



**State Advisory Board Meeting - Virtual**

April 20, 2021

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Join with Google Meet - (Participants Only)

meet.google.com/zin-uvfd-och

Phone Numbers

(US) +1 347-363-0544 PIN: 932 551 423#

**The meeting will also be streamed live and recorded for the public on YouTube.**

<https://youtu.be/XiaJW1sfVTw>

**MINUTES**

**Members and Guests in Attendance:**

Lynn Davis	Ashely Watson
Kathleen Callan	Lamar Davis
Sec. Sam Abed	Judge Michael Stamm
James (Jay) Johnston	Nick Moroney
Rosemary King Johnston	Sherlyna Hanna
Magistrate Lara Weathersbee	Rexanah Wyse
Christina Church	Del. Robin Grammer
Deborah Grinnage-Pulley	Jenny Egan
Dave Dhillips	Sen. Susan Lee
Michael Guilbault	Heather Chapman
Christopher Miele	

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

*Rosemary King Johnston*

- Approval of January 19, 2021 meeting minutes

Rosemary King Johnston (Chair) began the meeting and asked any new participants to introduce themselves. Chris Miele representing the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services introduced himself and added he was happy to attend.

The meeting minutes from 1/18/21 were read and approved with no changes needed.

**II. Department of Juvenile Services Update**

*Sam Abed / Jay Johnston*

- 2021 Legislative Session Update

Sec. Abed provided a legislative update, highlighting the outcome of the legislation that was introduced based upon the primarily bipartisan recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC). Unfortunately, the legislation did not pass in its original form, however the council did extend for another year to continue its work. Another meeting will be organized in the upcoming weeks, as the members from the original council are currently being contacted to ensure future participation.

Sec. Abed also discussed SB0497/HB0071 Juvenile Services Education Board and Program – Establishment, Powers, and Duties which did pass. DJS has begun reaching out to MSDE leadership and the bill sponsors to begin appointing members to the new board with the intent to begin meeting in July, when the legislation takes effect. The teachers currently working under MSDE will be moved over to DJS by July 1, 2022 and no one will lose their employment due to the transition. Sec. Abed would also like to hire someone to help oversee the programming with the board, following their instruction. The plan is to hire within DJS and is someone who has a lot of experience in facilities but also in the educational programming area and can support the future superintendent.

Lynn Davis supports the current plan and suggested the board should think about providing philanthropic efforts to look for additional resources.

LaMar Davis supports the plan as well, noting it has been a longstanding issue in need of reform.

Sen. Susan Lee inquired as to whether there is a student board member? Sec. Abed explained that currently, there is no such member, however the board will assuredly be making adjustments during the initial planning phases and changes are likely to take shape moving forward. Also, we will be looking for youth input throughout this process so the youth will certainly be involved.

Jay Johnston provided additional legislative updates which included various commission / workgroups DJS is now a part of and also specific legislation such as the following:

- SB 146 - Deputy Secretaries (Departmental) - This bill creates a third deputy secretary position within DJS, effective July 1, 2021. This aligns the DJS leadership with the agency's structure, with an additional deputy secretary added to lead community operations.
- SB314 - Juveniles Charged as Adults - Confidentiality of Records - This bill was passed in 2020 and vetoed by the Governor; that veto was overridden this session and the bill became law on March 15, 2021. SB314 makes police and court records related to youth charged as adults confidential in the same way that juvenile records are normally protected. These protections are maintained as long as a motion to transfer jurisdiction is pending. As a result of this law, impacted cases have been removed from case search.

Jenny Egan and Judge Stamm thanked DJS for their efforts regarding the JJRC.

**III. Fatality Review Subcommittee (FRS)** *James Johnston / Andrew Tress*

- Review of FRS Key Findings and Recommendations
- Full SAB Recommendations

James Johnston and Andrew Tress provided a brief overview of the cases that were reviewed by the FRS and explained the key finding and recommendations (see below).

