

# Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee Executive Subcommittee

April 6, 2017

10:00am – 12:00pm

EOPSS, Transportation Building

## Meeting Minutes

### Agenda

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Approve Minutes
3. Discuss Juvenile Justice Bills & Possible Testimony
4. Finalize Three Year Plan Objectives and Activities
5. Approve Annual Report

**JJAC Attendees:** Robert Gittens, Chair; Dr. Mark Booher, Wes Cotter, Dr. Kimberly Larson, Cecely Reardon

**EOPSS Attendees:** Angela Davis, Doug Levine, Andrew Polk, Kevin Stanton,

**Other Attendees:** Sana Fadel (CfJJ), Naoka Carey (CfJJ)

**Handouts:** Agenda, Minutes, Juvenile Justice Bills Topics, Potential Priority Area Objectives and Activities, Annual Report

The subcommittee **approved minutes** from the preceding meeting.

The subcommittee discussed **pending bills** and identified potential issues to consider submitting **testimony** on:

- Hearings on the juvenile justice related bills could start as early as May 2017
- Data Collection Bill:
  - Intended to codify the collection of comprehensive and reliable data sets from juvenile justice stakeholders
  - In part, to ensure the collection of race and ethnicity data necessary for identifying disparities and reporting to OJJDP
  - This year's version of the bill contains language on the creation of a policy and data commission which one member expressed concern about
  - The subcommittee recommended to EOPSS to consider supporting JJAC testimony on this issue
- Sealing an Expungement of Juvenile Records:
  - OGR will forward EOPSS last year's testimony on this issue in order for EOPSS to consider whether to support JJAC testimony on this issue again
- Diversion:

- The bill would establish the ability of judges to divert cases under certain circumstances
- The subcommittee decided to table this issue for further discussion with the full committee
- School-based Arrests:
  - There are multiple bills on this issue
  - One element is that public disorder offenses (e.g. disturbing school assembly) would be decriminalized in order to decrease school-based arrests
  - Also, language would make it more difficult for school resource officers get involved in discipline issues unless criminal behavior is involved
  - The subcommittee recommends more research into best practices on this topic
- Expanding Juvenile Court Jurisdiction to Age 21:
  - There are multiple bills
  - The rate at which the expanded ages would be phased in varies
  - These proposals could have significant ramifications for DYS
  - No states have juvenile court jurisdiction for as high an age as 21
  - The subcommittee expressed some concern about the mixing of young adults with younger juveniles
- Raising the Lower Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction to 12:
  - Last year DYS had no committed youth who were under 12
  - There tend to be racial and ethnic disparities at the lower ages
  - Concerns about finding appropriate DCF placement for child welfare youth have been and continue to be addressed such that it is not as big problem
  - The subcommittee has no recommendation on this issue
- Shackling and “Solitary Confinement”:
  - This bill would codify current court and DYS policies
  - DYS does not use solitary confinement
- Romeo and Juliet:
  - This bill would decriminalize statutory rape for young people who are within certain age ranges of each other
  - The subcommittee has no recommendation on this issue
- Juvenile Competency to Stand Trial:
  - OGR will forward last year’s testimony to EOPSS to consider whether to allow similar testimony on the issue in the current session
- Parent-Child Privilege:
  - This bill proposes that juveniles be protected from parents and siblings being called as witnesses against them unless they are the victim in the case
  - The subcommittee recommends considering testimony on this issue
- Restorative Justice:
  - This bill would encourage research into and increased practice of restorative justice

The subcommittee briefly discussed the draft of the Annual Report for which there were some minor edits suggested.

There was insufficient time to discuss the drafted Three Year Plan objectives and activities in detail. JJAC members were given the chance to make suggestions via email.

The meeting was adjourned.