



STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING

January 22, 2018

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Y of Annapolis/Anne Arundel

1517 Ritchie Highway, #201

Arnold, MD 21012

MINUTES

Participating Members:

Heather Chapman, Chair
Michelle Becote-Jackson, Vice Chair
Kirsten Anderson
Tya Blount (phone)
Meg Butler for Senator Justin Ready
Annie Hansen-Combs
Lynn Davis
Rebecca Jones Gaston (phone)
Jonathan Gray
Musa Hammett
Lynette Holmes for Secretary Sam Abed (Phone)
John McGinnis
Liz Park
Heidi Rochon
Kimberly Sauer

Staff:

Jessica Wheeler, Senior Director of Juvenile Justice and Victim Services, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Bill Harper, Compliance Monitor, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
William Jernigan, Statewide Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Sabraya Knight, Juvenile Justice Policy Unit Intern, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Chair's Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Sauer made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

III. Three-Year Plan

a. Overview of Strategic Work

Members reviewed the draft of the Three-Year Plan for 2018-2020. Ms. Wheeler asked that members provide additional feedback or suggestions. Members requested a more detailed discussion to develop suggested activities and/or approaches for each objective to clearly define the SAG's vision. Ms. Wheeler will coordinate a conference call with the strategic planning workgroup for this discussion. Ms. Wheeler reminded members that the Three-Year Plan will be submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the late Winter/Spring of 2018 and it will go into effect with the FFY 2018 funding which begins on October 1, 2018.

b. Infusing Disproportionate Minority Contact into the Three-Year Plan

Members emphasized the importance of incorporating Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) into all program areas of the 2018-2020 Three-Year Plan. Mr. Jernigan spoke of the challenges of developing adequate resources to combat DMC and providing effective solutions for justice-involved minority youth. Points of contact between minority youth and juvenile justice personnel must be examined thoroughly in order to implement effective strategies for DMC.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

a. Grant Monitoring

The Grant Monitoring subcommittee conducted an onsite visit on December 14, 2017 at the Professional Development Inc.'s Baltimore City Teen Court Program. Ms. Becote-Jackson explained that the subcommittee met with staff of the program and observed an actual teen court trial. The program receives the

majority of its referrals from the Baltimore Police Department and the Baltimore City School Police. From the time a case is referred to the program, it is essentially "on hold" with the Department of Juvenile Services until the youth completes their sanctions. The youth, along with their parent and/or guardian must voluntarily agree to enter the program and accept responsibility for the offense. The jury is comprised of volunteer youth in grades 9 - 12 and participants from the University of Maryland, School of Law. Overall, the subcommittee was pleased with the visit and the ability to see youth who were designated as jurors and the defendants take the teen court seriously. The subcommittee's next site visit will be on February 21, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Everymind Inc. located at 1000 Twinbrook Pkwy, Rockville, MD 20851.

b. Emerging Leaders

As of January 22, 2018, the previously titled "Youth Engagement Subcommittee" has been renamed to "Emerging Leaders". This change was based upon a youth-oriented survey disseminated among the entire SAG. The majority of members were in favor of the name change. Ms. Knight informed members of three youth applicants for the SAG. A doodle poll for interviews will be disseminated among the Emerging Leaders and the Recruitment subcommittee.

Additionally, the Emerging Leaders has started communications with Jack Storti, Chair of the Colorado State Advisory Group's Emerging Leaders subcommittee. Maryland's Emerging Leaders have been reviewing the strategic plans for Colorado's Emerging Leaders and a conference call between the two subcommittees is being planned. Ms. Knight encourages all SAG members to join the conference call.

c. Recruitment, Training, and Regionalization

Ms. Chapman strongly encouraged members to increase recruitment efforts for the SAG. She also reminded members that they are required to participate in at least one subcommittee. Currently, the Recruitment, Training, and Regionalization subcommittee is in need of additional members.