### **Findings:**

- Restitution is a central issue impacting both intake decisions and the length of supervision for youth on probation.
- Families often lack the ability to pay restitution and youth are in school or involved in other interventions and therefore not earning an income.
- Loss of a family member/loved one is a common theme and impacts both DJS-involved youth and the family as a whole.

### **Recommendations:**

- Establish a workgroup or subcommittee of SAB members to examine the restitution issue, work with potential partners to create a system to meet the needs of both parties: young people and those owed restitution, and make recommendations regarding implementation of changes as well as possible proposed legislation for the 2022 general assembly.
- Consider additional ways to support families who suffer the loss of a loved one, including parents and siblings who may benefit from counseling or other services or assistance.
- Make a referral for services and/or assistance whenever a young person suffers a loss.
- Develop mechanisms for referrals to services for family members following the death of a young person.

Andrew Tress also mentioned that it was briefly discussed at the internal fatality review team meeting with DJS staff that perhaps getting important educational records and materials earlier in a youths DJS involvement could be helpful.

Rosemary King Johnston explained that as a result of the recommendations the SAB would like to form a subcommittee to begin addressing the issue of restitution as it has come up frequently throughout these reviews. Magistrate Lara Weathersbee was recommended to chair this subcommittee. Other members that volunteered for participation included:

- Rosemary King Johnston
- Lynn Davis
- Jenny Egan
- Kathleen Callan
- LaMar Davis
- Heather Chapman

Andrew Tress said we will organize a meeting to work out further details and update the board at the next meeting.

Regarding restitution, LaMar Davis suggested that depending on the circumstances, community service can be monetized and count as restitution.

Sec Abed added, that is a good idea and in the past other groups have discussed also forming a fund to help with payments and that these ideas and more are a great starting point for further research.

Rosemary King Johnston asked if there were any objections to the recommendations, there were none and the recommendations for unanimously approved with one abstention from Judge Stamm.

#### **IV. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU) Update**

*Nick Moroney*

Nick Moroney provided an update from the JJMU, explaining that a report has been issued covering 2020 and if members haven't seen it, it is online. He added that he shares the disappointment regarding the end of session, primarily the JJRC recommendations. He would also like to see some of the recommendations happen without legislation because DJS has the ability to make changes currently. He continued that he is however happy with the education bill but sorry the police interrogation bill not pass.

Sec Abed agreed regarding the JJRC recommendations, adding that DJS will be looking at what JJRC can be implemented without legislation. For example, there are a number of things that can be done through policy in the areas of probation, diversion, etc. This is an opportunity to move forward and address items that we didn't have time for when the JJRC concluded.

Rosemary King Johnston added that she is also disappointed and little discouraged at the result but is looking forward to coming up with new and better recommendations and is happy that DJS can start making some changes.

Heather Chapman voiced her disappointment as well, and understands that police reform is important, but added that issue effects youths too as well and should be addressed.

Sen. Susan Lee explained that we shouldn't be discouraged as many good bills died this year because of lack of bandwidth of the committee counsel and legislators. Adding, many other issues got priority status because of the news cycle and many of those bills have been introduced before.

Del. Robin Grammer echoed that sentiment, explaining that nothing should be taken personally, as he himself had several bills that all died due to lack of time.

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

*Board Members*

Magistrate Lara Weathersbee commented, that in general, that she continues to have issues regarding need for services for kids from a mental health and drug dependency standpoint in her jurisdiction. She explained that recently there was a youth with need of inpatient drug treatment and DJS couldn't provide any services due to lack of resources for that youth. She continued, this is not an isolated incident and there are no in-patient facilities for minors in MD.

James Johnston said that he would follow up on this issue following the meeting.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Rosemary King Johnston adjourned the meeting.

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

- 2021
  - 5/18/21 <https://youtu.be/vPpJiQnN7wY>
  - 6/15/21 <https://youtu.be/ksMtDKM3I7s>
  - 9/21/21 <https://youtu.be/RDzNaOfSmRI>

- 10/19/21 <https://youtu.be/BASgaffuFdc>
- 11/16/21 <https://youtu.be/REkP6hyzDwM>

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