



## **State Advisory Board Meeting**

October 16, 2018  
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Annapolis DJS Office, Third Floor Conf. Room  
49 Old Solomon's Island Rd., Suite 300  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### Members and Guests Present

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley  
Gavin Patashnick  
Grayson Wiggins  
Rexanah Wyse  
Melanie Shapiro  
Lynn Davis  
Rosemary King Johnston  
Shane Bolger

Nick Moroney  
Andrew Tress  
Judge Cox

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

*Rosemary King Johnston*

- Approval of September 18, 2018 meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM, the members and guests introduced themselves. The minutes were reviewed and approved by the members present, no edits were needed but there was also not a quorum. The minutes should be approved at the next meeting where a quorum is present.

#### **II. Department of Juvenile Services Update**

*Gavin Patashnick*

- a. Videos – Victor Cullen
  - i. SHYNE Music Program
  - ii. The GO Team Therapy Dogs Pet Program
- b. DJS Yoga Program

Gavin Patashnick gave a brief overview of the SHYNE Music Program and the GO Team Therapy Dogs Pet Program before showing short videos taken by the DJS production team. He also described the Yoga Program that was reported on by the AP and Washington Post. The article was provided as a handout.

### **III. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Report / Update**

*Nick Moroney*

Nick Moroney mentioned that the programs in the videos at Victor Cullen are great, and the beginning of having a facility with quality programming, but added that issues are not being addressed when the youth return home. He added that, therapeutically, it would be helpful if there were places to take the youth closer to their homes. He continued, that programs and activities are needed to keep the youth engaged that are both closer to home and specifically designed for after-school programming. He suggested that DJS staff should go off campus more often to monitor youth activities and promote engagement. He explained that youth will be eventually going home, so they need the best opportunity for success when moving back home or getting a home pass. He questioned why DJS has reduced issuing home passes other than those that are court ordered.

Rosemary King Johnston asked how DJS could have more success issuing home passes if the youths, as he said, are having troubles at home as well?

Nick Moroney reiterated that to have a successful weekend at home, it should be with biological parents or a responsible adult/guardian. The youth have to understand what's at stake and have cooperation with facility staff to build trust. He also recommended Case Managers having a more active role.

Rosemary King Johnston agreed, and added that although the youth support systems at home may not always be the best, it's important to address issues in the community whenever possible. She suggested teaching the youth how to prepare to return home to avoid repeat problems and that requires coordination with other interagency services in addition to DJS intervention.

Nick Moroney went on to discuss successful programs at the Silver Oak Academy that are more community oriented. He agreed that it is not just DJS, but the state as a whole.

Rosemary King Johnston asked if there are issues in the JJMU report that are not being addressed?

Nick Moroney replied, the JJMU feel the reports are very accurate, that DJS does respond and is doing everything they can, but they don't have all the resources to accomplish everything in the report. He used an example of placement centers in Virginia that are working with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and putting money and services into the community and smaller facilities that specialize in treatment.

Rosemary King Johnston commented that she's been around since the beginning of JJMU and has great faith in monitoring system. She suggested that the reports document when issues are addressed to track progress throughout each year to analyze the outcomes.

### **IV. State Advisory Group (SAG) Update**

*Heather Chapman*

Heather Chapman was not present but Gavin and Melanie gave a brief SAG update. They explained that two workgroups were formed at the last meeting: a diversion workgroup and a

police and youth relationship building workgroup. The latter will invite a representative from a promising program in Philadelphia to address the SAG at their next meeting.

## **V. Old Business**

- Noyes Education Pilot Program Update

*Deborah Grinnage-Pulley*

Deborah Grinnage Pulley said that the only change since last month was technology related. They are still addressing difficulties with the online history program. She added that it needs to be a closed program to avoid cheating. She did not have an update on the pilot program, but there will be an open meeting on deciding in which county the pilot will be located.

Nick Moroney asked if anyone has been appointed to chair or staff the program?

Deborah Grinnage Pulley replied that nothing has been finalized but names are being gathered for appointment to the group.

She also mentioned that all Montgomery County Public Schools are getting their bandwidth expanded because they received a great "e rate."

Rosemary King Johnston asked how they are doing with teacher retention and for an update on special education programming?

Deborah Grinnage Pulley replied that there are some deficiencies in teacher hiring. Like most years, they lose teachers at the beginning of the school year because they will get more money and better benefits in the public schools. Regarding special education, they have been using monitors from MSDE, which have been great resources. She recommended speaking to them in-person so they can fully explain what they're doing in more detail and she would be happy to set that up.

Nick Moroney added that the statutorily mandated pilot program should address choosing a jurisdiction ASAP to get it moving.

Gavin Patashnick commented that the bill intended it to be MSDE.

- Board member biographies

*Andrew Tress*

Andrew Tress reminded and requested that the board members send in their biographies as soon as possible to add to the website.

## **VI. New Business**

Deborah Grinnage Pulley asked about board membership and the process to reapply. Andrew explained the process and said he will contact the members that need to reapply and get letters ready for Secretary Abed to send to the appointments office for a quick response.

Nick Moroney recommended looking at House Judiciary subcommittees for potential members from the legislature. He also asked about the education subcommittee. Andrew Tress explained that the subcommittee is currently gathering data related to VOP's for school absences and truancy cases. Once the data is gathered the subcommittee will determine the best way to seek alternatives pathways to education, whether that be legislatively, or through policy.

Rosemary King Johnston asked Melanie Shapiro what the Office of the Public Defender thought of Del. Cassilly's bill from last session? Melanie Shapiro replied that the bill is addressing a different aspect of the same issue. Adding, we will have to wait to see what happens during the next session before moving forward.

Lynn Davis mentioned that the community work being done at the Silver Oak Academy is great, agreeing with Nick Moroney. Each added that those programs should be utilized more and the courts should be more aware of their success.

Rosemary King Johnston asked if anyone had anything else to add and there was nothing.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 PM.

### **Upcoming Meeting(s):**

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

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