



State Advisory Board Meeting

September 15, 2020

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

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

<https://youtu.be/TOyxrcrttsw>

Minutes

Members and Guests Present:

Andrew Tress
Aisha Braveboy
Casey Kirk
Crystal Fleming Brice
Deborah Grinnage Pulley
Heather Chapman
James Johnston
Jessica Wheeler
Kathleen Callan
Lynn Davis

LaMar Davis
Melanie Shapiro
Melissa Hoppmeyer
Michael Guilbault
Nick Moroney
Rexanah Wyse
Sam Abed
Rosemary King Johnston
Walidah Yaminah
Theresa Middleton

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rosemary King Johnston

- Introduction of new Board member
- Approval of August 10, 2020 meeting minutes
- Meeting times

Rosemary King Johnston started the meeting and introduced the new member Michael Guilbault. The minutes were read and approved. Rosemary King Johnston asked if we wanted to switch the time of the meetings. Members decided to keep the same time moving forward.

II. Department of Juvenile Services Update

Sam Abed

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

Sec. Abed explained DJS plans to move forward next week with family visits. Also, DJS is doing monthly testing for staff, and youth are tested at admission, and those who are possibly exposed or display symptoms, but the schedules often change. He also referred members to the resources on the DJS website.

Sec. Abed also explained what will be discussed at the JJRC meeting on Thursday 9/17/20. The meeting was streamed live can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq51Ut2b_G4&feature=youtu.be

Jessica Wheeler asked if there is any more time for public input since the regional listening sessions are over. Sec. Abed explained significant public comment was already received through the listening sessions and because of timing, no further formal public comment events are planned.

Rexanah Wyse inquired to the invasiveness of the COVID tests and asked if DJS has spoken to universities to learning about the less invasive techniques they may be using for students. Sec. Abed replied that DJS has been looking at multiple approaches and we work with UMD frequently. There are other methods of testing DJS is exploring as well.

Melanie Shapiro asked about family visits and what type of approach is being taken. Sec. Abed explained DJS does not take a blanket approach to allowing visits but we also use contact tracing when we have positives and that we are working with our medical team to determine the best locations for the visits for safety. It also depends on the numbers of positive COVID tests in the community.

III. MSDE Presentation

Crystal N. Brice/Casey Kirk

Crystal Brice and Casey Kirk gave a presentation on MSDE's response to COVID as it related to DJS and JSES.

The recovery plan has been developed and can be found on the MSDE website; all local schools were asked to create one. MSDE also developed adjusted school schedules regarding COVID cases to ensure consistent programming. Each school is on the same schedule initially, unless changes need to be made due to COVID. There are five classes a day, five days a week all at same time.

Each course has been approved by MSDE. They are using a blended learning method and the APEX system for better instruction. There are three instructional teachers to also assist with professional development. The instructors work with regional teams to identify needs.

Chromebooks are being used one to one and each student has their own – they are used daily. They are currently working with DoIT and Verizon to help with wireless access panels in jurisdictions with poor connectivity.

Rexanah Wyse asked which courses are being offered and with what subjects; Crystal described these course offerings.

Melanie Shapiro asked as far as IEPs and 504s, what is being offered? Crystal explained there are two to three to each team of teachers with content area teachers and a special education teachers who lesson plan together. Melanie also asked what type of conversations are being had with local schools for transitioning kids back into regular school to ensure they are taking the right classes. Crystal explained there is regular virtual communication between schools to ensure a minimum of 21 credits is achieved.

Rosemary King Johnston asked who is delivering the services for the IEPs and 504 plans. Crystal explained that special education teachers do provide instruction along with speech therapy through contractors and psychology teachers.

IV. Fatality Review Update

Jay Johnston

Rosemary King Johnston

Jay Johnston and Rosemary King Johnston explained that meetings were halted at the beginning of the COVID crisis, but that we have developed a secure process for data sharing and for remote meetings. There are scheduled meetings for 10/15/20 and 11/2/20.

The files will be shared securely for a few days for members to review and then access will be cut off.

V. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Update

Nick Moroney

Nick Moroney shared the DJS daily population sheet to discuss with the members. The JJMU report will be coming out in the next few weeks. DJS and MSDE have responded so it will be shared shortly.

Regarding the population, he sees an opportunity to ensure populations remain low and services are increased. He also added that the proportion of youths charged as adults is more than those charged as juveniles. He asked that efforts be made to ensure these kids are a part of all of our discussions. They require equal or more accessibility to the services than those charged as juveniles.

Heather Chapman asked how has DJS shifted mental health supports. Sec. Abed explained while it has been difficult for staff and youth, we've continued with our services provided by regular staff and programs. In order to try to alleviate difficulties DJS has started virtual support groups for staff and increased efforts for family interaction.

Lamar Davis asked what is driving the numbers down in population other than COVID. Sec. Abed explained that DJS began reevaluating the population in more detail at the onset of COVID. DJS identified the low risk youth that may have had more barriers for being released and determined it would serve them best to receive services in the community and focused on removing barriers to release.

VI. Membership Updates

Jay Johnston

Jay Johnston explained that two new members may be added to the SAB after 10/1/20 because of legislation passed in the last session. In addition, there will be two judicial vacancies. He also welcomed the newest member of the board and MDH representative Michel Guilbault.

VII. Good of the Order

Board Members

Lara Weathersbee welcomed Michael Guilbault and emphasized her excitement to work with him and inform the members of the bench on the work he does at MDH.

Walidah Yaminah asked if DJS weighs in on pre-trial determinations. Sec. Abed replied and described the intake and release processing, including the use of the DRAI as a detention risk assessment instrument at intake. DJS makes the initial decision but then it is up to the court if the youth is detained further.

Aisha Braveboy commented that Prince George's County is seriously discussing how to help emerging adults involved in the adult and juvenile system and is looking to develop policies to determine how to work better with state and community on these issues. She encouraged the SAB to reach out to her office if anyone wanted to be involved. Sec. Abed suggested reaching out to Rob Green, the Secretary of DPSCS who works on these issues as well. Andrew Tress encouraged her to bring any information or programming they develop to share with the SAB.

VII. Adjournment

Adjourned by Rosemary King Johnston.

Upcoming Meetings:

- 2020 - 10/20, 11/17

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