



**State Advisory Board Meeting**

October 20, 2020  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

**Join with Google Meet**  
**(Participants Only)**  
**meet.google.com/dae-wbys-qgf**

**Join by phone**  
**(US) +1 321-465-4963 PIN: 581 886 615#**

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

<https://youtu.be/Xo7fMfcFo3Y>

**Minutes**

**Members and guests present:**

Andrew Tress  
Heather Chapman  
James Johnston  
Jessica Wheeler  
Kathleen Callan  
Lynn Davis  
LaMar Davis  
Michael Guilbault  
Nick Moroney  
Rexanah Wyse

Sam Abed  
Rosemary King Johnston  
Walidah Yaminah  
Crystal Fleming Bryce  
Lynn Celestin-Antonin (sitting in for SA  
Aisha Braveboy)  
Michael Lore  
Sen. Susan Lee  
Betsy Tolentino  
Lara Weathersbee

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

*Rosemary King Johnston*

- Approval of September 15, 2020 meeting minutes

Meeting began and the minutes were reviewed, one name change was made and the minutes were approved.

**II. Department of Juvenile Services Update**

*Sam Abed*

- COVID-19 Response

- Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC)

Betsy Tolentino, representing Sec. Sam Abed, gave an update from the Department and the JJRC. The JJRC is moving along as quickly as possible in order to conclude with effective recommendations to meet the statutory time requirements. She encouraged the Board to visit both DJS's and the Dept. of Legislative Services' (DLS) website and view the meetings, review the research that has been done, and view upcoming meetings.

DJS

<https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/Juvenile-Justice-Reform-Council.aspx>

DLS

<http://dls.maryland.gov/policy-areas/juvenile-justice-reform-council>

Betsy then provided an update regarding the DJS ongoing response to COVID-19. She again suggested that the Board visit the DJS website to view all the available information from the Department. This includes daily reports on testing for all youth and staff, facility admissions/capacity, visitation guidelines, and general COVID-19 exposure guidance.

Specific to testing, tests are done for youth at admission and 7 – 10 days after, before and after transfers, when symptomatic, or when established contact tracing procedures indicate a test should be conducted.

<https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>

Lastly, DJS put out a press release today regarding “Grant Initiates Investment in Multisystemic Therapies for Families in Baltimore City.” DJS, through partnership with the UMD School of Social Work, was awarded more than \$130,000 in grant funds to reduce existing community-based service gaps for youthful offenders in Baltimore City.

Link to Press Release: [https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/press/DJS-MST-Grant-Press-Release\\_10.20.20-Final.pdf](https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/press/DJS-MST-Grant-Press-Release_10.20.20-Final.pdf)

Lynn Davis asked if DJS would be receiving grant money from the DOJ for juvenile diversion in MD?

Betsy – Yes, but we don't have all the details, we will get a list together and send it out as soon as we can. Jessica Wheeler added that the grant is for Title II and she will also send the list out.

### **III. Juvenile Competency Evaluation and Attainment Presentation**

*Dr. Michael Guilbault*

Dr. Guilbault gave his presentation on Juvenile Competency Evaluation and Attainment. The presentation can be found on DJS's website, link below.

<https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/about-us/State-Advisory-Board.aspx>

Nick Moroney asked for Dr. Guilbault's thoughts about the data in the presentation regarding certain jurisdictions issuing more referrals for competency than others.

He explained that County referrals typically come from the same people in each jurisdiction and minority referrals are typical of the jurisdictions where they are generated, which also mirrors DJS data. Also, bed shortage has been an issue and corrections are being made. Attention is being drawn to some of the new programs.

Nick Moroney also asked if kids are removed from their homes when referred for a competency evaluation. Dr. Guilbault explained that, typically, kids are not taken from home to engage in this process but there is a small subsection who are referred to be placed in an MDH facility, each of these cases is carefully considered.

