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NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

Place: The McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place
21st Floor, Conference Room # 1
Boston, MA 02108

Date and Time: September 10, 2019 from 11:00AM-1:00PM

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order

At 11:21am, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Peck.

	Board Members	Present	Absent
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	Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi	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	

*Sen. James Eldridge arrived at 11:44 and left at 12:35

EOPSS Staff:

Anjeza Xhemollari, Spencer Lord, Michaela Martini

Others in attendance:

Monica Dominique, Mary Quinn, Bernard Nolan, Brenda Nolan, Jo-Ann Della Giustina and Kathryn Combs

2. Welcome

Board Members went around the room introducing themselves. Chairman Andrew Peck introduced himself as the new chair of the Advisory Committee.

2. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 11, 2019

Susan Jeghelian asked that the draft minutes from June 11, 2019 reflect the inquiry regarding the Open Meeting Law made by a member and raised with former Chair Jennifer Queally. Special Counsel Spencer Lord mentioned that Review of Open Meeting Law was set on the agenda to be discussed later in the meeting and that he would be happy to address any questions raised by Committee members relative to the Open Meeting Law. The motion was made by Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi to approve the draft meeting minutes pending the edits. The motion was second by Erin Freeborn and carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

3. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from “Determining the Scope Subcommittee” on July 29, 2019

Becky Michaels asked that the sentence on page 2, section 2 wording “not to create new ones” should be taken out because the sentence doesn’t make sense. She also stated that on page 2, section 7 wording “and to broaden the use of restorative justice” should also be taken out because the sentence doesn’t make sense. Strong Oak pointed out that was talked about at the meeting and that’s why it was included in the meeting minutes. With that being said, a motion to approve the meeting minutes was made Senator James Eldridge. The motion was second by Carolyn Boyes-Watson and carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

4. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from “First Meeting- The Funding Subcommittee” on July 22, 2019

Susan Jeghelian had a few edits to these minutes. On page two, she asked that under #4, the “2020 budget” be changed to the “2020 supplemental budget”. Also, she asked that in #5, “community mediation center” be changed to “community-based restorative justice programs”. Lastly, she asked that on page 4, under office, “mediation funding” be changed to “restorative justice funding”. Lastly, she asked that new “building” be changed to new “office”. Erin Freeborn made a motion to accept the changes to the minutes. Susan Jeghelian seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from “Second Meeting- The Funding Subcommittee” on August 19, 2019

Susan Jeghelian raised a few small edits to the minutes. One was to have (on page 2 section 5) the word “border” be changed to “other” when referring to states. The other edit she raised was to have in the middle of page 3, the word “database” be changed to “inventory”. Lastly, she asked that “budget” be changed to “Criminal Justice Reform Act legislation”. Allison Cartwright made a motion to approve the draft minutes with those edits. The motion was second by Erin Freeborn. All voted in favor and the motion carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

6. Review of Open Meeting Law

Susan Jeghelian asked for clarification on whether or not the Restorative Justice Coalition of Massachusetts could speak with members of the Committee outside of an open meeting. Spencer Lord responded in saying that discussion of committee business could be considered deliberation which is against the spirit of the open meeting law. There was some discussion around circulating Committee documents to members of the public. Spencer explained that members of the public who wish to obtain materials that are in the possession of the Committee should request them through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and obtain them through traditional means (after they become public record). Susan also stated that she believes the public comment period in which members of the Committee are not allowed to engage with members of the public is overly restrictive. Spencer Lord clarified that the open meeting law prohibits Committee members respond to

members of the public but that members of the Committee can take issues that public members raise as discussion points for a later meeting or agenda item.

7. Discussion on Database and guidelines for inventory

The board had a short discussion on database and guidelines for inventory on all Restorative Justice programs in the Commonwealth. The board decided that it was too early to decide on guidelines and/or establishing a database at this point.

8. Schedule of future Presentations

Carolyn Boyes-Watson raised that there was an earlier request to have training on restorative justice at one of the meetings and to have members participate in a circle to have a greater shared understand as to how restorative justice works. Becky mentioned that she thought training would certainly be helpful and would offer a baseline understanding to the group. Chairman Peck raised that some members of the Committee may feel uncomfortable participating in a circle but asked if it would be possible to watch or have another kind of training. Sheriff Cocchi suggested that the Committee get back on track with Committee member presentations before proceeding to other trainings. Chairman Peck asked who had yet to present and Sheriff Cocchi and Carolyn said they had yet to present. It was decided that Sheriff Cocchi would present at the October 8th meeting and that Carolyn would present at the November 12th meeting. Anjeza was tasked with reaching out to Cheis Garrus to present in December.

Carolyn suggested Circle Up as a good movie to watch and learn more about restorative justice. Julia Malony and John Wilson were both mentioned as potential speakers. John Wilson works specifically in victim/offender dialogues and volunteered at one time at the Maine and Massachusetts Departments of Correction, respectively. Maria D'Addico was also mentioned as a prospective speaker. Carolyn and Anjeza will work together in scheduling presentations with outside organizations.

9. Determine Future Subcommittees

This item was moved to a future agenda item because we ran out of time. Kara Hayes mentioned she would be willing and happy to participate in a future subcommittee since she did not have a chance to participate previously.

10. Public Comment (10 minutes)

Jo-Ann Della Giustina talked about her own experience with Restorative Justice and the significance of training. Brenda Nolan talked about upcoming events in the Boston area.

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

N/A

12. Adjourn

Sheriff Cocchi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:58pm and John Millet seconded the motion. It carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:58pm.