



State Advisory Board Meeting - Virtual
Tuesday, November 30, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/hob-rfgk-fww
Join by phone
(US) +1 336-443-0992 PIN: 995 882 256#

The meeting will also be streamed live and recorded for the public on YouTube at:
<https://youtu.be/REkP6hyzDwM>

MINUTES

Members and Guests Present:

Sam Abed	Jenny Egan
Rosemary King Johnston	Lamar Davis
Scott Beal	Lynn Davis
Andrew Tress	Kathleen Callan
Christina Church	David Phillips
Michael Guilbault	Michael Lore
Jessica Dickerson	Lara Weathersbee
Lauren Gordon	Aisha Braveboy
Nick Moroney	

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rosemary King Johnston

- ❖ Approval of October 19, 2021 meeting minutes

- Rosemary King Johnston asked Sec. Abed to start the meeting since he had updates he wanted to give to the board.
- Sec. Abed welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed them that we would have guests next month. Judge Gale Rasin and Judge Gary Bair.
- The minutes were reviewed and approved.

II. Department of Juvenile Services Update

Sam Abed

- ❖ DJS Facility Realignment update

- Sec. Abed
 - This SAB meeting was rescheduled in order to properly announce the plan for facility closures and realignment.
 - The plan addresses criticisms and concerns expressed about the distances between facilities that youths and families have to travel.
 - Due to the current trend of decreasing populations in our facilities, DJS is able to realign services.
 - The press release can be found here: https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/press/MD-DJS-Facility-Alignment-Press-Release_11.17.21.pdf
- Jenny Egan
 - Can you clarify what treatment center means and explain how security levels will remain intact during the realignment?
 - Sec. Abed - treatment center means a committed facility and the security will be same as for youth in the DJS youth centers.

- How will SAB be engaged in the planning and design process?
 - Sec. Abed - Nick Moroney and his JJMU team will be part of the design process and we are open to engaging others, if needed and permitted under statute.
- Rosemary King Johnston
 - I would ask that the SAB be involved, when possible, to utilize the broad level of expertise of the Board.
 - Sec. Abed - agreed and will continue to engage with the Board, when possible. The JJMU team has been consulted and are providing different perspectives from their architects.
- Lynn Davis
 - It would be great to have youth from the facilities involved as well to make suggestions on what they currently like, dislike, and would like to improve.
 - ❖ Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP) Board update
- Sec. Abed
 - The Board meets tomorrow and will be conducting interviews for the new Superintendent.
 - The Joint report between DJS and MSDE is close to being finalized. DBM is conducting a final review.

III. **Fatality Review Subcommittee** *Andrew Tress / Rosemary King Johnston*

- ❖ Subcommittee update
- The Subcommittee will be meeting again on 12/17/21 to review the two previous cases as well as two additional cases. The reason for the re-review is that the first case dealt with competency and that was the first time the Subcommittee reviewed such a case and had several questions.
- Rosemary King Johnston
 - The subcommittee discussed the possibility of the SAB taking a further look into competency due to all the questions that were raised.
- Micheal Lore
 - That topic is related to legislation Sen. Lee is looking into pertaining to family law; specifically judgements for Best Interests in Attorney (BIA).

IV. **Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Update**

Nick Moroney

- Nick Moroney
 - Thanks to DJS and Sec. Abed for the realignment plan.
 - It's great that kids in the metro and Baltimore City regions won't have to travel as far and hopefully everyone will still be around with new gubernatorial leadership to see the plan through
 - Moving kids from Waxter to Noyes is a little better but glad it's only temporary
 - Would like to hear about the Sec. Abed's views on facility security and also the upcoming session, specifically the potential changes coming this year regarding youth charged as adults
 - Sec. Abed
 - His vote is on record regarding youths charged as adults during the first round of JJRC recommendations and would have to see legislation before taking a position
- Rosemary King Johnston
 - Education in facilities is still a concern since kids basically lost a year of school from the pandemic and DJS youth lost even more, we don't want to see that again and we want to ensure accountability
- Nick Moroney
 - A new JSEP superintendent will be hired shortly after the next JSEP board meeting which will be an important step to ensure that doesn't happen again.
 - That level of leadership is needed to take the board to the next level

