



Successful Youth • Strong Leaders • Safer Communities

State Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting

October 15, 2019

2:30 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

Minutes

Members and Guests Present:

Sam Abed
Andrew Tress
Rosemary King Johnston
David Johnston
Melanie Shapiro
Debra Grinnage-Pulley
Kathleen Callan
Walidah Yaminah
Nick Moroney
Delegate Robin Grammer

Lara Weathersbee
Judge Bair
Michael Lore
Shane Bolger
Senator Susan Lee
Shanna Wideman
Heather Chapman
James Johnston
Lamar Davis

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rosemary King Johnston.

- Introduction of new member
- Approval of September 17, 2019 meeting minutes

The meeting began at 2:33 pm. State Advisory Board (SAB) members introduced themselves. Rosemary King Johnston acknowledged that we have a new member, Walidah Yaminah and welcomed her to the SAB. The minutes were reviewed and approved.

II. Pathways to Education Subcommittee Update

Andrew Tress

Andrew Tress explained that he is working with DLR to get some formalized training for CMs. Due to the work of the HB1607 workgroup and the upcoming Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC) it is difficult to predict what else can be done at this time. The Subcommittee recommends that education issues being studied by the Subcommittee should be best addressed through the workgroup and the Reform Council. Heather Chapman offered to share some resources for programming designed around the GED that may address issues stemming from the compulsory education law. The ongoing GED issues have been complicated since implementation of the law that changed the compulsory education age. DLR recommended

reviewing the compulsory education law and suggesting changes specific to GED test takers. MSDE requested and was granted a waiver for the JSES schools regarding the age component, and administration of the GED while the youth are in a DJS facility.

Rosemary King Johnston asked if the legislative members of the SAB had any additional comments or information. Del. Robin Grammer expressed his willingness to help and asked for additional information.

Andrew Tress will schedule a meeting with subcommittee and add Walidah Yaminah as a potential new subcommittee member.

III. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Report

Nick Moroney

The JJMU has a draft quarterly report, will send it to DJS soon, and the final version will be made available to the public shortly thereafter. The issue was raised regarding youth in facilities not being granted home passes. Nick Moroney explained it is an issue because the youth are not able to easily transition back to their homes. As another issue, he also mentioned that DJS is imposing a minimum six-month stay at their facilities.

Sec. Abed clarified that DJS does not have a six-month stay policy. The Department is reviewing their current lengths of stay and making recommendations. Although DJS cannot authorize release on its own, it does play a role. Because of the behavioral management system, DJS tries to track progress in programs and place them in facilities or programs that match youth needs. When DJS has youth charged as adults, they can gain levels of improvement and get out into community programs in shorter times. The goal is to correlate recommendations to the appropriate treatment programs. Guidelines are needed to ensure consistency.

Nick Moroney asked Deborah Grinnage-Pulley if the Montgomery County pilot program was happening - meaning has MSDE handed over operational control of the education component to MCPS or is JSES still running it?

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley responded that MCPS hasn't asked for complete control, however, whatever they have requested has been given to them.

Nick Moroney noted that the language in the statute mandates that MSDE hand over control to a local school system and compare operations of each. He posited that if that's not being done then the pilot program is not being implemented in compliance with the statute and the mandate is not being fulfilled.

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley suggested that Nick Moroney have a conversation with MCPS because she cannot dictate their operations.

Nick Moroney responded that the JJMU will weigh in on the report due to the legislature, acknowledge that it's not being done, and doesn't benefit the youth or staff.

Lara Weathersbee weighed in on home passes, acknowledging she feels very responsible for the youth she commits and takes it very seriously. It's surprising that she has no control on when youth are released on home visits, wishes DJS follow the statute, and requested a more uniform process be enacted and communicated.

IV. 2020 Meeting Dates

Andrew Tress

- Date for Facility Tour
- Which Facility?

Andrew Tress notified the SAB that he will propose a schedule, send calendar invitations to the Board, and indicate which dates are available.

Lynn Davis suggested avoiding a January meeting.

V. Fatality Review Subcommittee Update *Rosemary King Johnston / Sam Abed*

- FRS Membership
- FRS Meeting Dates

Sec. Abed discussed that we had a conversation about the Subcommittees membership and judicial representation with Chief Judge Barbera. Both decided to table the issue until more meetings are held before determining whether judicial representation is needed.

Rosemary King Johnston reported that FRS meetings will take place during separate meetings and location, likely at DJS HQ. FRS members were selected.

VI. Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC)

Sam Abed

Rosemary King Johnston provided background on the Council.

Sec. Abed proceeded to explain the membership, adding that the legislature sending their committee chairs sends a strong message to the level of importance this Council. The national experts on the Council are great with strong reputations in juvenile justice and multi-state engagement; including MD. This will help data collection and be a good resource for the technical assistance (TA) provider that is chosen.

As the Chair, Sec. Abed began to explain how he wants the meetings to flow and what subjects he will discuss. There will need to be regional listening sessions held around the state and we hope to utilize local management boards (LMBs) to coordinate ideas and space for meetings.

Andrew Tress explained that the JJRC is in the process of completing a survey to help determine the interests of the council and encouraged the SAB to do the same.

Kathleen Callan asked about working around the legislative session. Sec. Abed explained that the listening sessions will be done during the session and after the first two Council meetings are held. At those meetings, selecting the TA provider will be the primary topic.

Rosemary King Johnston reported that the listening session information will be posted to the DJS website, along with agendas, minutes, etc.

Deborah Grinnage-Pulley asked if meetings will be live streamed.

Sec. Abed responded that, yes, on the MD General Assembly's website.

Good of the order

Sec. Abed –reported that CA just signed a new law regarding school start times, specifically pushing times back for middle and elementary school. This is an initiative he supports and hopes the Council will review.

Judge Bair echoed Sec. Abed’s opinion on school start times.

Adjourned 3:48 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- 2019 – 11/19
- 2020 – 1/21, 4/21, 5/19, 6/16, 9/15, 10/20, 11/17