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MEETING MINUTES
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: June 8, 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.

		Video/Call	Absent
1	Chair-Andrew Peck	X	
2	Scott Taberner	X	
3	Ryan Fraser*	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

*Designee for Rep. Sean Garballey

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 May 11, 2021

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

4. Update from the Planning Subcommittee

Becky Michaels provided the update. Becky indicated that all subcommittee members were present at the meeting and five members of the public who filled out the survey. Becky stated most of the time is spent discussing the circle process and at times it can be difficult to have a discussion and not to be able to address the topic anymore. The subcommittee discussed the possibility of including more people from the community and to ensure there are more people of color on the committee. The subcommittee wanted to discuss with the full committee what kind of legislation change would need to change the makeup of the committee. To make sure that the right people are at the table and that is something that needs to be addressed. Also, another thing that came up was mandatory reporting. Lots of concern about mandatory reporting rules that prevent some people from participating in restorative justice because anything they say may be reported. Strong Oak wanted to talk about this, but since she is not present, we should table the discussion.

Erin- The only other thing I want to add is that it was successful for EOPSS to invite members that filled out the survey to attend the planning subcommittee meeting. I request we continue that process for a few cycles because it has helped connecting with the community.

Becky- The fact that when each of us talk about educating the community we talk about different communities.

Mary- We spent time talking about the education piece- also talking about the vast network of people- who does the teaching- where do they live and where do they come from- law enforcement is one group of people we want involved in the education.

Sen. James Eldridge- It is certainly possible to change the membership. It is possible and usually what happens is that it is just attached to a budget or something that is already going to happen, so it is already a moving vehicle. If there is a consensus, I am happy to work on that. I think there is a six-year term. And more likely that not after these six years it would probably dissolve.

Erin-What is the timeline for the next opportunity for changing the member makeup?

Sen. James Eldridge- Hopefully finalizing the FY 2021-22 right now so then another supplemental budget for the summer and probably the fall so I don't know if it is something for the fall maybe if we can reach agreement before that.

Susan- I missed the last meeting but when talking about the broad mission, is it training but also outreach and public awareness? Have you defined what public awareness is or is that going to be taken up at the next meeting?

Becky- I think it will be more about public education but one area of community that could really benefit from is to educate the police community and law enforcement community about restorative justice.

Peck- I am thinking we need a strategic plan. How can we identify the groups we want to identify and then what is the educational piece of this? I think ultimately if we want change, we must build it into the fabric and that comes from the SOPs and regulations and things like that. So how do we do that?

Susan- Also thinking about interest. And participants and people are also audiences. It is also people who are impacted by it and we want to engage and represent them as well.

Peck- it is really incorporating those processes into these things. But it does not have to be a circle, right? Am I on track there?

Erin- Yes, I think so. Circles are just one process but also based on the practices of restorative principles.

Scott- As you are aware I co-chair the community behaving health advisory council and we could use that because there are three police chiefs representing small, medium, and large departments. So, I think looking for those opportunities to cross reference and educate other entities and trying to bring RJ principles to those groups I think they would be very respectful. Also just wanted to let you know that Laura Prescott is here today as another voice of restorative justice. Building out from this core group makes a lot of sense.

Peck- I agree Scott. Does anyone know if there are models in education in our schools and stuff?

Erin- I know that it is happening at all grade levels but not consistently. It is in pockets and finding those pockets and connecting them is an important task we have ahead of us with the survey respondents.

Peck- Is it the system? Is RJ in the context of the system responding to behavior or things that occur?

Erin- It can be. I think each school implements it to various levels. They want to bring it in as a response but then also realize that they need to build it as a foundation. A wide variety.

Peck-Is there a curriculum they follow?

Erin- I can't speak for Suffolk, Carolyn is teaching there. Pathways to Restorative Community have created a manual that they use and come in and do a lot of training, but it does turn into a coaching and implementation structure.

Peck- I am not sure if it is even possible but maybe creating curriculum that teaches kids at a very young age about restorative justice and practices. Socializing in that way as they grow into adolescent years. I think it might be effective.

Erin- I wanted to take this opportunity to look at one of our legislation recommendations that look at school education. This should be expanded and discussed. A group of advocates would need to advance for school legislation. I wanted to throw that out there that it could be one of our legislations in the end of the year report. To focus on schools.

Diane- We sent the survey out and one of the other things we have discussed is that we would be willing to work with the committee to host webinars or forums to introduce restorative justice to the border victims community. The group is about 16,000 victim survivors and other general members of the public. I just want to throw that out there and be there for support and discussion.

Becky- I think that is a great idea. Thank you for that offer. In the Northwestern DA's office we have been working with Erin and with every case that gets referred I am working with an advocate and some of the advocates are already very aware of restorative justice and others have never heard about it before. I think it would be great to do that. One question I have is doing a training like that but then not having something after? If we do that training for advocates but then we don't have anything to say or to do about it I wonder about where that training would lead to and whether we would need to determine if there are programs that could be used in their areas or the practical side of it?

Erin- It would be great if EOPSS sponsors a conference to focus on restorative justice.

Mary- I appreciate the organic point Diane made. I think this has the potential to see what happens and what happens next. That would be a hope I have. Keep thinking and planning and learning what the next step is.

5. Update from the Questionnaire Subcommittee

None of the members from the subcommittee were present at the meeting. Anjeza provided the update. She indicated that the subcommittee is scheduled to meet on June 22, 2021 from 11-12.

6. Full Committee discussion on next phase of the survey

This item was added to the agenda from a previous discussion. The committee must decide on the next phase of the survey. Since none of the members from the Questionnaire Subcommittee were present this item will be featured at the next meeting.

7. Review of Mandated Reporting

Arielle provided an update. The mandated reporting commission has a meeting tomorrow, June 9th from 10-12. The commission is under the office of child advocates. It is not an EOPSS board so as far as actually being able to provide updates on next step and what is happening, I don't have as much insight as I could have but they do have a website online with all of their agendas posted and all their meetings are open to the public and they are reviewing recommendations to any updates to the law. They have not filed any actual formal updates yet. Their 2020 December report called for the public to provide updates to them. They held two public hearings so they have been meeting to discuss the public comments and they are all open to the public and anyone can attend. I wanted to welcome you all to attend and participate in the meetings as much as possible.

Becky-Is there a new area of mandatory reporting passed? Is there anything new that has impacted restorative justice?

Arielle- My understanding is that nothing has been filed at this time, just a public comment period at this time where they asked for feedback and recommendations. But my understanding is that nothing has been filed at this time.

Allison- One of my primary concerns has been the issue surrounding mandating reporting. I am going to try to attend this so I can get more information. I am going to try to attend, so thank you.

Becky- And if anyone goes, can they bring back anything they learn please.

Arielle- all the written comments that were submitted are available on their website.

Erin- Can you either today or in the future give us an overview of who is required to be a mandatory reporter?

Arielle- yes, at a future meeting.

8. Public Comment (10 minutes)

Jill- I just wanted to emphasize and support the notion of making this entire process organic and reviewing the language of the legislation in general. I am glad the committee is open to these ideas and I can see a different approach being taken and that is good to hear.

Kathy- I just want to reiterate having more voices and who is at the table and part of the discussion. Having some people and those voices heard. I do not know if there is a way to make sure that more voices and voting members are included.

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

John- I just wanted everyone to know that I am retiring at the end of the month so this will be my last meeting. Thank you for having me on this committee.

lots of people congratulating John

Peck- John, has been an amazing asset to all the work we do. Thank you very much for your very long and dedicated service to the commonwealth.

10. Adjourn

Meeting ended at 12:14pm