- What is currently happening in the schools is still a concern and we will continue to hold MSDEs feet to the fire
- DJS has been making great efforts to work with MSDE and getting the new program set up correctly
- Hiring and maintaining teachers is a concern moving forward
- The new MSDE superintendent seems to be moving in the right direction
- Rosemary King Johnston
 - There are mechanisms in place to hold people accountable now which need to be utilized
- Nick Moroney
 - Good point and chair of new board agrees with those issues and that kids aren't getting what they need at this time
- Sec. Abed
 - DJS shares the same concerns
 - Currently there isn't great access to important data and special education records that would help and we are hopeful that we can speed things up with MSDE
 - Recently DJS did receive additional PINS to have for JSEP staff support to ensure fast and efficient implementation of the education programs
 - Staffing levels are a concern, but we're also confident that with the consolidation of the facilities it will even out nicely
 - It's important to note that DJS is not laying anyone off and our quality assurance process is also mapped out to ensure accountability

V. Good of the Order

Board Members

- ❖ Subcommittee proposal

Jenny Egan

- Jenny Egan '
 - As has been monitored by JJMU and JJRC - DJS behavioral mgmt systems need improvements to provide actual outcomes for youth
 - DJS Case Managers are not required to meet any benchmarks while DSS is
 - There should be standards for adults who serve kids who also have clear standards
 - In addition to the DJS SAB, there are two other groups doing very similar or overlapping work and we should look into how that happened
 - A subcommittee should look at successful aspects of SAB vs. SAG and other groups to see what we could/should be working together on to ensure the highest standards are being implemented and all the groups are being held accountable
 - Purposing best practices subcommittee
- Sec Abed
 - Overall this is something we can work with but there are some concerns
 - For example sharing capital plans can't be done until they are reviewed and approved by the Governor
 - Jenny Egan - understood, but maybe education on the process and advice given on when to provide input and make recommendations
- Jessica Wheeler
 - GOCCYVS staffs the SAG and there are Federal mandates we need to follow so we need to be mindful of that as well
- Nick Moroney
 - Over the years we've have seen efforts made in these areas but the SAB can look further and report on the findings, but it must be substantive so it pushes towards reform
 - We need people like Jenny Egan and Nate Balis who have national knowledge in this area
- Rosemary King Johnston
 - We can propose that a subcommittee be established and that Jenny Egan chair it because she's in the best position to do so
 - It might need to be divided into sections throughout the course of a year so everyone can look into them and have research to back it up
 - Maybe Jessica Wheeler could serve as chair or co-chair with her extensive SAG knowledge

- Jessica Wheeler
 - I'm happy to contribute
- Sec. Abed
 - Comfortable with the first part regarding looking into the framework and statutory scheme of the SAB and SAG
 - Would like more time to think about the other proposals such as looking into decisional documents
- Rosemary King Johnston
 - The SAB can divide the proposals and approve the first part to investigate the framework and statutory scheme of the various advisory boards / groups in the state as it relates to juvenile justice
 - Motion made by the chair, seconded by Jenny Egan
 - Passed no opposition or abstentions

VI. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings / YouTube Livestream Links:

- 2022
 - 1/18/22 : https://youtu.be/7F-bgYXx_qA
 - 4/19/22 : <https://youtu.be/cpCplT4TGRY>
 - 5/17/22 : <https://youtu.be/k0hsRwf324o>
 - 6/21/22 : <https://youtu.be/RonuW3JSb7w>
 - 9/20/22 : https://youtu.be/_73s_5MsxuM
 - 10/18/22 : <https://youtu.be/rQOee6ZTlsw>
 - 11/15/22 : <https://youtu.be/2mjrBLkVHHc>

Staff Contact: Andrew Tress
 Andrew.tress@maryland.gov
 443-504-4619 (c)