



**State Advisory Board Meeting - Virtual
May 18, 2021
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**To view the meeting on Youtube, please use the following link:
<https://youtu.be/XiaJW1sfVTw>**

MINUTES

Members and guests in attendance:

Lynn Davis
Deborah Grinnage-Pulley
Magistrate Lara Weathersbee
Christina Church
David Phillips
Jessica Wheeler
Sarah Kaplan
Judge Michael Stamm
Nick Moroney
Heather Chapman
Crystal Fleming
Magistrate Lara Weathersbee

Michael Guilbault
Jenny Egan
Sec. Sam Abed
James (Jay) Johnston
Rosemary King Johnston
Aisha Braveboy, State's Attorney
Celeste Antonin
Denise Henderson
Rexanah Wyse
Sherlyna Hanna
Christina Church
Kathleen Callan

- I. Welcome and Introductions Rosemary King Johnston
- Approval of April 20, 2021 meeting minutes

Minutes were approved; Rosemary welcomed Jenny Egan to the group with a brief overview of her professional background and commitment to juvenile justice reform.

- Minutes were reviewed and approved

- II. Department of Juvenile Services Update Sam Abed / Jay Johnston

DJS Operations and COVID/Vaccine Updates

Sec. Abed provided an update on Department operations. DJS has received many inquiries regarding vaccine policy. Consistent with the State's overall approach, DJS is not mandating that staff be vaccinated. This may be reconsidered at the state level once the vaccines secure full, non-emergency approval from the FDA, with the understanding that any requirement would include a moral/religious exemption as well as a health/medical exemption. Sec. Abed is supportive of requiring the vaccine once fully FDA approved. In the meantime, DJS will need to continue mitigation strategies such as limiting in-person visits and following MDH/CDC guidance for congregate care facilities.

DJS has engaged in a significant effort in support of vaccine education and outreach, with Sec. Abed visiting facilities and urging staff to be vaccinated. Despite this, DJS is disappointed in the percentage of residential staff who have been vaccinated to date. DJS is continuing to work to improve this number through education and outreach.

Denise Henderson confirmed that AFSCME has been working hard to encourage members to consider vaccination, and that concerns exist about health risk and about possible side effects.

Juvenile Services Education Update

Sec. Abed announced that DJS has appointed a senior leader, regional director Cory Fink, to lead the DJS side of educational support operations. Cory is a veteran DJS staffer and will help implement the program and support the Board and superintendent.

Sec. Abed and MSDE shared that MSDE teachers are returning to the classrooms, with 5/24 for a partial return and then 6/28 - the start of summer school - for a full, 5 day per week return.

Sec. Abed also announced that DJS is changing its regional structure by adding more regions, for a total of 8; DJS regions will mirror those used by the Circuit Courts.

Sec. Abed announced that GOCCP Director Glenn Fueston has accepted the chair of the JJRC; Sec. Abed will remain involved as a member and looks forward to working with all of the members of the Council. The roster of Council members may change, in particular as new legislators are assigned to fill existing vacancies. Director Fueston attended the JJRC listening sessions and has been a member of JJRC since the beginning of the Council in 2019, so brings a wealth of knowledge to the position of chair.

Restitution Subcommittee

Magistrate Weathersbee updated the Board on the work of the restitution subcommittee, which is meeting every other week to develop recommendations related to reforming and improving the restitution process. SA Braveboy asked to join the subcommittee and will be added to future meetings. Nick Moroney and Kathleen Callan both commented on the work of the subcommittee, with Nick suggesting that restitution requirements are at odds with the purpose of the juvenile court and Kathleen commenting on the limited role of the existing state crime victim's funds.

JJMU update

Nick Moroney shared that populations remain low with the exception of the Hickey detention center and he inquired as to the possible reasons for the population growth at Hickey. He also commented that teachers need to return to actual in-person instruction in classrooms as soon as possible as youth throughout the system express that they are struggling to understand and complete school work without the benefits of teachers being in classrooms while providing instruction to students. Nick also commented on DJS ending the end of use of ISU or Intensive Services Units, which JJMU strongly supports. JJMU is concerned about defacto ISU if you are isolated and is continuing to monitor this area closely.

V. Good of the Order

Board Members

Jenny Egan asked Sec. Abed for an update on DJS adopting the JJRC recommendations to establish a plan to move away from the current slate of committed facilities to a more regional approach. Sec. Abed commented that DJS still needs to do much work in this area but is committed to the JJRC recommendations. Sec. Abed pointed out that COVID mitigation measures rely in part on lower populations at each facility to allow distancing; he also committed to updating Jenny Egan and the group on progress on this JJRC recommendation.

VI. Adjournment

Rosemary King Johnston adjourned the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings / YouTube Livestream Links:

- 2021
 - 6/15/21 <https://youtu.be/ksMtDKM3I7s>
 - 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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