



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
One Ashburton Place, Room 2133
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Tel: (617) 727-7775
TTY Tel: (617) 727-6618
Fax: (617) 727-4764
www.mass.gov/eops

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

THOMAS A. TURCO, III
Secretary

MEETING MINUTES
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: May 11, 2021

Time: 11:00AM-1:00PM

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

Or call in (audio only) 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 11:05am.

		<u>Video/Call</u>	<u>Absent</u>
1	Chair- Andrew Peck	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	Diane Coffey	X	
10	Mary Quinn	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

EOPSS Staff: Anjeza Xhemollari, Arielle Mullaney and EOPSS interns Katie Queally

Others in attendance: Over 5+ members of the public attend the open meeting.

2. Welcome

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

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2021

Roll call was taken to approve the meeting minutes. All present members voted in favor to accept the meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Update from the Planning Subcommittee

Becky Michaels provided an update from the Planning Subcommittee since Strong Oak could not attend the full Committee meeting. She indicated that all subcommittee members were present and about 5-6 community members. The most discussed topic was short-term and long-term goals from RJAC and hearing from community members about how RJAC can support them on the short-term and long-term goals. This conversation will continue into the next meeting.

The Planning Subcommittee also talked about reaching out to the respondents who completed the survey and have them attend future meetings.

In whole, the subcommittee talked about the importance of educating the public about restorative justice and making sure the broader MA community understands what restorative justice is. Overarching theme that came up. We talked about the need for some potential legislative changes to the RJAC and restorative justice laws, especially looking at the voting members on this committee. We will be diving into the same things at our next meeting to enable that process to continue.

Chairman Peck- I was just going to ask if the education campaign would include other system actors and folks from the education world and folks from the criminal justice system.

Becky Michaels- Yes, one of the issues we started to talk about at the end of the meeting was the idea of when we talk about community each one of us means a different community. Communities of people and communities of people who work in law enforcement and understanding what restorative justice is. Restorative justice is not the easy way out, but can more intensive way of repairing harm. Helping police officers understand that is critical to the success of enhancing and expanding restorative justice in the commonwealth.

Chairman Peck: Is there a way that you could address the work of law enforcement and incorporate the work of restorative justice, in terms of communication and maybe de-escalation skills. I am not sure if that applies or not?

Carolyn Boyes-Watson-I want affirm what Andy just said. Which is that there are enormous possibilities as well as things going on which aim to bring restorative approaches to police themselves and do the work with them that shows them how this work shows up in their everyday duties. Definitely an area of activity and a lot of scope for that.

Becky Michaels- I think Carolyn's point is very important and we as a committee can look at that, and learning what restorative justice is and participating in circles. I think officers can be transformed in this process.

Scott Taberner- I was thinking about one of the other committees I sit on. The community policing and advisory health council, and I am thinking about what Becky is describing and what we are hearing as a universal endorsement of training regarding restorative justice in police training and thinking that this is something where these two groups may be able to come together and work together. Having restorative justice concepts put more on the forward. Just a thought. I think trying to bring the training council to come into contact here might be very helpful.

Erin Freeborn- Are there individuals from that committee that we could invite to our subcommittee meeting?

Chairman Peck- I will make those connections.

5. Update from the Questionnaire Subcommittee

Kara Hayes provides an update on the Questionnaire Subcommittee. The subcommittee is looking to set up the next meeting. Kara states that it has been a slow process to connect with community and programmatic physicians of restorative justice. We have about 20+ responses. That might mean we have enough resources to have a conversation about deepening that part two of what the next structure of what that survey process might look like. We are kind of at that junction. I did want to let the committee and the public know that I am having surgery a week from Friday and will be out of commission intermittently for about 4 weeks.

Carolyn Boyes-Watson- Talked about connecting with practitioners who responded to the survey. She also stressed out the importance of the full committee to discuss next steps.

Erin Freeborn- I think it is important to spend time in the larger committee having these conversations. Now that we have some people that we know to be in conversation with and that big next question of what would we like to speak with them about or what would we like to ask them so that we can set our priorities for what we are going to accomplish as a committee and how.

Kara Hayes- I would suggest that we add this to the next meeting agenda. To have that conversation. I would encourage members of the committee who are not members of the subcommittee to come. Making that push to members of the public here to share this widely. Drilling down to these pieces in our first few meetings. What we are trying to build as community connections, that we can assist them with and what do we want to learn. A very crucial conversation to have.

Erin Freeborn-I think that is a great idea. You had referenced part two. Has the survey subcommittee had a conversation yet about what that would be?

Kara Hayes- No, because we have about 20+ responses. We were working on getting the data together.

James Eldridge: Great conversation. Just wanted Anjeza to know I was here as well.

6. Public Comment (10 minutes)

Anjeza: Anyone from the public? I do not see any hands up. No participation

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

Chairman Peck- Any topics folks need to bring up. Well, as I said last month's meeting was tough to follow. This was a quick meeting. Motion to adjourn?

Scott Taberner- One related topic from last month's meeting, I think we heard that Framingham had a restorative justice group of women that were working and maybe we could invite them to an upcoming meeting and would be helpful to learn what their efforts are and what levels of support we might be able to incorporate there as well.

Chairman Peck -Yes for sure. We will look into it.

8. Adjourn

Meeting ended at 11:38am