



Successful Youth • Strong Leaders • Safer Communities

State Advisory Board Meeting

September 18, 2018

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Annapolis DJJ Office, Third Floor Conf. Room
49 Old Solomon's 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
Lynn Davis
Wendy Wilcox
Shane Bolger
Liz Park
Britney Dibreeze

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley
Hon. Gary Bair
Kara Aanenson
Nick Moroney
Andrew Tress
Judge Cox
Rosemary King Johnston
Lamar Davis
Shane Bolger
Heather Chapman

I. The Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus Award *Lynn Davis*

The meeting came to order at 2:02 p.m. and Rosemary King Johnston asked that everyone introduce themselves. Sec. Abed was then presented with the Cornerstone Award from MAYSB.

II. Welcome and Introductions *Rosemary King Johnston*

- New and incoming board members
- Approval of June 19, 2018 meeting minutes

Rosemary King Johnston spoke about the incoming board members. First, she introduced Lamar Davis, who was present, and provided some background on his previous work. Next, Shanna Wideman, who will be the next MDH representative but was not present.

The June minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.

III. Department of Juvenile Services Update *Sam Abed*

Sec. Abed updated the Board on new initiatives, which have slowed down somewhat due to the upcoming election. He added that there are things in the pipeline we are considering, including legislative proposals, collaborating with Baltimore City Police (BPD) on curfew checks, and the race equity initiative that has been spearheaded by Lisa Gary.

Nick Moroney asked if the legislative package included shielding records and if DJS would support that type of initiative. Sec. Abed explained that the legislative package cannot be discussed until it has been reviewed by the Governor's Office.

IV. Family Peer Support Specialist Program Update

Kara Aanenson

Kara Aanenson gave an overview of the program and her role with the agency. The Maryland Coalition of Families won the procurement contract for the program which is starting in five counties. This is a new model for how DJS refers families to peer support and access to resources. Ms. Aanenson will train DJS staff and peer support specialists will be available throughout the entire process. This will facilitate providing better services to families and open previously unavailable avenues for information and communication.

There were questions from Deborah Grinnage-Pully, Magistrate Weathersbee, and Nick Moroney regarding who can refer families, transportation and services, and the size of the caseloads. Sec. Abed and Ms. Aanenson explained that DJS will have to assess these aspects of the program once they are implemented and that DJS is prepared to reallocate resources based on demonstrated need.

Ms. Aanenson shared examples of what the family peer support specialists will be doing. Sec. Abed provided additional examples of Ms. Aanenson's ongoing responsibilities for the agency, including fielding the majority of calls from families, drafting policies, facility messaging, and building family toolkits.

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley asked if community resource coordinators (CRC) can make recommendations and Ms. Aanenson indicated they are able to.

Lynn Davis then asked if the peers DJS are using are former youth in the system or their parents and if any counties are currently implementing something similar. Ms. Aanenson replied that DJS is using parents of youth previously in the juvenile system (legacy families). Youth formerly in the DLS system are not currently being used as peer support specialists.

Nick Moroney asked if the peer support specialists are able to come to court and if the plan is to make this program statewide. Ms. Aanenson replied, yes.

Rosemary King-Johnston added that family leadership training is very helpful for parents because it provides information and support for increasing engagement and understanding the process.

Lamar Davis inquired into how this program will change intake, early intervention and referrals. Ms. Aanenson replied that staff and vendors will be trained to work with the peer support specialists at intake. DJS is unsure how it will effect referrals at this time, but hopes to see the program utilized as widely as possible.

V. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Report / Update

Nick Moroney

Nick Moroney updated the Board regarding the JJMU report for the second quarter. He added that, while there is some systemic narrative in the report, the notable issues are concerns with Victor Cullen, specifically the disturbance in April of this year.

VI. State Advisory Group (SAG) Update

Heather Chapman

Heather Chapman reported that the federal grant money has been received and applications are being reviewed. Also, that there are three open seats on the SAG, two for youth involved with the juvenile justice system and one seat for a private non-profit. She added that planning is underway for the DNC conference in November and their three-year planning staff have begun breaking into workgroups.

She described some issues she's been having with other organizations regarding race equity. Sec. Abed explained that he intends to establish a race equity process at DJS that will encourage other agencies and organizations to follow.

Judge Cox added that Judge Kershaw has retired as the juvenile judge in Baltimore City and that Judge Emmanuel Brown has taken his place.

Maistrate. Weathersbee asked if there has been movement on DJS having access to MDEC. Gavin Patashnick explained there is a small issue with MDEC access in jurisdictions where there is remote filing. However, the Judiciary has preliminarily approved the ability for greater access to MDEC and DJS is hopeful their application will soon be formally approved.

VII. Old Business

- Noyes Education Pilot Program Update

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley informed the Board that Noyes is continuing with the online Math curriculum and have added History. They are having some issues with cheating in history, but they are getting them worked out. She added that they hired an art teacher for the summer. MSDE continues to work with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to include employment at Noyes on their job applications. Finally, their pilot program is moving as expected and MCPS is willing to share their curriculum.

Rosemary King-Johnston inquired into the pilot program and its relation to the 2018 legislation. Deborah Grinnage-Pulley replied that Dr. Salmon hasn't decided which county they are going to use for the legislated pilot program, but a workgroup has been formed to come up with a decision.

Nick Moroney asked if there were updates on workgroup recruitment and if the meetings are public because the JJMU would like to attend. Deborah Grinnage-Pulley indicated there are no current updates and she believes the meetings are public.

- Pathways to Education Subcommittee Update

Rexanah Wyse

Rexanah Wyse described who is on the subcommittee and what was discussed at the first meeting. The members discussed changing the compulsory education law and collecting data from schools regarding waivers and truancy cases processed last year. Gavin Patashnick added that certain counties are very strict on truancy as opposed to others. Andrew Tress compiled research and sent out a report detailing how other states define alternative education programs. He will also work on collecting data to find out who is affected by waivers in schools as it relates to DJS staff.

- State Advisory Board Webpage

Andrew Tress

Andrew Tress informed the Board that the webpage detailing the SAB is up and running and that he will be contacting each member to get a bio to add to the webpage.

VIII. New Business

- Date change for Victor Cullen site visit and Board meeting

Sam Abed

Sec. Abed was invited to speak at the Judiciary's Can-do conference so he would like to ask for a date change for the visit and Board meeting. The Board agreed to reschedule the tour for 4/16/19 and asked that the time for the meeting be earlier in the day.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting(s):

- 2018 – 10/16, and 11/20
- 2019 – 1/15, 4/16, 5/21, 6/18, 9/17, 10/15 and 11/19

Send and confirm dates with Doug.

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