



Successful Youth • Strong Leaders • Safer Communities

**State Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting**

September 17, 2019

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

**Conference Call # (605) 475-4700, Access Code: 300133**

**Minutes**

**Members and Guests Present:**

Sam Abed  
Andrew Tress  
Rosemary King Johnston  
Melanie Shapiro  
Debra Grinnage-Pulley  
Kathleen Callan  
Walidah Yaminah  
Nick Moroney  
Delegate Robin Grammer

Lara Weathersbee  
Judge Bair  
Michael Lore  
Shane Bolger  
Senator Susan Lee  
Shanna Wideman  
Heather Chapman  
Bill Harper  
James Johnston

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

*Rosemary King Johnston.*

The meeting began at 2:03 pm. Secretary Abed introduced James Johnston, the new Director of Policy and Legislation for DJS. The members of the Board introduced themselves.

The group approved the meeting minutes of the June 18, 2019 State Advisory Board (Board).

**II. Group Discussion – Draft Fatality Review Guidelines** *Sam Abed / Andrew Tress*

Sec. Abed introduced the review of the Fatality Review Guidelines and explained the changes and suggestions made by the SAB following the last meeting. Andrew Tress, Sec. Abed, and Jay Johnston explained the changes made during the internal review with DJS staff.

Lara Weathersbee wants to have judicial participation on the Fatality Review Subcommittee (FRS). Sec. Abed agreed.

Judge Bair reported that he spoke with Chief Judge Barbera, explaining her concerns about judicial representation on the FRS and potential ethical issues. Since there are differing opinions about this issue, Judge Bair encouraged Sec. Abed to speak with Chief Judge Barbera.

Melanie Shapiro requested that the Office of the Public Defender (OPD), be a standing member on the FRS because the youth under review are likely to have had contact with OPD. Sec. Abed preferred to leave that decision up to the SAB.

Kathleen Callan suggested allowing those who want to serve on the FRS to volunteer and selection could be done on a first come, first serve basis.

Rosemary King Johnston suggested that any additional members be determined by the FRS core group described in the Guidelines.

Nick Moroney questioned why the parents' criminal history is listed on the case summary form. He suggested that there be an expanded selection of information included in the medical history.

Melanie Shapiro added that the specific language of "criminal history" should be restated. Heather Chapman suggested using the language "Family History of Incarceration." Michael Lore suggested that ACE scores be included in the FRT form.

Lara Weathersbee suggested using the language from the statute establishing the fatality reviews and to be consistently used in the Guidelines when describing the function of the FRS. She pointed out that "child" and "youth" appears to be used interchangeably and suggested using youth, but whatever is chosen, it should be consistent throughout the document.

Sec. Abed explained the additional language regarding record retention and pointed out the efficacy of using the current state guidelines.

Andrew Tress asked the members for suggestions regarding the duties of the Chair of the FRS. Lara Weathersbee suggested making a decision after the first FRS meeting. Sec. Abed reported that we will be able to begin reviewing cases in October, once the legislation goes into effect.

Kathleen Callan asked if the initial DJS Fatality Review Team (FRT) case review would be a way to help inform the FRS of the best way for the process to work and how to coordinate with the SAB.

Sec. Abed responded yes, because it was specific to DJS and not a more global review.

Andrew Tress explained that DJS staff (FRT) participation at the FRS meetings is needed to go over the cases, but the SAB will be consulted beforehand. Sec. Abed stated that having the local DJS staff closest to the case will provide meaningful information and insights.

Melanie Shapiro had a question regarding the records for review and asked the composition of the FRT. Sec. Abed responded it was the DJS executive management team. Melanie Shapiro asked how records will be provided to the FRS. Sec. Abed reported that DJS staff will bring them to each FRS meeting and will likely be Scott Beal and probably an additional DJS employee with knowledge of the case. Melanie Shapiro suggested that, under the chair's duties, consider making separate bullets regarding the confidentiality form.

Shanna Wideman had a question regarding the SAB recommendations. She suggested adding language about how they will be drafted and shared.

Andrew Tress will add language throughout the document about posting the recommendations to the website.

Nick Moroney asked whether all SAB members will be signing off on the recommendations on their own behalf even if they weren't part of the FRS. Sec. Abed responded yes, the full SAB would be signing off on FRS recommendations. Nick Moroney stated a concern that certain cases can have political ramifications and other influences can come into play, which should be taken into consideration. Sec. Abed explained that the purpose of the FRS is not to solve each specific case but, rather, to use the case facts as the lens through which to look at the system as a whole.