Walidah Yaminah asked for resources regarding juvenile court versus adult court terms. She was referred to the DJS Data Resource Guide, link below.

<https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/Data-Resource-Guides.aspx>

#### **IV. Fatality Review Update**

*Rosemary King Johnston*

Rosemary King Johnston explained that the Fatality Review Subcommittee would be meeting tomorrow. The originally scheduled meeting was postponed for a week to allow members additional time to review the cases. The recommendations from the Subcommittee will be presented to the SAB at the November meeting. She also explained that confidentiality forms continue to be signed by Subcommittee members and the case information is being held electronically in a secure file. She thanked the DJS staff for their time and effort to produce the necessary information and the IT staff for creating the secure file and the protections for the information in the files.

#### **V. Juvenile Justice Monitoring (JJMU) Update**

*Nick Moroney*

Nick Moroney provided an update; the JJMU is currently putting together their quarterly report and are hoping the JJRC produces substantial recommendations for reforms. The JJMU continues to monitor the facilities, in-person and virtually. Although the populations are currently very small, services are not where we want them to be, mainly those provided by JSES/MSDE. In addition to virtual learning, person-to-person learning is not being delivered to youth. It appears that MSDE doesn't have the staff to deliver person-to-person instruction and this needs to be addressed. The new program for girls is not a functional program at this point and girls would be better served closer to home getting help from people with a specialty in providing gender specific services to girls involved with the juvenile justice system. Additionally, the program at the Garrett Children's Center (GC) is also not offering appropriate level of services.

Crystal Fleming Bryce (MSDE) provided context regarding COVID protocols for teachers. She explained that if there are outbreaks in a facility, schedules need to be adjusted and teachers are allowed 80 hours of leave if exposed or sick.

Rosemary King Johnston recalled the presentation given to the Board from MSDE/JSES that stated that face-to-face teaching was happening, but now we're hearing that's not quite the case. Although educational packets are an instructional tool, packets are only effective when youth are given timely feedback so as to reinforce skill development, correct responses, understanding of materials in the packets, and correct work that is not accurate and reteach that particular skill. Taking appropriate precautions for COVID is totally understandable, and the Board would like clarity on how MSDE/JSES defines face-to-face instruction. Teachers being on site, but not in the classroom, is confusing and the terms being used are inconsistent. Teachers being present in a classroom, but not providing face-to-face instruction is a questionable approach and we are asking clarification and data that illustrates the type of instruction and the frequency in which that instruction is being provided.

LaMar Davis agreed, adding that there needs to be more interaction with the kids for educating effectively.

Walidah Yaminah asked about the telehealth services. Crystal Fleming Bryce answered yes, they have psychological therapy, speech therapy, etc.

Nick Moroney asked about teaching at the Thomas J.S. Waxter Children's Center. Crystal Fleming Bryce explained, because the internet connection was off during construction, the teachers are returning today and students will return to classrooms tomorrow. Instruction will also start to be recorded for access by kids in quarantine.

LaMar Davis asked Nick Moroney about the conditions of GCC and the Meadow Mountain girls program. He explained the programs as a whole are poor and the youth should be placed elsewhere.

Betsy Tolentino suggested that be a topic at the next meeting and DJS will provide an update on what DJS is doing in the residential facilities. She reported that DJS is open to finding the right in-state programs for kids before considering out of state placements.

Rosemary King Johnston agreed to add that to the next agenda.

## **VI. Membership Updates**

*Jay Johnston*

The board is in need to 2 judicial representatives. The AOC is aware and will be sending names shortly. There will also two representatives from AFSCME joining the board soon.

## **VII. Good of the Order**

*Board Members*

Rosemary King Johnston shared the proposed 2021 meeting schedule (see below), a copy of the proposed schedule will be sent to the SAB.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- 2020 - 11/17 and 12/15
- 2021 – 1/19, 4/20, 5/18, 6/15, 9/21, 10/19 and 11/16

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