



State Advisory Board Meeting

November 20, 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

Gavin Patashnick
Rexanah Wyse
Melanie Shapiro
Rosemary King Johnston
Shane Bolger

Heather Chapman
Nick Moroney
Andrew Tress
Deborah Grinnage-Pulley
Lara Weathersbee

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rosemary King Johnston

- Approval of October 16, 2018 meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM. There was one minor change that Andrew Tress pointed out. Nick Mornoney requested some lines also be removed. No other edits were made but there was no quorum at the time to approve them, final approval will be done at the January meeting.

II. Department of Juvenile Services Update/Programs

Gavin Patashnick

- Community Youth Connecting with Law Enforcement (CYCLE)
- Office of Equity and Reform (OER)

Gavin Patashnick gave a brief overview of the CYCLE program and the DJS Office of Equity and Reform (OER). He explained that the purpose of CYCLE is to build relationships with youth and the Baltimore County Police Department. So far the program is going well and has received positive feedback from the youth and the staff. The OER began training in October, has trained multiple staff members, and plans to train several more before the end of the year. The next course is being developed and training will begin in 2019. Following that, the final phase of the training will launch in 2020. Gavin Patashnick and Andrew Tress provided an explanation of their experiences with the training and also how DJS plans to use the tool to inform policy and

legislation. To facilitate a more in-depth explanation of the training and functions of the office, Lisa Garry ,the Executive Director of OER,will be invited to present at a future meeting.

Rexanah Wyse asked if board members are able to take this training? Gavin replied, that we will have to follow up, but we don't see why that wouldn't be an option at some point.

Rosemary King Johnston then asked if MSDE staff at DJS facilities can take the training? Gavin replied, not currently, but hopefully in the future because DJS wants to expand the training for everyone who works with the youth.

Nick Moroney asked how is CYCLE specifically helping the youth? Gavin replied, that it is providing opportunities for youth to interact with law enforcement in a positive or non-aggressive way to build relationships.

Nick Mornoney added that he doesn't see how this is going to improve things, that it needs a programming piece to interact with the youth, and isn't just chasing them down. He stated that this program might have a better result if there was more personal interaction with the youth.

Rexanah Wyse gave an example of a similar program in Montgomery County that had success in a lot of ways. Specifically, it formed a more direct line of communication to get information and resources to the parent and youth.

Heather Chapman asked if the officers involved have additional training? Gavin answered no, but they must reside in the same community.

Nick Moroney again commented that he doesn't see how this provides any services. Gavin explained the communication and general interactions between the youth and the officers have been positive and any positive interactions are very valuable.

Captain Shane Bolger added that any interaction that isn't confrontational, is positive most of the time and helps build relationships. It all depends on how the youth are approached. Officers should ask questions of the youth and build trust, which may be just enough to help a youth make a better decision and avoid trouble in the future. He understands Nick's concerns, but it comes down to the staff involved and how they approach the situation.

Heather Chapman mentioned that when officers are going out and interacting with the youth, it's good to have some training in how to best approach the youth and/or deescalate a situation. She added a comment about the importance of having properly trained people in the position.

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley mentioned that conversations should be had with families prior to speaking with the youth or if they happen to come to the house, so they understand why they are there. Gavin said that is currently being done.

Rexanah Wyse mentioned that this is opportunity to use the community police theory to an advantage by using and brining community leaders into the program. Gavin's concern is the confidentiality issues that may follow in that situation.

III. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Report / Update

Nick Moroney

Nick Moroney explained that the JJMU is in the middle of getting their next report written. He referenced Rosemary's comments from last month's meeting regarding following up and making documented changes that occur as a result of the JJMU report. He continued, JJMU has been down 65% of its staff over the last six years, there have only been four people in the unit, and it used to be ten. Adding they are required by law to do four reports a year, he is hopeful that something may be done legislatively to change the reporting requirements. He also thinks less reports would result in a better response from DJS. Rosemary added that the paradigm is unfair because it's difficult to demonstrate substantive in just three months. She also stated that the Managing for Results measures which drive the reporting process can be changed legislatively if they're not effective.

IV. State Advisory Group (SAG) Update

Heather Chapman

Heather Chapman provided updates on the filled and vacant seats on the SAG. The open seat for the abuse and neglect position will be filled soon, there is an open seat for a special education professional and a few youth members seats have been filled. She continued, the DMC conference is next week, they are excited to have a variety of workshops from around the state and country, and it should be a success. She added, the the SAG had two great presentors at the last meeting. One regarding the JOINS program, which seems like an effective program, is well staffed, and uses a community policing model. Also, there was a presentation from a program implemented in Philadelphia, which was more of a prevention model involving youth who have not been in the system. It's a three stage model and officers use role reversal to interact with the youth. Gavin asked if the people from Philedelphia discussed cost? Heather replied, they did not, but the SAG is looking into that themselves as a use for potential grant money.

V. Old Business

- Noyes Education Pilot Program Update

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley explained that the current program at Noyes was designed to provide resources and materials to the youth which is still being done. Regarding HB 1607, MSDE will have their first meeting on December 6th, Sec. Abed should be sending a designee. The first meeting will be at MSDE HQ and open to the public, the time should be around 11:30 AM, and the confirmed time and date will be posted online. She will send the information to Andrew. MSDE is still considering in which facility the program will be held, and are hopeful it will in Montgomery County to buld off the work already being done at Noyes.

- New appointments / reappointments / biographies

Andrew Tress

Andrew Tress informed the members that the two new members, Shanna Wideman from MDH and Lamar Davies have received their official appointments and Heather Chapman has been reappointed. He also requested again that the members send in their biographies.

- Education Subcommittee Update – **Data Collection**

Rexanah Wyse

Rexanah Wyse updated the board on the status of the subcommittee, mainly regarding data collection. The subcommittee is collecting data from MSDE, DLLR and DJS regarding absence trends, waivers, and truancy cases from the last five years.

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley recommended reaching out to Mary Gable from MSDE for data.

Rosemary King Johnston mentioned the hurdles of data collection in bureaucracy. She referred to a program she worked on called “Maryland Results for Child Well-being,” and the difficulties she faced in data collection, but mentioned the data is out there, and Mary Gable may be best the person to help. Also, there are a lot of federal reporting requirements that could help lead to valid data resources and quicker responses.

Nick Moroney mentioned that the kids who are deep in the system usually have information on how many days of school they may have missed which may help with truancy data.

VI. New Business

- Speaker Phone

Andrew Tress informed the board that a new speaker phone is being ordered by IT and will drop-ship soon. He will get an update as soon as IT has an install date.

Rexanah Wyse asked a question regarding youth transitioning back into their communities, and what happens if those living situations are not the best options for the youth? Gavin explained some of the hurdles on that issue, but will look into transition planning for the future.

Nick Mornoe asked why home passes have halted? Gavin explained that they have not halted, they are court issued, and the courts are currently reviewing the DJS homepass policy so they can work together. He also asked if the new home pass policy is more or less permissive for home visits? Gavin explained that the policy is in draft, DJS has to wait for the courts, and then JJMU will be able to review. Nick Moroney mentioned that the the policy has taken 8 months to review and he heard it would be more restrictive, which would be an issue.

Heather Chapman and Rosemary King Johnston took time to thank everyone for their work and to have a Happy Thanksgiving.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 PM.

Upcoming Meeting(s):

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

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