

# Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee Executive Subcommittee

May 27, 2015

2:30pm – 4:30pm

EOPSS, Transportation Building

## Meeting Minutes

**JJAC Attendance:** Robert Gittens, Chair; Mark Booher, Wes Cotter, Kim Larson (remote participation)

**EOPSS/Other Attendance:** Erin Heaney, Andrew Polk

### Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Chair Gittens Update on Meetings with Stakeholders
4. Diversion Study
5. Juvenile Competency Legislation: Next Steps
6. FFY15 Three Year Plan
  - a. Process for Approval of June 16 Submission
  - b. Review/Brainstorming of Goals, Objectives, Activities, Due Dates, Assignments
7. Updates:
  - a. JJDP – re-authorization v. de-funding
  - b. OJJDP – Senate hearings & related issues
  - c. Effective Police Interactions with Youth Training
  - d. MassCourts
  - e. DMC Assessment Study & Compliance
  - f. Court Holding Facilities
  - g. JJAC Membership & Youth Member Scholarship
  - h. DYS – Formula award for evaluation of CRRC
  - i. Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum
  - j. Potential Implicit Bias Training for Judges

The subcommittee **approved the minutes** of the February 19, 2015 meeting.

Chair Gittens updated the subcommittee on recent **stakeholder meetings** he arranged and participated in. Chair Gittens met with Chief Justice Nechtem. The issues discussed included sight and sound separation problems in the court holding facilities and the JJAC's need to obtain court data. Currently, the MassCourts data system is not functioning adequately to provide important data sets.

Chair Gittens met with the Secretary of Public Safety, Daniel Bennett. He informed the Secretary of the purpose of the JJAC and the issues it works on such as compliance monitoring,

the separation problems in the court holding facilities, and diversion. Also discussed was the issue of recidivism which the Secretary is interested in.

Regarding the **Diversion Study**, Chair Gittens had a phone conversation with the staff of the Essex County District Attorney's Office juvenile diversion program in order to discuss the Diversion Study report and thoughts they have about it. The staff wanted to make clear that they do diversion work though it is not required and that they may suggest some revisions for the report. The subcommittee discussed Adam Foss' work on creating a diversion program for juveniles in Suffolk County and suggested that he be included in discussions regarding the diversion study and how the JJAC should discuss and advocate for diversion in the Commonwealth. There was discussion about to what extent, if any, the study should be revised based on DA suggestions.

Regarding **juvenile competency-to-stand-trial legislation**, Chair Gittens spoke with State Representative Bradley's staff to get an update on the bill. Chair Gittens will reach out to his office again to get information on when there will be a hearing on the bill. Kim Larson will review the latest bill and re-write the testimony the JJAC submitted in the last legislative session to align with the current bill's issues. This issue and a decision as to whether to submit testimony will be put on the agenda of the next JJAC meeting.

The draft **priorities, goals and objectives for the FFY2015 Three Year Plan** were reviewed and discussed. A few slight changes in language were suggested. Overall, the subcommittee is satisfied with the priorities, goals and objectives as written.

The following **updates** were provided:

- ✓ The JJDP Act is up for re-authorization. However, there is also an attempt by some in Congress to de-fund it.
- ✓ There were senate hearings on matters occurring at OJJDP including concerns with compliance related issues and retaliation against whistleblowers who claim some states have not been held out of compliance when they should have been.
- ✓ The Effective Police Interactions with Youth Training was held in April. A training of trainers will take place this summer.
- ✓ The problems with MassCourts have resulted in a delay with regard to the DMC assessment study and could threaten compliance with the DMC core requirement of the JJDP.
- ✓ Erin Heaney has been working on contracting with the Executive Office of the Trial Court to begin remedies regarding separation problems in the court holding facilities.
- ✓ Erin Heaney has been working on the process of getting new JJAC members and suggests that the JJAC offer a scholarship for youth members to help pay for school-related expenses (e.g. buying books).
- ✓ The JJAC is using left-over FY12 Formula Grant funds to pay for an evaluation of DYS's Central Region Reception Center.
- ✓ There was an update on the purpose and work of the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum.

- ✓ EOPSS is waiting to hear from the EOTC regarding potentially funding implicit bias training for judges.
- ✓ There was discussion about pending juvenile record expungement bills and the potential for the JJAC to provide testimony. Kim Larson is aware of the bills and will work on providing educational materials for the subcommittee and JJAC to refer to.

Meeting adjourned.

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes, Priority Area Goals/Objectives, DMC Goals/Objectives