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NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

Place: Parole Board
 12 Mercer Road
 Natick, MA 01760

Date and Time: March 10, 2020 from 11:00AM-1:00PM

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order

At 11:05 AM, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Spencer Lord. Undersecretary Andrew Peck was unavailable.

	Board Members	Present	Call-in	Absent
1	Chair-Spencer Lord	X		
2	Scott Taberner	X		
3	Rep. Sean Garballey			X
4	Sen. James Eldridge			X
5	Becky Michaels	X		
6	Allison S. Cartwright	X		
7	John Millett	X		
8	Ret. Chief Fred Ryan	X		
9	Stephanie McCarthy (*)	X		
10	Monica Dominique	X		
11	Judge Rosemary Minehan		X	
12	Kara Hayes	X		
13	Carolyn Boyes-Watson	X		
14	Erin Freeborn	X		
15	Cheis Garrus	X		
16	Susan Jeghelian	X		
17	Strong Oak Lefebvre			X

(*) Designee for Diane Coffey

EOPSS Staff:

Anjeza Xhemollari

Others in attendance:

Brenda Nolan, Bernard Nolan, Jo-Ann Della Giustina, Anna Soloman, Mia Lepardo, Haley DeMarino and Stephanie Batista

2. Welcome

Chairman Spencer Lord welcomed Committee members and members of the public.

3. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2020

Meeting minutes were put on hold and new draft will be proposed on April 14, 2020. Susan Jeghelian wanted to include more topics covered in Q & A format after the Rise presentation. A motion was made by Fred Ryan to postpone the approval of the draft meeting minutes. The motion was second by Becky Michaels and approved unanimously.

4. RJAC-Membership Update

Monica Dominique is the new representative for MSA. That seat was previously held by Sheriff Cocchi.

5. RFR and funding update

The Chair informed the Committee that EOPSS was able to repurpose \$100,000 for RJAC purposes. The Chair stated that the money must be spent by June 30, 2020. Committee members were very happy to hear the good news, but worried about timing. Even though the RFR Subcommittee membership has been established, there's not enough time to write the RFR, do the procurement and partner with an educational institution to track the use of community-based restorative justice programs.

Carolyn Boyes-Watson stated that the Committee must review the RFR and vote on it. Next RJAC meeting is scheduled for April 14th. There is a process within universities for responding to RFRs, it could take 3-4 weeks for them to respond, and this will take time to accomplish the right way. Not to rush into this and take our time.

Susan Jeghelian suggested that to eliminate the need for a procurement process, her office (MOPC) housed at UMass Boston could convene a consortium of higher education institutions to do the work and share expertise and leverage additional resources toward this effort. The Chair responded by saying that her office could apply for it and follow the process.

Scott Taberner asked if EOPSS could ask A&F to carry over the money until next year. The Chair wasn't sure if that was an option but suggested that someone from EOPSS could attend the next meeting and provide clear guidance on fiscal.

Erin Freeborn asked if there was any update from Senator Eldridge requesting \$120,000 from the Legislature. The Chair didn't have an update at that time but was going to look into it. During the meeting Erin checked in with Senator Eldridge via email and confirmed that he intended to file an earmark in the FY21 state budget.

In the end, the RFR Subcommittee decided to meet sooner rather than later in developing the RFR. The RFR must be done regardless. EOPSS legal needs the RFR by April 3, 2020 to review and convey any changes to the committee prior to voting on it. RFR Subcommittee members are Carolyn, Cheis, Kara, Strong Oak, Scott, Becky and Rep. Garballey.

6. Rescheduling of May 12, 2020 meeting

Anjeza indicated that May 12th meeting was going to be rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts within EOPSS and that she would send out a Doodlepoll.

7. Presentation by Molly Baldwin, Founder & Chief Executive Officer of ROCA “A community response to restorative justice: a 20 Year Journey!”

Molly Baldwin, Scott Scharffenberg and Sotun Krouch started the presentation by focusing on the history of peacemaking circles. What they have learned about circles from Tagish Tlingit First Nations people and how they have incorporated their methods into alternative place for communication.

The presenters talked about the Medicine Wheel, the wheel of introduction, building trust, talking about issues and solving solutions. It is about learning a way to be and change to be our best selves.

ROCA started in February of 2000, at that first circle, they begged people to come in and participate. The first circle had 40+ participants. The circle included, police, probation, community partners, staff, judges, priests and young people.

Molly Baldwin indicated that some people thought we had lost our minds and gone too far off the edge. The plan was to get 200+ people in circle trainings within the first 2 years and that was accomplished. The circles were held morning, noon and night. Molly indicated that they have had over 1,000 circles with thousands of people now-young people, families, partners-police, probation, judges, business people, Governor, legislators, etc. Molly stressed out that the circles tend to address conflict, healing, leadership, organizational development, safety, harm, trauma and relationship building.

Molly talked about pending legislation to use restorative justice in the courts. She talked about how Chelsea Schools are using circles to prevent gang violence and all of the staff who decided to get trained. Molly explained on why circles work. They work because they are safe, democratic, everyone is equal, and everyone counts. People love being listened to and people love listening. Molly also talked about the brain science and behavioral health aspect of rebuilding neural pathways to the brain.

8. Addressing the memo of Carolyn Boyes-Watson and Susan Jeghelian, RJAC Members

Finally, the memo that's been on the agenda countless times comes to light! The Committee was able to address the memo of Susan and Carolyn about the RJAC role and priorities and speak freely on what each member wanted to see come out of Restorative Justice. A talking piece circle was applied, and Carolyn led the circle.

Carolyn- what is our role? We are advising not regulatory. Are we cheerleaders for RJ? That will inform us on what we want on this. Educative function. Influence policy makers.

Scott- short window to spend the money. What will happen with the information that we gather here in 2-4 years. This advisory is for 6 years. Are there any additional resources? What is our business/operational plan?

Erin- what's the sunset prevision-does it end in 6 years? Come up with a plan. We have a momentum. Do we do this in waves. Are we touching the courts, schools?

Spencer-business plan/operation. Funding next year. Look at our legal mandate on what we are required to do.

Becky- make connections. What happens after 6 years? Look at our mandate.

Fred- definitions and statutory mandate of what we need to do.

Kara- we cannot forget to add DATA. It makes us look serious. We do a lot of talking and no acting.

Cheis- echoing on what most of what everyone is saying. Stick to the statutory mandate. Create a partnership with an educational institution to give us capacity.

John-in 2 years I haven't said much in here but now we are expending VWA within the probation department and circle training.

Anjeza- I'm here to work and help out with the committee.

Monica- I worked on the funding subcommittee, so maybe we could look at that when we write the RFR.

Allison- happy we received funding. Now let's get to work.

Stephanie-designee for Diane Coffey. Echo on the statistics.

Susan-we need the people to give us data. Needs to be secured. Demonstrate the need.

9. Public Comment (10 minutes)

Members of the public were satisfied with the progress being made.

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

N/A

11. Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:01 PM.