



**DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE SERVICES**

State Advisory Board Meeting

August 10, 2020
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Join Online

meet.google.com/gbs-xhwx-bzg

Join by phone

(US) +1 385-645-1261 PIN: 719 714 803#

Minutes

Members and Guests in Attendance:

Rosemary King Johnston
Jay Johnston
Betsy Tolentino
Dave Philips - DJS
Rexanah Wyse
Senator Susan Lee
Nick Moroney
Andrew Tress
Lynn Davis

Michael Giulbault MDH
Deborah Grinnage-Pulley
Jessica Wheeler
Delegate Robin Grammer
Heather Chapman
Lamar Davis
Walidah Yaminah
Michael Lore
Aisha Braveboy

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rosemary King Johnston

- Introduction of Board members
- Approval of January 21,2020 meeting minutes

Meeting began at 1:18 PM. Members were introduced and the January 21 meeting minutes were approved.

The State Advisory Board (SAB) meeting at 1:00 pm on August 10, 2020 will be virtual and available via livestream at: <https://youtu.be/O0yc9P7zcPQ>

II. Department of Juvenile Services Update

Sam Abed

- COVID-19 Response
- Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC)

Betsy gave the presentation from the JJRC meeting. The meeting was recorded and is available via YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAcIR-LkamY&feature=youtu.be>

Questions:

Senator Lee

Is virtual monitoring a new initiative? What juveniles are eligible?

- The various monitoring levels include community detention, phone calls, and in person meetings.

How long does it currently take DJS to get COVID-19 test results - are the tests you use instant or do they have to be processed in a lab – are the same tests used for youth and Staff?

- Results are received in 24-48 hours.
- The same type of tests are used for both youth and staff.

LaMar Davis

Can you discuss the actual numbers of youth in facilities who have tested positive for COVID 19?

Have some facilities had more or fewer cases than others?

- Sent info and Betsy answered

Has the standard for VOP changed to facilitate the decrease you are seeing?

- Betsy answered

Aisha Braveboy

I just want to thank you for working with us to get placements for youth who we wanted to waive down for disposition in juvenile court. It is very helpful for us to resolve these cases as quickly as possible and DJS's support is critical.

- Increases in the average length of stay may be attributable to the limited operation of the courts.

Rexanah Wyse

Now that DJS has the data, what strategies will continue to ensure the reduction of youth of color in placement--especially after the state continues its phased openings?

- We do not want to diminish the current rate of reduction.
- High-level individual review has had a positive benefit and is something we want to continue.

- Staff has reinforced that every youth needs different services, this helps to individualize the reviews and we will continue this practice on our end.

III. Fatality Review Update

Jay Johnston
Rosemary King Johnston

Rosemary gave background and where we left off in implementing the reviews. Jay gave an update on possible ways to conduct future meetings. We will institute a process to allow secure access to confidential documents and follow the legislative requirements. Unfortunately, we have cases to review. We will schedule meetings in September and October.

- We have internal meetings scheduled and plan to convene the subcommittee in late September and early October. Exact dates will be shared at the next SAB meeting.

Rosemary wants to be sure each case is given enough time to carefully review. Robin stated that this might be a good opportunity to look back the last few years and compare. Rosemary thanked him for the suggestion.

IV. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Report

Nick Moroney

Nick Moroney reported:

- COVID-19 reinforced the importance of having all the things that are needed to ensure health and safety.
- Emphasis should be placed on the best interest of each youth.
- DJS is maintaining those processes and plans for them to continue.
- Both mental and physical health must be considered.
- Would like to see a continuance of the technology available for teaching; there are some issues with Chromebook, and would like to see more of an implementation plan from MSDE.

Rosemary thanked the Board members for the education discussion, expressed a shared concern that youth are being short changed, and a concern with the lack/quality of instruction during COVID-19

Deborah thanked the group for their concerns, stated that MSDE/ JSES has a plan and will take back the expressed concerns, indicated they are putting a plan into place with Chromebooks, and training with DJS. Once the plan is approved, it will be shared with SAB.

V. Review of Membership: Replacements/New members *Andrew Tress*

- There are a number of seats that need to be appointed or reappointed. Andrew will provide an update at the September meeting

VI. Future Meetings

- 2020 - 9/15, 10/20, 11/17
- In order to meet our required six meetings per year, we will need to meet in December. 12/15 was suggested.

VII. Good of the Order

Board Members

Lamar Davis

- Thanks the for the positive JMMU update, it is a good sign for DJS, and keep up the good work.
- Getting youth to go to school – is there an analysis of reviews of detention? Will the analysis be used to inform the DJS approach to VOP for school attendance?
 - Yes, specific technical violations will be looked at by the JJRC and DJS will continue its analysis of the factors affecting school attendance and violations.

VIII. Adjournment

2:20pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- 2020 - 9/15, 10/20, 11/17

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