**Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee**

May 19, 2016

2:00pm – 5:00pm

EOPSS, Transportation Building

**Meeting Minutes**

**JJAC Member Attendance:** Chair Robert Gittens, Vice Chair Cecely Reardon, Michele Arroyo, Mark Booher, Jeff Butts, Wes Cotter, Kanchana Fernando, Commissioner Peter Forbes, Elizabeth Jackson, Kimberly Larson, Adam Foss (by phone),

**EOPSS:** Angela Davis,Ednei Furtado, Andrew Polk, Undersecretary Jennifer Queally, Kevin Stanton

**Guests:** Anthony Bell

**Agenda**

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Overview of JJAC Purpose and Priorities
3. Approve Minutes
4. Three Year Plan Update
5. Updates/Discussion re Work Plan Priorities
   1. Court Holding Facilities
   2. Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)
   3. Data
   4. Trauma-Informed Practices
   5. Juvenile Competency
   6. Diversion
6. Other Updates:
   1. Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Annual Conference
   2. JJAC Membership
   3. State Legislation
   4. Compliance Monitoring
   5. Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum
   6. JJAC-DYS Leadership Training Series
   7. Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

**Handouts:** Agenda, Minutes, Work Plan

Chair Gittens opened the meeting with a **welcome** to the new JJAC members in attendance.

Chair Gittens provided an overview of the **purpose of the JJAC** for the benefit of the new members. The overview included discussion of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act), the role of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the role of state advisory groups such as the JJAC. The core requirements of the JJDP Act were explained as was the Commonwealth’s current non-compliance with the Separation from Adult Inmates core requirement, including the effect of the non-compliance penalty. Andrew Polk discussed the JJAC’s role in making Formula Grant sub-award funding decisions.

There was an explanation of the **Three Year Plan** and the role of the JJAC in its development. Mr. Polk is working on this year’s Three Year Plan update to submit to OJJDP on June 1. The priorities outlined in the FY 2015 Three Year Plan will remain the same.

Everyone **introduced** themselves and discussed their jobs and interest in juvenile justice.

The committee **approved minutes** from the March 29 meeting.

Mr. Polk provided an update on his and the DMC Subcommittee’s work on **racial and ethnic disparities** in the juvenile justice system, including in school discipline and school-based arrest. There was a discussion of the meaning and causes of the difference in the rates of involvement between Blacks and Latino youth in comparison to White youth in the juvenile justice system. Mr. Polk reported that the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) is planning its new curriculum for training officers which will likely include significant sections on interacting effectively with juveniles. There was discussion about historic problems in obtaining comprehensive and reliable **race and ethnicity data** – particularly from the police and court – in order to fully comply with the DMC-related requirements of OJJDP. In particular, it is important the Executive Office of the Trial Court (EOTC) have the capacity to complete a DMC assessment study. Failure to complete an assessment study in the near future could result in a finding of non-compliance with the JJDP Act. Mr. Polk informed that committee that the JJAC-DYS Leadership Training Series included a training on implicit bias by national expert, Gregory Parks, and that it was very well received. Mr. Polk also discussed the MASTLE, an objective screening tool to be used by police officers to help them determine whether to arrest a youth during an encounter and/or whether the youth should be referred to mental health or substance abuse counseling, other services or community service.

An update was provided on the **trauma-informed practices** Three Year Plan priority. National trauma expert Jessica Griffin recently presented a training for the JJAC-DYS Leadership Training Series that was very well received by the various stakeholders in attendance. The JJAC will continue to discuss the role it can play to convene stakeholders and foster collaboration on this issue.

An update was provided on the **juvenile competency to stand trial** priority. Several months ago the JJAC provided testimony in relation to a competency bill in the state legislature. There is no update on the status of the bill.

There was a discussion about the **Diversion Study** and the resistance to its release from the District Attorneys.

Ednei Furtado provided an update on the sight and sound separation problems between juvenile and adult detainees in many of the **court holding facilities** in the Commonwealth. Mr. Furtado explained the penalty that has been imposed on the Commonwealth due to its non-compliance with the Separation core requirement of the JJDP Act. He provided information about the efforts that have been - and are being - made to attain compliance. Wes Cotter and Cecely Reardon also provided background on the problem and the complexities and competing interests involved with different potential remedies. Chair Gittens informed the committee that he sent a letter to Chief Justice Carey and Administrator Spence to discuss the matter with them. He has not yet received a reply. In total, there are 37 court holding facilities that are non-compliant. Data on sight and sound violations is being collected by court officers in each facility. This data will need to be submitted to OJJDP in the Annual Compliance Monitoring Report.

Mr. Furtado informed the committee that the **Boston Police Department** will be using District E-5 in West Roxbury to detain all arrested boys and E-6 in South Boston to detain all arrested girls. This should help keep the department in compliance with the sight and sound separation requirement.

Cecely Reardon and Jeff Butts each updated the committee on the **Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Annual Conference** they attended in April. They each gave positive feedback about the conference. Ms. Reardon explained the purpose and activities of CJJ and the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ). Mr. Butts discussed some of the break out sessions he attended at the conference.

Mr. Polk provided brief updates on the status of some of the **juvenile justice bills** in the state legislature.

There was discussion with guest Anthony Bell regarding his perspective on why youth end up becoming involved in gangs and delinquency.

The meeting was adjourned.