

Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

September 3, 2015

2:00pm-5:00pm

EOPSS, Transportation Building

Minutes

In Attendance: *Chair, Robert Gittens; Vice Chair, Cecely Reardon; Mark Booher, Wes Cotter, Peter Forbes, Kim Larson, Reynolds Graves, Adam Foss, Glenn Daly, Lashon Amando, Jeff Butts*

EOPSS Staff in attendance: *Andrew Polk, Erin Heaney, Ednei Furtado*

Guests: *Representative Carolyn Dykema, Jimmy Pereria*

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Gittens called the meeting to order, the members and guests in attendance introduced themselves.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** *a motion was made to approve last meeting's minutes; the motion was seconded and approved by all members in attendance.*
3. **Review and Vote on Testimony and Events re: competency, expungement and omnibus bills:**
 - a. Chair Gittens informed the group that there has been a lot of discussion about the aforementioned bills during the recent subcommittee meetings. Kim Larson drafted testimony (see attached) for both the competency and expungement bills.
 - b. **Competency:** The group discussed the draft of testimony regarding competency. The hearing is scheduled for September 16th and Kim will be there to testify. The group discussed that the bill will most likely pass as the bill is not controversial. Chair Gittens has been in touch with Representative Bradley's office, who supports the bill.
 - c. **Expungement:** Kim drafted testimony for the expungement hearing that highlights what the research says and collateral consequences. Currently there are 5 pieces of expungement legislation pending; all of the pieces raise some questions regarding the implementation. Chair Gittens is unsure about the Administration's position (if they have one at all). The group discussed the pros and cons of the expungement bills and what might be the long term consequences of the bills. The group discussed the long term potential outcomes

for youth. The group noted that if there was an effective “sealing” statute there may be no need for expungement legislation. The group decided to continue the conversation about expungement based off the written testimony provided (see attached). Kim requested for the group to send her comments about the specifics of the testimony and legislation. The group discussed their own personal opinions, regarding the expungement bill. It would be helpful for the JJAC to be aware of the Administration’s stance. ***A motion was made to draft a testimony based on educating the Legislature and after a draft is completed the JJAC will have the opportunity to make edits to the testimony, but ultimately Chair Gittens will have the final approval. A motion was seconded and approved by all members in attendance.***

- d. **Omnibus Bill:** This bill is made up of a lot of different issues that would impact juvenile justice matters. It is likely that the bill will not pass due to a lot of different components in the bill. The JJAC is most concerned about the data piece in which the JJAC supports, as well as the parent-child privilege. ***A motion was made to draft the testimony language regarding the data piece of the omnibus bill with opportunity to friendly amendment. The motion was seconded, all members approved the motion.***
- e. ***A motion was made to approve the competency testimony (attached) and present the testimony at the hearing on September 16. The motion was seconded and approved by all members in attendance.***

4. Review and provide a status updated on the Work Plan Items:

- a. **Court Holding Facilities:** Ednei Furtado (Compliance Monitor) provided an update regarding the ISA between EOPPS and the Court. Ednei gave the group a background of the compliance issues.
- b. **DMC-** Andrew has been doing a lot of research in regards to DMC. The work plan outlines the JJAC’s goals and activities in regards to DMC. If the JJAC does not complete a DMC assessment study shortly, there is a chance the Commonwealth will be held out of compliance with the DMC core requirement. An assessment study has not been completed due to the inadequacies of the Court’s data system. The training of the trainers for police officers will be completed by the end of the month. The three day training covers issues such as implicit bias, adolescent development and cultural competency. Andrew has set up a focus group at Roca in Boston on September 14th at 3pm.
- c. **Diversion Study and Suffolk County Diversion Project-** The Suffolk County DA’s Office, specifically JJAC member Adam Foss, has been working to design a diversion program in Suffolk County. The project has been presented to the DA

d. **Best Practices Subcommittee-** This subcommittee met to identify some background on what trauma informed services are being used throughout the juvenile justice system. The group discussed what is currently being done to address trauma in the system. Boston Public Schools has a new team lead by Carla Estrada to address trauma informed services at BPS. The subcommittee plans to identify coordination between different components of the juvenile justice system that interact with youth and assess whether their efforts are aligned well.

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11. **Membership Issues**: The group discussed membership issues and who may be a good candidate to fill the elected official seat. The JJAC members suggested contacting college programs for potential students that could be youth members.

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes, Draft Testimony, FFY15 Work Plan