

# Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

March 13, 2017

3:00pm – 5:00pm

DYS Leahy Center, Worcester

## Minutes

**JJAC Attendance:** Bob Gittens (Chair), Dr. Mark Booher, Wesley Cotter, Glenn Daly, Margie Daniels, Kanchana Fernando, Commissioner Peter Forbes, Keith Lane, Amanda Moran, Gaetano Mortillaro, Bridgete Mussafer, Cecely Reardon, Janelle Riddley, Alisa Yang.

**EOPSS Attendance:** Andrew Polk, Doug Levine, Kevin Stanton

**Guest Attendance:** Lenny Beatty, Chance Brown, John Flaminic, Lynsey Heffernan, Henry Ramos Child Advocate Maria Mossaides, Josh Dankoff, Sana Fadal

### **Agenda:**

1. Tour of D.Y.S. Leahy Facility, 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
2. Committee Meeting Welcome and Introductions, 3:00 p.m. – Bob Gittens, Chair
3. DYS Presentation – Peter Forbes & Barbara Morton, DYS Regional Director
4. Three Year Plan Priorities – Bob Gittens, Chair
5. Formula Grant AGF – Vote on Program Areas – Andrew Polk
6. Annual Report – Vote to combine 2015/2016 – Bob Gittens, Chair
7. Sub-Committee Membership and Leadership Cultivation – Bob Gittens, Chair
8. Discussion of Juvenile Justice Bills – Bob Gittens, Chair
9. Membership Update – Doug Levine/EOPSS Legal

Between 2:15pm and 3:00pm there was a tour of the DYS Leahy Center.

The meeting began after the tour, with a welcome and introductions.

A **DYS presentation** about the Central Region Reception Center (CRRC) followed the welcome and introductions. Presenters included Commissioner Forbes, other DYS staff, and a former DYS client. The CRRC focuses on identifying low risk detained youth and placing them in foster homes in the community until the completion of their court case. The Detention Placement Instrument (DPI) is used at intake to assess each client's risk level. The CRRC has a high success rate in ensuring that the clients appear in court for all of their court appearances. The clients are able to attend school in the community. Staff visit clients in their foster placements to offer to build relationships and offer support. One of the former clients of the program discussed how important CRRC was in helping him develop relationships with positive adults, stay in school, and learn how to be responsible. The program will likely be replicated in Springfield and Boston.

The committee next discussed the priority areas for the **Three Year Plan** (update). The committee supports maintaining the original FY2015 priority areas: regaining compliance with the Separation from Adult Inmates core requirement of the JJDP, disproportionate minority contact, data collection, trauma-informed practices, juvenile competency to stand trial, and juvenile diversion. Andrew Polk will

email potential ideas for activities regarding each of the priorities and will welcome responses from JJAC members for input on possible activities.

The next topic of discussion concerned which **Formula Grant program areas** to include in the Application for Grant Funds (AGF) that will be released in the Spring. The four options were alternatives to detention, DMC, diversion and systems improvement. For the benefit of the newer JJAC members Mr. Polk described the sub-granting process. Following the discussion, a **motion** was made and passed to accept Formula Grant proposals under the alternatives to detention, diversion and systems improvement purpose areas and use DMC as one of the evaluation criteria for all proposals.

A **motion** was made and passed to combine discussion of activities and accomplishments from years 2015 and 2016 into one **JJAC Annual Report**. Andrew Polk has drafted the report which can be finalized at a later date.

There was a brief discussion and description of the JJAC subcommittees and the desire to increase JJAC member participation.

The pending **juvenile justice bills** in the Legislature were discussed. Wes Cotter expressed concern about the provision of the data collection bill that would create a commission which may give some stakeholders undue influence on juvenile justice data collection and reporting matters. Child Advocate Maria Mossaides supports the bills intent of codifying requirements that ensure adequate and useful collecting and reporting of juvenile justice data to help inform juvenile justice policy. It was decided that a fuller discussion of the bills will be on the next JJAC Executive Subcommittee agenda. The subcommittee - with input from others who attend - will recommend to EOPSS the issues that it would like to draft and submit testimony on. EOPSS can then get guidance and approval from the Governor's Office as to what the JJAC should offer testimony on.

Doug Levine announced that there will be three new members joining the JJAC.

Cecely Reardon announced and described the upcoming Coalition for Juvenile Justice annual conference in June and the potential for JJAC members to attend.

The meeting was adjourned.