

**Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee**  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
Office of Grants and Research  
Boston, MA  
April 14, 2015  
2:00-5:00 pm

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Members In Attendance:** Bob Gittens, Chair; Cecely Reardon, Vice Chair; Reynolds Graves; Jeffery Butts; Wes Cotter; Robert Kinscherff; Peter Forbes; Glenn Daly.

**EOPSS Staff:** Ellen Frank, Andrew Polk, Erin Heaney.

### ***Proposed Agenda:***

1. *Welcome and Introductions*
2. *Finalize Three Year Plan Priority Goals and Objectives*
3. *Brainstorm Three Year Plan Actions Steps, Assignments and Timeline*
4. *Assign Priorities to Subcommittees*
5. *Assign JJAC Members to Subcommittees*
6. *Updates*
  - a. *FY12 Formula Grant funds – short term project*
  - b. *Open Meetings Law and Remote Participation*
  - c. *Compliance and Court Holding Facilities*
  - d. *MassCourts & DMC*
  - e. *Diversions Study*
  - f. *Effective Police Interactions with Youth Training*
7. *Other Business and Announcements*

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Bob Gittens opened the meeting.

### **2. Finalize Three Year Plan Priority Goals and Objectives**

The group discussed that OJJDP has yet to release the solicitation for the Three Year Plan. A handout of a draft of Three Year Plan Priorities, Goals and Objectives with suggested revisions from Robin Jenkins was provided to the JJAC members. Members in attendance are asked to look over Robin's suggestions. Noted below are the ideas discussed for each JJAC Priority and its related goals and objectives.

#### ***Separation from Adult Inmates***

No concerns were identified with this Priority's objectives. (This issue is being handled in a working group collaboration of stakeholders including the Executive Office of the Trial Court, the Division of Capitol Asset Management and Maintenance, EOPSS, the JJAC and DYS).

### ***Juvenile Justice Data***

R. Jenkins suggested advocating for a integrated juvenile data system for the Commonwealth; the JJAC realizes that this is not feasible within the next three years. The Commonwealth has been working on the MassCourts data system for a several years. Problems have been encountered in operationalizing MassCourts. As an alternative for Robin's proposed solution, the JJAC members brought to light the already existing data systems. The JJAC could harness what is already being done, and identify what is working and what isn't working. What pockets of activity already exist, how do we harness the activity?

The members discussed that objectives 1-4 in the plan seem realistic for the JJAC. In the future OJJDP might be looking to the JJAC for some accountability on DMC data. The DMC assessment study is reliant on data that currently cannot be extracted from MassCourts. Chair Gittens will have a meeting with Chief Justice Nechtum regarding MassCourts and race and ethnicity data collection issues. Can the JJAC identify what has been done, and what is missing? What is our ability to identify the primary and secondary sources of data? If the primary source is lacking, can we get the missing data on the secondary sources? The JJAC can figure out the scope before implementing an actual dashboard and or data system.

The group discussed that the federal landscape is currently data driven, which is a consistent notion from past years. Chair Bob Gittens is meeting with the EOPSS Secretary on May 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the work of the JJAC. The JJAC can use the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum to assist with the JJAC's goals regarding data.

### ***Trauma-Informed Practices***

The group discussed if it was appropriate to include the child welfare system in regards to trauma-informed goals and objectives. There is already a statewide trauma network; each agency (state agency) is participating. It is focused on the reduction of isolation (room confinement and restraints). It would be good to establish a website that can be a resource for trauma-informed practices and related issues.

### ***Juvenile Competency***

The group agreed upon the goal. The JJAC has been working on this issue (specifically K. Larson) and submitted written testimony for last session's bill. There is now a bill proposed in the current legislative session. There will be follow up with K. Larson regarding the status of the proposed bill. The group suggested to revise the language based on what K. Larson thinks is feasible.

### ***Juvenile Diversion***

Chair Gittens has had conversations with the Essex County DA's Office about the Juvenile Diversion Study and will be meeting Ruth Budelman to further

discuss concerns they have with the study. The JJAC will consider the possibility of releasing the report at an event co-sponsored by the Essex DA.

***Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)***

(The DMC Subcommittee is overseeing this priority).

**3. Brainstorm Three Year Plan Actions Steps, Assignments and Timeline**

*A motion was made to authorize the Executive Subcommittee to finalize goals and objectives. The motion was seconded and approved by all 8 members in attendance.*

**4. Assign Priorities to Subcommittees**

The Compliance Subcommittee will work on the Separation priority. The DMC Subcommittee will work on the DMC and Data priorities. The Best Practices Subcommittee will work on the Competency, Trauma and Diversion priorities. G. Daly will take the lead on juvenile data and work on it within the DMC Subcommittee

**5. Assign JJAC Members to Subcommittees**

(See sign-up sheet).

**6. Updates:**

- a. **FY12 Formula Grant funds** – DYS will receive \$25,000 to support an evaluation of their Central Region Reception Center. Chair Gittens will be speaking to Judge Nechtum regarding the possibility of funding an implicit bias training for judges.
- b. **Open Meetings Law and Remote Participation** – A related form that needs to be completed by JJAC members was handed out. There was discussion about the use of remote participation during future meetings.
- c. **Compliance and Court Holding Facilities**- OJJDP might give us a one month extension for compliance monitoring site visits. We are still waiting on clarification regarding the changes of interpretation to the jail removal and separation core requirements in regards to how detention is defined. FY 11-FY12 Formula Grant funds will be mainly utilized for equipment to assist with the sight and sound projects at the problematic court houses. There is \$327,000 available in JABG funding, and the state will be supplying \$900,000 to finish these projects as well as start the other projects with a feasibility study.
- d. **MassCourts & DMC** - discussed above
- e. **Diversion Study** - discussed above

- f. **Effective Police Interactions with Youth Training** - The training date is April 30<sup>th</sup>. It will consist of a one day training, and will be followed by a three day training of trainers in the next few months. The purpose is to teach the participating officers about adolescent development, cultural competence and implicit bias.

## **7. Other Business and Announcements**

The meeting was adjourned.