



Successful Youth • Strong Leaders • Safer Communities

State Advisory Board Meeting

May 15, 2018
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Annapolis DJS Office
49 Old Solomons Island Rd., Suite 300
Annapolis, MD 21401

Meeting Minutes

Members and Guests Present

Secretary Sam Abed
Gavin Patashnick
Magistrate Lara Weathersbee
Rexanah Wyse
Melanie Shapiro
Dr. Kimberly Cuthrell
Lynn Davis (phone)

Grason Wiggins
Hon. Gary Bair
Chrisandra Richardson
Nick Moroney
Andrew Tress
Rosemary King Johnston

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rosemary King Johnston

- Approval of April 17, 2018 meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM. Rosemary King Johnston asked everyone to make their introductions and to review the April minutes for edits. A couple minor edits were made and the minutes were passed as amended.

II. MSDE - Pilot Program Update

Chrisandra Richardson

Ms. Richardson came in place of Deborah Grinnage-Pulley and gave an update on how the school and pilot program are operating at the Noyse facility. She gave a brief background on the basis for their approach to implement a model educational system between Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), MSDE and Noyse. She went on to explain the three priorities of the program.

First, are the courses and instruction. They are currently using a hybrid online course which is a little different than other standard online courses because it is designed to be more interactive. The courses are also combined with an in-person instructor for the classroom. Currently only math courses are available for this teaching model. MSDE will still be the main instructors at

Noyse. Gavin Patashnick asked if MCPS teachers would be taking over eventually or if they will be providing training for the MSDE instructors. Ms. Richardson replied, not that she's aware, but there may be some training options available but there are no future plans to make that transition for this pilot program. Judge Bair asked if the access to these courses is only available in the classroom? Ms. Richardson replied, yes because the technology is not available outside of classroom. Rosemary King Johnston asked if there are plans for access outside of classroom down the road because it would offer a chance for kids to get ahead if they previously couldn't. Ms. Richardson replied, not at this time, but there have been discussions on the issue and they would like to see that happen if the pilot is successful. Rexanah Wyse asked what specific technology the kids are using? Ms. Richardson replied, they are using iPads for the most part, but other devices have been used as well. Melanie Shapiro asked how the instructors teach the course when kids have IEP's and if they are altered to fit their individual needs. Ms. Richardson replied, courses are designed to be interactive and as accessible as possible for all students. She continued, there are also trained special education teachers in the classroom who are familiar with treating kids with IEP's. She added, teachers should be monitoring the course and how the students with IEP's respond. Nick Moroney asked, if there are resources and materials available for kids to take the GED when it is typically not practical for them to do so. Ms. Richardson replied, yes, resources are available. Nick Moroney then asked, if MCPS are typically against offering GED course? Ms. Richardson answered, yes, but they do it at Noyse. Sec. Abed added, that there was an issue with GED software in the past but the services are still available.

Ms. Richardson went on to explain the second priority, which is support for staffing in order to keep and retain teachers. They brought in all their HR staff to see what immediate changes could be made. For example, adding a permission on the online job application for the applicant to share their information with DJS staff in order to quickly fill vacancies at Noyse. She continued, they also distributing flyers throughout the schools advertising and explaining job openings at DJS facilities. Furthermore, they plan to reach out to substitute and retired teachers to let them know the option is available.

Ms. Richardson then explained the third priority, which is to focus on music and art as part of the learning rotation. They polled students for their preferences and will begin rolling out hiring practices to attract quality instructors.

Ms. Richardson wrapped up her update by explaining that a MOA between MSDE and MCPS is being drafted to address any confidentiality issues and various problematic scenarios. Nick Moroney asked if there was a timeline on the MOA? Ms. Richardson replied that it should be completed this week or next. Ms. Richardson continued, that the next steps will be taking look at the transitioning of students going in and out of Noyse. They plan to record all transfers and manage the paper trail in order to support that part of transition process. They also have a court liaison on staff to strengthen the focus on transitioning students back to MCPS.

Nick Moroney added that he hopes to see proper support for the staff because it hasn't happened in the past. Rosemary King Johnston then added that transitioning youth should start right away and be in place with MCPS. Ms. Richardson commented that it's a difficult issue because if the kids go to a different facility they don't get that information. Sec. Abed added that we need to put MSDE and MCPS in touch with Lasandra Diggs to assist with transitioning youth.

