



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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MEETING MINUTES
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: January 10, 2023

Time: 11:00AM-1:00PM

Microsoft Teams Virtual Location: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only) [857-327-9245](tel:857-327-9245) **Phone Conference ID:** 340 146 417#

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Peck at 11:10am.

		Present	Absent	Meeting Minutes
1	Chair -Andrew Peck	X		Abstain
2	Scott Taberner	X		X
3	Rep. Sean Garballey		X	
4	Sen. James Eldridge		X	
5	DA Marian Ryan	X		X
6	Allison S. Cartwright	X		X
7	Lorna Spencer		X	
8	Ret. Chief Fred Ryan		X	
9	Diane Coffey	X		X
10	Andrea Berte	X		X
11	Judge Peter Agnes	X		Abstain
12	Kara Hayes	X		X
13	Vacant			
14	Vacant			
15	Dennis D. Evertt Jr.	X		X
16	Susan Jeghelian	X		X
17	Samuel Williams	X		X

EOPSS Staff: Anjeza Xhemollari **OGR Staff:** Elizabeth Flynn

2. Welcome

Chairman Andrew Peck welcomed all Committee members and attendance was taken.

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 13, 2022

DA Marian Ryan made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes. The motion was second by Kara Hayes. Roll call was taken. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

4. New Member to RJAC

The Chairman introduced Judge Peter Agnes as new member of RJAC. Judge Peter Agnes replaced the seat of Ret. Judge Rosemary Minehan.

Judge Peter Agnes was thrilled to be part of RJAC and talked about a potential Restorative Justice pilot program that the courts might establish by the end of 2023.

5. 2023 Vision and Goals

Chairman Peck opened the conversation with RJAC to brainstorm and collect ideas on what to focus on and accomplish for calendar year 2023.

Denis-How do we become more inclusive all over the state? Our priorities should be standards of restorative justice.

Susan- I agree with Dennis. But before we get to that, we need to create the Office of Restorative Justice to create that vehicle for implementations and standards. For that we will need funding and staffing. We also need to fulfill the vacancies.

Chairman Peck-not sure on what vacancies are unfilled, but please forward all resumes to Anjeza.

Kara-when thinking of our vision, we need to go back to the survey themes, and I am also advocating for the Office of Restorative Justice. We also need new members to participate in new subcommittees. Training in general and meet in person once a year.

Judge Agnes-is RCC submitting a plan on how the inventory will be tracked?

Chairman Peck-We provided the scope of work to them and RCC has updated RJAC on the ongoing work. The project started in September of 2022, and it was implemented into a curriculum. Now they are researching and doing data. We could have RCC present again, and we could set deliverables. Also, I would like to expand funding on system work. How can we offer a grant for system people to be able to get trained as Restorative Justice practitioner? Also, how do we create educational awareness around Restorative Justice? Perhaps a website? Outreach to amplify the work and pushing the brand. These are my thoughts of vision and goals.

We could create the Office of Restorative Justice Subcommittee. Susan, can you Chair that Subcommittee?

Susan-Happy to do it! I will need some help.

Sam-I will support that effort. I agree with building up and creating the inventory. Need to understand the landscape of the Commonwealth. We use different philosophies, and this work is tricky. There are many variations out there. How does it look in the court? How does it look at the school? Or advocacy work? What does it mean to be victim-centered? How do we support it all? Knowledge is key.

Kara-I agree with Dennis and Sam. Victim-Center language is informative and we need to do this the right way!

Chairman Peck-If we expand the grant, we could work with different providers, sheriff, DOC. Small work and track the data and expand on that. Subcommittee to work on grants.

Susan- I like that idea, Andy. We should be very strategic to inform. We could study models within categories to learn and expand. We need core practices and standards. It does not have to be one model. We must allow for ownership and adaptation.

Diane-I agree with Susan. When we talk about the grant and the applications that we reviewed from the FY23, we saw many applications that were very different across the state. We do need some perimeters of what we decide is restorative justice practice. We funded many different applications that might not fit our standards. Perhaps a model that works in rural area, might not work in an urban area.

Sam-I agree with Dennis and Diane, and we need to understand what those variations are. We could have the best model, but the facilitator is critical.

Dennis-If I were to understand standards, I turn to Kara. Do we have enough networks with RJ people to say that this is the state standard?

Kara-This is very critical for the state. Its not gatekeeping. We need to find that balance and navigate with respect. If the trial court is moving in this direction, how do we move forward and be victim centered?

Judge Peter Agnes-The court will need to make decision on standards, and that is why I inquired about the inventory.

Chairman Peck -One of the charges is to create guidelines for Restorative Justice and create appropriate training. Part of the scope of work for RCC is to look at that. Should we have RCC chair that subcommittee on those issues.

Susan-I like the idea. Can they do research and capture some of the training. I like involving RCC and we could help them give some depth and what is being considered.

Dennis-Can we provide even more support to them? Are there any private institution to support them?

Sam-We could do focus groups. We want example form across the state, not just Boston.

Judge Peter Agnes-Standards and Best Practices will be a long process. Focus groups will be a great option. Other institutions might be a good idea to look at. Vermont Law School has a Restorative Justice program. Perhaps reach out.

Andy-That would be great!

Susan-Our office does RJ work. We have a research unit and students could do it for credit.

Judge Peter Agnes-There are so many people to consult with. A subcommittee on best practices is ideal.

Chairman Peck -We talked about a lot of things. We all have full time jobs. One, we could create subcommittee on the grants and expand on what we talked about. Include the schools, post release, law enforcement, courts. Two, create Office of Restorative Justice Subcommittee and three, we look at standards and best practices and have RCC drive that. That is a lot of work right there.

I and Anjeza will be the Chair of RJ Grant. Maybe RCC be Chair on Standards and Best Practices and have members from this committee be part of it.

Susan-Can we talk a little bit more about having them Chair. If they need help, this might be too much. They need to be initiator and driver of the Subcommittee.

Judge Peter Agnes- I agree with Susan and I could help with that if needed.

Dennis-I could help with that as well.

Kara-same here.

Chairman Peck - RCC is already doing the work but maybe it is substantial lift for them. Can we reach out and circle back?

Andy-On the grant expansion, we could draft language.

Diane-Happy to be part of the grant subcommittee in the future.

Susan- I would like to participate as well.

Scott-Will participate in Office of Restorative Justice Subcommittee. Also, following up on everything from this meeting. Should we try to have a place holder on H1? Budget work is a process. Get your foot in the door. Implementation for FY24.

Susan-I could look at the grant language with Scott and Sam.

6. Grant Update

Anjeza provided the grant update. All awardees were notified by the Office of Grants and Research. In total fourteen (14) programs were awarded. A press release will be forthcoming announcing all programs receiving funding.

Dennis- will attend site visits.

7. Public Comment (10 minutes)

Jo-Ann was very exited to hear that the courts were launching a Restorative Justice program within the courts.

Maria D'Addieco echoed on what Jo-Ann talked about and mentioned her work in the federal court system.

8. Open Session for Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 Hours of the Meeting

Diane invited RJAC to participate virtually in MOVA's Workshops for Victim Rights Month. Anjeza to forward information to all members.

9. Adjourn

Meeting ended at 12:45pm.