



Successful Youth • Strong Leaders • Safer Communities

State Advisory Board Meeting

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

Annapolis DJS Office
49 Old Solomons Island Rd., Suite 300
Annapolis, MD 21401

Conference Call # (605) 475-4700, Access Code: 300133

Meeting Minutes

Members and Guests Present

Secretary Sam Abed
Gavin Patashnick
Lynn Davis
Rexanah Wyse
Heather Chapman
Albert Zachik
Deborah Grinnage-Pulley
Magistrate Lara Weathersbee (phone)

Betsy Tolentino
Hon. Gary Bair
Capt. Shane Bolger
Nick Moroney
Maurice Vann
Rosemary King Johnston
Melanie Shapiro

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rosemary King Johnston

- Approval of November 21, 2017 meeting minutes

Rosemary King Johnston, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed the board members and guests. The members and guests introduced themselves.

The members reviewed the minutes from the November 21, 2017 meeting. Minor edits were made under item IV “Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Report” and the minutes were approved as amended.

Secretary Abed introduced Gavin Patashnick as the new Director of Policy and Legislation for DJS and Andrew Tress as the new Policy and Legislative Administrator.

II. Department of Juvenile Services Update

Secretary Abed

- Legislative Update

Gavin Patashnick gave a brief legislative update on Senate Bill 91, the only departmental bill submitted for the 2018 legislative session.

Melanie Shapiro briefly discussed HB 122, which changes the sentencing guidelines for defendants who have been previously adjudicated delinquent, and the Governor's gang bill, Senate Bill 198, which adds language for gang related offenses for youths charged as adults. She also mentioned the possibility that Delegate Sydnor may introduce a juvenile jurisdiction bill to address eligibility of crimes that would start in the juvenile system.

Maurice Vann explained that although ACY is not submitting legislation this session, they are closely monitoring juvenile related bills and playing defense on the bills that are introduced.

Secretary Abed discussed the water loss at the Hickey school due to a pipe burst caused by the freezing weather. The facility was able to get water delivered to the facility in trucks until the problem was fixed. Nick Moroney suggested sending the water trucks as soon as possible and not to rely on the city. Secretary Abed explained that he is working with the administration to increase the response time if there is a similar problem in the future. Melanie Shapiro and Nick Moroney explained their concern regarding the timeliness of their notification on the issue. Secretary Abed reinforced that he is doing everything he can to work with the city to prevent and/or address this issue moving forward.

Secretary Abed reviewed the presentation for a briefing to the House Judiciary Committee for the following day, addressing the status and plans for juvenile justice programming and DJS initiatives. He explained that complaints are still trending downward overall, particularly with violent crime, despite recent media coverage that appears to indicate otherwise.

Additionally, the Secretary informed the members that the adult Average Daily Population (ADP) is up due to slow case processing and not because of increases in complaints. This causes issues with educational programming because the current programs are not designed for the extended lengths of stay that are currently being experienced.

The Secretary discussed the Cross-over Youth Practice Model (CYPM) and the planned expansions in programming. Secretary Abed answered questions from Nick Moroney, Heather Chapman, and Judge Bair regarding data, the status of the CYPM in Prince George's County, and the methods used for measuring the results. Maurice Vann added that, at times, it is difficult to control personal motivation.

The Secretary continued his presentation addressing insert title of BHDI here (BHDI) and its challenges. He explained the difficulty of connecting with service providers in local jurisdictions, and noted that DJS is beginning to identify qualified providers. Betsy Tolentino responded to questions from Rexanah Wyse and Heather Chapman as to the status of future program implementation and whether DJS was coordinating with school systems to share resources.

The Secretary explained the creation of the Office of Racial Equality. DJS has developed tools to guide decision-making that are designed to eliminate racial inequality and bias. The Secretary and Betsy Tolentino responded to questions from Rosemary King Johnston and Judge Bair regarding the development of the tool and measuring judicial decisions based on DJS recommendations. Nick Moroney pointed out that case managers need more of a social worker's approach, should be better trained, and suggested that the State create and require case managers to obtain a certification for the care of youth.

The Secretary continued with the presentation, addressing the re-entry strategic plan and its goals which have remained consistent in recent years.

The Secretary explained residential programs: PBIS implementation, ACA accreditation and upgrades to security at Savage Mountain along with organizational changes that have recently been made within the Department.

Finally, Secretary Abed indicated his intention to discuss school start times at the briefing to get the conversation started. He indicated it would drive down crime and there is a body of data and research to support the benefits of adjusting school start times. Judge Bair, Rosemary King Johnston, Melanie Shapiro, Nick Moroney, Lynn Davis and Rexanah Wyse discussed previous barriers and national data indicating the feasibility of a statewide initiative regarding school start times. Lynn Davis and other members requested to see the data and reports that were referenced in the discussion.

Secretary Abed concluded his presentation.

III. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Report

Nick Moroney

Nick Moroney explained that he believes the theme for the briefing would be reform and looking for the strides that have been made and the direction they need to go. He plans to discuss the conditions of confinement, educational programs currently available, and DJS reporting on services for girls which has become a national issue.

Nick Moroney concluded his comments by explaining his belief that there should be an alternative for the small population of girls and that Carter is not the right environment. Also, he is developing their Annual Report which addresses concerns with the shortcomings of the educational system and the Victor Cullen Center. The Annual Report will be available after the legislative session,

IV. New Business

Heather Chapman discussed the four priority areas she has been working on with the federal government for a three-year plan: 1) Aftercare/Reentry 2) Community Based Programming 3) Delinquency Prevention and 4) Juvenile Justice System Improvement. She added that her workgroup is meeting to discuss their draft report and that they are looking to fill three vacancies, two youth seats (one needed that is justice involved) and one law enforcement seat. She is also searching for a DMC coordinator. Secretary Abed recommended looking into the CHOICE program to fill youth vacancies.

A. Review of 2018 Meeting Schedule and Facility Site Visit

Rosemary King Johnston asked for recommendations as to which facility to visit this year for the annual Facility Site Visit. She recommended the Noyes Center in Rockville, explaining it is different than other facilities the Advisory Board members has visited. There were no objections.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is scheduled for April 17th.

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