Rosemary King Johnston added that dealing with three large bureaucracies and will be challenging. Typically, these kids have gone through each of these systems and recommends bringing everyone to the table. Ms. Richardson agreed, adding that transition discussions are starting over the summer and collaboration has been very valuable.

Rosemary King Johnston suggested that the members gather questions and send them to Deborah Grinnage-Pulley and Ms. Richardson. She also reminded the group that MSDE has a lot of resources for special education and various trainings, adding that DJS needs to be involved with that training process to benefit the students. Nick Moroney also mentioned that training staff on dealing with students exposed to past trauma is essential. Ms. Richardson said she will follow up with her colleagues to see what is available. Ms. Richardson said that MCPS has developed the related training, but she is not sure what MSDE uses and if they plan to bring it to Noyse. Nick Moroney added that they should make sure that the curriculum can handle a 90-minute class and is based on the challenges these kids face. Also, he would like to see physical education added as a course.

The board thanked Ms. Richardson for the update and she left the meeting.

Sec. Abed commented that parts of the pilot program just described is not in line with the statutory requirements of HB 1607 from this past legislative session. Melanie Shapiro added that the statute doesn't specify which county to do pilot and it was delayed a year so another location may have to be chosen. Rosemary King Johnston added. MCPS are good to work with, so there still may be opportunities, however, traditionally they like to follow their own path and we will have to monitor this issue closely. Nick Moroney added that the pilot can still be successful if they can incorporate transitioning education services away from MSDE and bring it to MCPS. Sec. Abed added that retaining and recruiting good teachers is essential for this process. Nick Moroney then mentioned that MCPS was the ideal place to start originally and it still seems like they are beginning to think outside the box. Rosemary King Johnston commented that MCPS have great teachers who are paid well and have great retirement, which wouldn't be offered if the program was ran through MSDE adding to Sec. Abed's comment. Nick Moroney iterated the importance of holding MCPS accountable and being able to use their resources. Will be different between counties. Rosemary King Johnston replied, explaining the need to focus on training and ensuring special education teachers are being used and that this has been an issue for several years. Melanie Shapiro expressed her concerns regarding MCPS's reliability on technology services because the kids need more hands on teaching because of the challenges they face.

III. Department of Juvenile Services Update

Sam Abed

- Roadshow Update

Sam – explained plans for road show and what we've done so far. On VC and Savage, we have music program stood up and operating for weeks, very popular. Probably going to replace current teacher with vendor to make sure it keeps going and will put it in Savage. Also have art, yoga and looking to partner with Y to get physical activities going on a regular basis. Savage is generally complete but still number of punch list ideas and a lot of debris to clean up.

Gatehouse, new school and admin offices all up. Need to visit this facility in the future since it is a hardware secure facility and programming will hopefully be very successful. Also have ag programming in places. No hard date for Savage to reopen, hopefully a month or so. Will start with a small population and build that up with the culture as things progress. Nick – nature of treatment target for kids at Savage? Will VC focus on aggressive kids and Savage on kids who are more runaway type? Sam – initially we were heading that way, but don't think we can look at that too specifically based on the security features at the facilities. Don't want to resort to out-of-state as much as we have. Nick – if out-of-state treatment is better than so be it. Need to identify what is best for the kids based on their background, especially when they send them so far away to a VC or Savage. Sam – we are putting out RFP for transportation services for families and working with local offices on pick-up points. Also working with families to work out agreements dealing with their child. Nick – happy those plans are in place but it's hard to work out all the details and would like to discuss them further. We are looking for changing culture to use case management system to evaluate what is best for the kids. Many DJS staff still feel they are mini CO's. Sam – don't disagree, but our case managers are very interested in kids doing well and system is in place to look at that. Our success is judged by their success. Mag and Bair – Agree. Bair – see them all in court and you can tell they are very involved. Mag – there are always ones who aren't as good as others but for the most part they are all good. When they get the extra support services it makes all the difference. Bair – the best people in DJS will end up leaving for a new better paying job or get promoted in DJS to admin jobs. Sam – hard to hold onto MoCo people in general. Nick – evening reporting center doing very well. Bair – they do door-to-door service there. Sam – this is why we're engaged in cross-over model to divert kids out of our system into a better system to fit them. Will be speaking at janet reno forum on graduated sanctions system. Tracking and reporting on intakes of VOP's vs. crimes of violence.