V. Compliance Monitoring Updates

Mr. Harper provided members with an updated list of site visits scheduled for 2018. He noted that there could be more facilities added to the list based on the facility's risk assessment. Members are encouraged to participate in these site visits as they provide an

opportunity to see how youth and facilities are impacted by the core protections of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). Mr. Harper also provided an overview of the preliminary jail removal violations in Federal FY 2017. Based on the preliminary data, Maryland is in full compliance with the JJDP.

VI. Disproportionate Minority Contact Updates

Mr. Jernigan briefed members on the Relative Rate Index (RRI) which is used to compare the rates of juvenile justice contact between different groups of youth. After discussing statewide RRI data, a brief description of Mr. Jernigan's vision to reduce DMC in Maryland was provided. He provided additional arrest data, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) suspension and expulsion data, and youth placement data for secure confinement in juvenile correctional facilities in Maryland. The data provided a glimpse of the level of disparities that minority youth face regarding arrest, confinement, and school discipline. Mr. Jernigan also provided approaches that could address issues that create disparities in the community, schools, and the juvenile justice system. Some of the strategies discussed included the following:

- Improving parent-child interaction
- Connecting families to existing community resources
- Increasing vocational/employment opportunities
- Connecting youth to mental health and substance use services
- Supporting community/school diversion efforts

Mr. Jernigan also provided an update on visits and correspondence with the local DMC Coordinators:

- Anne Arundel County has expanded its DMC Committee. Monthly meetings are held at the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Youth and Families ("Partnership"). Community Conferencing and School-based Conferencing is continuing within the County. The Partnership will begin to incorporate DMC into the Safe and Thriving Community Initiative as well.
- Baltimore City's DMC coordination team (Family League of Baltimore City) has begun the process of incorporating DMC reduction efforts into all of their services. The Family League will also be implementing trauma-informed care training to community members, school officials, and law enforcement. Also, they continue to implement Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP) and Youth Justice Equity Council (YJEC) initiatives within their jurisdictions.
- Montgomery County's Collaboration Council for Children has focused its efforts on identifying and addressing the School-to-Prison Pipeline within its local school

system. The agency is currently working with the local school board and DMC Committee members to change policies. The local DMC Coordinator is coordinating efforts to reduce the rising trend of youth that identify as LGBTQ becoming involved with the justice system in Montgomery County.

- The Department of Family Services in Prince George's County has implemented a pilot school diversion program at Henry Wise High School with the goal of introducing the program to other schools within the district during the 2017-18 school year. The local DMC Coordinator also has introduced additional diversion efforts in the county to reduce arrest rates and recidivism, such as the Spring Fling initiative, which provides supportive day programming during spring break for youth currently on probation, and the Justice for Juniors program that provides tutoring services and mentoring to court-involved youth.
- The Wicomico County Board of Education has implemented a Restorative Practices initiative beyond the initial pilot program. The county provided train-the-trainer sessions in November 2017 and expects the initiative to go county-wide by the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Wicomico County has also successfully implemented the Teen Court diversion program. Finally, the Strengthening Families Program (SFP) has become a successful referral source to provide parenting skills and support to improve child and parent interaction while reducing abuse and neglect.

Mr. Jernigan will provide a contact list of the local DMC Coordinators to the SAG as requested. Finally, Mr. Jernigan will reconvene the DMC Subcommittee meetings in the near future and he will contact the subcommittee members to identify potential dates for the meeting.

VII. Old/New Business

Ms. Chapman informed members that Ms. Wheeler's term as the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's National Juvenile Justice Specialist is ending this year. Ms. Wheeler has decided to run for a second term. The State Advisory Group is required to submit a letter of support. All members were in support of this and a letter will be signed by Ms. Chapman and Ms. Becote-Jackson on behalf of the Maryland SAG and submitted.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

March 12, 2018

Location: Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

100 Community Place, 1st Floor

Conference Room, Side B

Crownsville, MD 21032

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.