Melanie Shapiro asked about meeting frequency and how SAB meetings versus FRS meetings would be scheduled and managed. Sec. Abed stated that we may have not gotten that far yet. Rosemary King Johnston added that whenever there's an organizational change there is only so much that can be planned in advance. The presentation may remain consistent from FRT to FRS or could be considerably different, and certain cases will take longer than others.

### **III. HB1607 Workgroup Update: MCPS/JSES Pilot Program** *Deborah Grinnage Pulley*

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley handed out information on the work group and asked Andrew Tress to send it to the rest of the Board. The transition subcommittee will be updating the work group at the next meeting. The MOU is being developed, MSDE is ready, and DJS needs to sign off. The budget has been approved which was developed by MCPS, for coaching, teaching, resources, etc. Also, a letter was sent to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President requesting an extension for the report since the pilot wouldn't be in effect long enough to have accurate data to include in the report. The Governor has approved it, but a few more issues need to be finalized. All the information is available online and the report should be done well if the extension is granted.

Rosemary King Johnston reiterated that she requested an update from the workgroup to see where the pilot program was in the process and if an extension had been requested. She expressed concern that MCPS had a project in place with MSDE and JSES prior to the passage of HB1607. She asked whether the MOU is a different entity or an extension of the existing project, and if MCPS is the only school system being considered for the pilot program. Deborah Grinnage-Pulley reported that MCPS is the local school system involved. Timelines did not match up well for the pilot and report which is why an extension was requested.

Melanie Shapiro expressed concern that the workgroup isn't doing enough to look at other models from across the country and that more analysis is needed, especially for re-entry and gaining credits. Deborah Grinnage-Pulley responded that, at their last meeting, the work group decided to look at 8 other states. Rosemary King Johnston agreed with Melanie's concerns. Nick Moroney stated that while the workgroup has decided to look at existing models, it's concerning that the workgroup just recently decided to look at other states after an MOU has been drafted. He does not believe that was the legislative intent of the workgroup. This issue is very important,

we should be using local school systems for JSES because of the resources available in school and where the kids are being placed. Deborah Grinnage-Pulley reported that MCPS is a good place to start because most youth at Noyes are MCPS students. Sec. Abed asked how the workgroup determined which states models to review? Deborah Grinnage-Pulley responded that size, demographics, how states set up their schools, how it was run, and funded were some of the considerations.

Nick Moroney responded that the legislation mandating the pilot was very specific that the pilot would have a local board of education take over operations of a JSES school and that has not happened. The primary directive was to compare the pilot model with the current model. He is not sure how any agency or committee member can make recommendations on something that hasn't happened. Technical help by MCPS has been welcomed but is not a pilot program. That is problematic because the bill drafters wanted a pilot program to look at the existing issues. Compared to RICA, the pilot program, as described, is not well done. That should be addressed, and there should be public input, which, at this time, there is not.

#### **IV. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Report**

*Nick Moroney*

Nick Moroney reported that his unit is in the process of drafting a new JJMU report and he hopes that everyone has read the most recent report.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Sec. Abed asked for any additional comments for the good of the order. Heather Chapman reported on SAG; they've had some shifts in membership over the summer. One seat needs to be filled, which is a public special education seat. They are also in the process of shifting agendas for meetings to use time more wisely, using electronic voting, and working on a statewide conference to bring people together in the same state that aren't currently engaging with one another.

Nick Moroney indicated that the Kirwan Commission makes no mention of juvenile justice involved youth. The monitoring unit has written to them and hasn't received any feedback. He's hoping MSDE reaches out to them because this needs to be addressed to have a chance at additional funding.

Heather Chapman reported that compulsory attendance discussions have also been had at the SAG and she may have information on the disconnect that is currently happening. Sec. Abed stated his belief that legislators are getting more informed about the issue and conversations need to be continued.

Judge Bair asked whether the Department had heard about an issue at the Montgomery County evening reporting center and whether the Secretary has any information on the subject. Sec. Abed responded that he is unable to speak on the issue specifically, because he can't recall the details at this moment. Judge Bair indicated that he likes the program and thinks it has helpful resources. Sec. Abed said he will follow up and get Judge Bair the requested information.

Sec. Abed discussed Imhotep, a former justice involved youth just finished a two-year peace corps tour and is doing very well, He is looking for work if anyone has any recommendations. Also, MD THINK, the new data platform for human service agencies, will be up and running soon. Recently the MD health exchange moved onto the platform and our case management model is the next scheduled addition to the platform. It is being tested now, and when completed, will have a lot of useful capabilities; especially for home visits, using electronic signatures, and updates to database, etc.

Adjourned at 3:35 PM

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- 2019 – 10/15 and 11/19