Gavin – explained the leg update and how we are giving that info to staff on the road show.

IV. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Report / Update

Nick Moroney

Said everything he needed to throughout other updates.

V. State Advisory Group Update

Heather Chapman

Heather not here, Gavin and Mel went over what happened at last SAG meeting. Speeding up grant review process. Rose – how many grants do you get? Mel – in the past we got between 40-80, this year only a 2-and-a-half-week turnaround so the number will be much smaller. Coalition for Juvenile Justice wants to be at DNC and looking for funding. Gavin – grants are looking to address 25% reduction.

VI. Old Business

- Dr. Cuthrell / Heather Chapman – Professional Development Training
 - Dr. Cuthrell went over the handout she put together
 - Links provide training ciriculum.

- All facilities reach standard training but some receive enhanced model.
Could utilize crosstraining but tougher facilities require enhanced training.
- Look at trauma kids and training for staff for risk of juveniles.

Sam – some we already employ, but want to take a harder look at staff.

- SAB webpage DRAFT language
- FAB recruitment and additional recommendations
 - Grason explaoined what the workforce development board does and I explained why he was here.
 - He said if we give him an area he could find businesses that would be very willing to help.

Nick – [articularly training and trade businesses and brig people to facilities would be amazing.

FOLLOW UP WITH HIM

Mag – perhaps contacting retired DJS employees and retired teachers.

FOLLOW UP

- SAB appointments and nominations / current vacancies
- Upcoming site visits – logistics/requests for tour and meeting
 - May be some local judges would like to go – Bair
 - Will send name over (FOLLOW UP)
 - Rose – make sure we are on time.
 - Dr. Cuthrell, will not be able to come to Noyse because she is getting sworn in.

VII. New Business

- Formation of subcommittees
 - FABs
 - Professional Development Training
 - Pathways to education
 - Sam – this is probably the best topic to form a subcommittee for. Been a commonly discussed issue at several meetings.
 - Mag – Waiver process has been issue for graduation tracks.
 - Mel – 18-16 change for truancy this past session. If already amending this can be
 - Sam - maybe we can form the subgroup
 - Mag – change in law could result in system inaction vs. there being system engagement and there is lack of guidance.
 - Rexanah will chair a subgroup
 - FOLLOW UP WITH HER ASAP
 - Mel – is girls subcommittee still active?
 - Sam – faded out
 - Rose – maybe we can just bring it up on the agendas oving forward.

- Nick – maybe we should have someone from JJMU to get involved.
- Rosemary – put on September agenda
 - At Noyse we should chose an earlier like 1 PM
 - ALSO WANT TO ASK THEM FOR A LOOK AT ED PROGRAM – coordinate with Deborah (Sam)

CHECK WITH STAFF TO SEE HOW WE CAN WORK IT OUT AND OBSERVE ED PROGRAM WITHOUT BEING DISRUPTIVE.

VIII. Adjournment

Rexanah – working with DJS on prevention based youth.

Bair – he was on juvenile rotation in past and going back soon. Noticed that back in 2013 there wasn't a lot of juvenile peace orders. Has the number vastly increased in recent years and is it being screened by DJS? The standard in preponderance of evidence for adults, wasn't sure if it was different or has changed for juvenile peace orders?? Sam – no effort to change it. Mag – don't do it some counties. On juvenile law committee with JUD and issue just came up and asked about how they are getting here and discussed process. Bair – charged and brought up entirely through DJS. Can go through SAO but usually goes through DJS. LOOK INTO AND FOLLOW UP FOR September AGENDA. Gavin – discussed his knowledge from SAO and will look into it further. ALSO FOLLOW UP WITH MAG TO SEE WHAT JUVENILE LAW SUBCOMMITTEE IS LOOKING INTO.

Next Meeting(s) 2018:

- 06/19 (Noyse), 09/18, 10/16 (Victor Cullen), and 11/20

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