



State Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting - Virtual
Tuesday, April 26, 2022 2:00 – 4:00pm

Join with Google Meet:
meet.google.com/opm-jgwo-wak
Phone Numbers:
+1 559-825-1742 PIN: 200 155 624#

The meeting will also be streamed live and recorded for the public on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/cpCpIT4TGRY>

Minutes

Members and Guests in Attendance:

Sec. Sam Abed	Judge Michael Stamm
Andrew Tress	Crystal Flemming Bryce
Rosemary King Johnston	Lynn Davis
Dr. Michael Guilbault	Lamar Davis
Nick Moroney	Jenny Egan
Scott Beal	Aisha Braveboy
Kathleen Callan	Denise Henderson
Jessica Wheeler	Lara Weathersbee
Rexana Wyse	Dave Philips
Sarah Kaplan	Lauren Gordon

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rosemary King Johnston

- Approval of January 18, 2022 meeting minutes

Rosemary King Johnston (Chair) called the meeting to order. The minutes were reviewed and approved.

II. Department of Juvenile Services Update

Sam Abed / Andrew Tress

- 2022 Legislative Session Review

Sec. Sam Abed and Andrew Tress provided the SAB with updates on the bills that passed and some that didn't during the 2022 legislative session. A copy of the legislative update can be found on the DJS website.

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

- Schedule and updates

The next two FRS meetings have been scheduled for Wednesday, 5/11/22 and Thursday, 6/9/22, both of which will be held virtually from 2PM – 4PM. There will be three cases to review at each meeting and documentation will be provided to the members ahead of time. Findings and recommendations will be provided to the full SAB at the respective May and June meetings before breaking for the summer.

IV. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU) Update

Nick Moroney

Nick Moroney

Provided the SAB with an update from the JJMU. He expressed satisfaction with the legislation that passed during the legislative session and that reforms are already underway by the department which had actually begun due in part to the pandemic. While populations have gone up recently, he hopes the numbers go down and continue to stay down for detention and commitment. Also, while it's positive that case management improvements are in progress, there must be more enhancements regarding behavioral health services. Better

communication is needed between current direct-care staff and educational staff in order to provide the appropriate treatment for youth with seriously mental illness, who shouldn't be in the system to begin with.

Sec. Abed

To address the youth with serious mental illness, DJS and MDH have begun collaborating on the capacity of RTCs and their oversight. Several private providers have closed due to low rate reimbursements so we are exploring solutions. It's not an issue of bed capacity but quality of available services.

There has been a rise in intakes after the pandemic, but we believe we will see the declines as we did before/during the pandemic as the year goes on. The length of stay for youth charged as adults has also contributed to population increases. Kids are waiting transfer hearings for 54 - 214 days on average and as agency we need to address this issue. We are starting our roadshows and visiting facilities around the state to meet with staff and stakeholders on solutions.

We have several initiatives and ongoing activities throughout the agency we will be aggressively working on through the end of the year in spite of the uncertainty of a new administration. Such as:

- *Juvenile Justice Reform legislation implementation;*
- *Developing new case management system (CJAMS) – in development with MDThink which is planned for a November or January roll-out;*
- *Education transition (JSEP) – strategic planning retreat is scheduled for next week and hiring support staff;*
- *Engaged with Georgetown University on a new Comprehensive Treatment Model (CTM) primarily targeted for committed youth – additional updates will be provided at future SAB meetings; and*
- *Case management training is ongoing through ROCA with the grant we acquired.*

Nick Moroney

During the rollout of these changes it's important to not forget the training that will be needed for staff, especially regarding the differences in dealing with a youth population opposed to adults. Most importantly, the kids need to be constructively occupied at all times, this is not happening in a lot of locations and needs to be addressed.

Jenny Egan

Agreed with Nick Moroney regarding the lack of consistent programming, this has been an issue for many of her clients. When will there be a returned focus to programming for detention? I would like to see a framework for programming and activities in terms of what it means to provide quality activities for kids, nothing currently exists.

Denise Henderson

It's important to note that there needs to be safety and security measures for both youth and staff, otherwise it's difficult to be effective.

Sec. Abed

This is a concern we are currently addressing. Activities have diminished in detention and certain contracts have expired, we've made it a priority for our procurement unit to identify these contracts for renewal and to engage with other programs as well. *We will provide a more detailed timeline and progress update at the next meeting.*

Rosemary King Johnston

Has the rate setting process for RTC's changed? Does it need improvements?

Sec. Abed / Jessica Wheeler

The rate setting committee has not changed and is still housed at MSDE.

V. Good of the Order

- Best Practices Subcommittee

Board Members

As discussed during the legislative update, it was suggested that the SAB not form a Best Practices Subcommittee due to the fact that SB0691 / HB0459 (Juvenile Justice Reform) creates a “Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging Best Practices.” This commission seems to achieve the goals of the proposed subcommittee and seeing as this is a statutorily formed body, it may be equally or more effective.

Rosemary King Johnston

I would like to get an update on the issuance and accessibility of state ID's for DJS youth at the next meeting.

Scott Beal

A workgroup has been formed, an update will be given at the next meeting.

VI. Adjournment

No additional announcements, next meeting is scheduled for 5/17/22.

Rosemary King Johnston adjourned the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings / YouTube Livestream Links:

- 2022
 - 5/17/22 : <https://youtu.be/k0hsRwf324o>
 - 6/21/22 : <https://youtu.be/RonuW3JSb7w>
 - 9/20/22 : https://youtu.be/_73s_5MsxUM
 - 10/18/22 : <https://youtu.be/rQOee6ZTlsw>
 - 11/15/22 : <https://youtu.be/2mjrBLkVHHc>

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