dept. of Health and Human Services* – DHHS is currently holding discussions about challenging youth while developing a plan for action. Topics of current discussion include how to transport youth practically and collaborative residential treatment. They find that while fewer youth reach the system, the ones that do are high level/acuity. They are looking at home and community-based treatment where in-home services are offered with across the board consistency.

*Dept. of Public Safety* – There is a focus on the Juvenile Correctional Review Board for sustainability. Juvenile Crisis program was highlighted in a national mental health publication.

#### **IX. Committe Reports:** N/A

#### **X. Other Business:** N/A

#### **XI. Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 2:05.

**The next meeting will be January 15, 2015 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
MDOC Board Room, 25 Tyson Dr., Augusta, Maine**