



## State Advisory Board Meeting

January 19, 2021  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

### Members and Guests in Attendance:

Andrew Tress	Rexanah Wyse
James Johnston	Ashley Watson
LaMar Davis	Delegate Robin Grammer
Dr. Michael Guilbault	Sherlyna Hanna
Nick Moroney	Sarah Kaplan
Rosemary King Johnston	Judge Michael J. Stamm
Crystal Fleming Bryce	Bill Harper
Lynn M. Celestin-Antonin, (PG County SAO representative)	Heather Chapman
David Phillips	Lynn Davis
Aisha Braveboy	Lara Weathersbee
Kathleen Callan	Sec. Sam Abed

**This meeting was streamed live and recorded for the public on YouTube.**

<https://youtu.be/Bifr9RlYmpc>

### Minutes

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

*Rosemary King Johnston*

- Approval of December 15, 2020 meeting minutes
- Fatality Review Subcommittee Update

Rosemary King Johnston called the meeting to order. The minutes were reviewed and approved by the members. Judge Stamm was introduced as this was his first meeting.

Rosemary King Johnston explained that fatality reviews were conducted by the Fatality Review Subcommittee. The Subcommittee decided to defer completing the review until additional information was received. Once that is completed, the Subcommittee will submit its report to the SAB.

#### **II. Department of Juvenile Services Update**

*Sam Abed*

- COVID-19 Update
- Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC) - Final Report

Secretary Sam Abed provided an update and explained the Department's practices regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. DJS is identifying vaccine sites, messaging information to staff, and training staff on vaccination administration. Since currently approved vaccines are not available

for youth under 18, DJS is focusing on staff and vendors working in the facilities. DJS like all agencies anticipates limited supply and availability of vaccine. There is also a hesitancy on the part of some staff to take the vaccine. DJS is surveying staff to find out what can be done to address that issue.

Heather Chapman provided information regarding events that Johns Hopkins and Univ. of Maryland are sharing for community education that discuss generational trauma related to vaccines.

Secretary Abed gave a summary of the final actions taken by the JJRC, including the recommendations agreed upon by the Council. The recommendations focused on the following areas:

- Minimum Age of Jurisdiction Recommendation
- Probation
- Detention Utilization
- Utilization of Out-of-Home Committed Placements
- Diversion

DJS also gave a presentation to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on the Department's response to COVID-19.

Lynn Celestin-Antonin asked about the minimum age of jurisdiction being youth under the age of 10 and what services are being provided outside of DJS? Secretary Abed explained the Council discussed this in depth and determined a number of services available to youth under 10, including the CINS or child in need of assistance process through the courts, as well as child welfare and foster care systems.

Rosemary King Johnston mentioned that she and others put forth a recommendation to have the Council reconvene to address issues that were discussed but time prohibited recommendations being made. Have there been any updates? The Secretary explained, not at this time, but the Department is certain that legislation is forthcoming.

Lara Weathersbee inquired about the issue of restitution. This is an issue that can ruin a youth's credit before they have had the opportunity to establish credit, and that a policy of mandating restitution is contradictory to the point of juvenile court. Secretary Abed explained that restitution was addressed by the JJRC through probation and that a youth should not be held on probation simply for not providing the required restitution.

Lyn Celestin-Antonin asked about informal adjustment and whether it was addressed. The Secretary explained that it was addressed.

### **III. DJS Legislative Update**

*James Johnston / Andrew Tress*

- Notable proposed legislation

Andrew Tress gave a legislative update and covered a number of bills that have been introduced so far this legislative session. The subject of two of those are related to the JJRC and will likely

be considered when the JJRC bill is introduced. He also provided a brief explanation of a Juvenile Services Education (JSES) bill that would create a separate Board of Education to provide oversight for JSES, and house it under DJS.

#### **IV. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Update**

*Nick Moroney*

Nick Moroney gave a brief update, explaining that the monitoring unit is paying close attention to the recommendations from the JJRC and also the issue of out-of-state placements. He added that populations in the facilities remain low and he hopes the lower numbers continue. The JJMU continues to address the issues of youth not receiving adequate education, the internet and phone access are still problems, and youth have limited activities available to them.

Secretary Abed added that the JJRC recommended a plan to be developed to deal with out-of-state placements and the development of regionally based services. DJS is currently doing that and is also looking into the things that didn't work in the past and trying to find alternate solutions, where possible. He agrees the education and internet issues are a problem.

#### **V. Good of the Order**

*Board Members*

Rosemary King Johnston mentioned successful efforts at keeping youth out of detention during the pandemic and that she would like to see these efforts and reforms continue long-term.

Secretary Abed thanked the JJMU for their reports and identifying issues. He expressed it is very helpful to address things in a timely way and that a cooperative/collaborative relationship has been fostered between the organizations.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned.

#### **Upcoming Meetings / YouTube Livestream Links:**

- 2021
  - 4/20/21 <https://youtu.be/XiaJW1sfVTw>
  - 5/18/21 <https://youtu.be/vPpJjQnN7wY>
  - 6/15/21 <https://youtu.be/ksMtDKM317s>
  - 9/21/21 <https://youtu.be/RDzNa0fSmRI>
  - 10/19/21 <https://youtu.be/BASgaffuFdc>
  - 11/16/21 <https://youtu.be/REkP6hyzDwM>

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