



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

One Ashburton Place, Room 2133
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

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MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

TERRENCE M. REIDY
Secretary

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

MEETING MINUTES
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
State Office of Restorative Justice Subcommittee

Date: August 1, 2023

Time: 10:00AM-11:30AM

Microsoft Teams: [Click here to join the meeting](#) **ID:** 265 609 225 525 **Passcode:** wqWxeA

Or call in (audio only) [+1 857-327-9245,,514298254#](#) Phone Conference ID: 514 298 254#

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 once a quorum was established.

		Present	Absent	MM
1	Chair -Susan Jeghelian	X		X
2	Scott Taberner		X	
3	Samuel Williams		X	
4	Dennis Everett	X		X
5	Kara Hayes	X		X
6	Judge Peter Agnes	X		X

EOPSS Staff: Amy Putvinskis

2. Welcome

The chair welcomed all members.

3. Review and Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes from June 6, 2023

Dennis motioned and Peter seconded; all were in favor; minutes were adopted.



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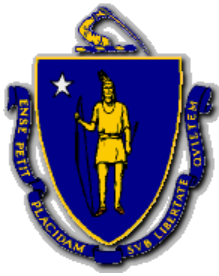
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4. Discuss State RJ Office document drafts and plan for research report

- a. Susan mentioned that she and research associate Karina Zeferino are compiling a report on the research done by the Subcommittee to inform the RJAC recommendations the MA State RJ Office document drafts; a report draft will be ready by September for the Subcommittee to review
- b. Susan provided a brief summary of the feedback from the meeting she had in July with RJAC Chair Andy Peck, Rep. Garballey, and Sen. Eldridge about the state RJ office drafts which was overall positive; they raised a couple of issues about the location of the office perhaps being under EOPSS instead of ANF, and about the size and scope of the office's funding perhaps only being for staff instead of both staff and programming.
- c. Kara shared that there had been a lot of pushback from RJ folks about having the RJAC be within law enforcement; RJ is community-centered and not limited to law enforcement; it might be difficult to hold community space and expand programming if the new RJ office is located within law enforcement.
- d. Dennis said he thinks it being under EOPSS could be positive since racism is in every place in MA, and we are trying to figure that out. But if RJ is working well then it pushes those who don't have a voice to be elevated. With an EOPSS umbrella, we could feel protected by the law and those that we work with.
- e. Peter commented he liked the idea of having the option under ANR and that this signals that RJ is bigger than diversion and public safety and supports the office's statewide mission to serve all parts of government including the courts as well as communities; perhaps ANF and EOPSS could co-chair the office's advisory committee or have the Governor appoint the chair/chairs.
- f. Susan reminded the group that the state already appropriates about \$400,000 for RJ community-based program grants through EOPSS and that this grant funding would be redirected to the new state office so the request for new funding would be to expand these grants and cover core staffing which is shown in the draft operating budget.
- g. Dennis mentioned that a summary is being compiled of the FY23 grant application and report cards.
- h. Kara said many of the grantees do RJ work as a diversion from the court system which is limited but the training within communities has continued.
- i. Dennis shared that RJ practices are supposed to be a free space but right now we need to move it forward. He went to all the grantee locations and one of the grantees that's doing SA work had participants that were from a tribe. With the grants, some of the tribes may be taking an issue as this is a sacred process.



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- j. Kara is aware of what the tribe tensions look like and can see that it is a deeper issue. There is a lot of gatekeeping of this practice, and we have thought about bringing First Nation leaders into the space. Keep in mind that we cannot speak for First Nation individuals, we can only speak for ourselves.
- k. Susan said we must be inclusive and offer options for voices to be heard regarding this discussion when the public outreach happens for the RJAC recommendations.

5. Confirm timing for presentation of drafts to full RJAC and stakeholders

- a. The Subcommittee agreed that they would present a high-level overview of the four state RJ office drafts to the RJAC at the August meeting via PowerPoint rather than going over the drafts themselves, and that Amy/Anjeza would email the drafts to the RJAC members to read themselves in advance.
- b. The group agreed that the Subcommittee would recommend that the September RJAC meeting have an extended public comment section so that stakeholder and public input on the proposed state RJ office could be collected.
- c. It was agreed that the Subcommittee and RJAC members would reach out to MA RJ organizations and invite them to attend the September meeting to offer comments.

6. Public Comment (10 minutes)

No members of the public entered comment.

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