



# Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

## Quarterly Meeting Minutes March 15, 2018 633 Third Avenue New York, NY

### Attendees:

JJAG Members		Guests
Euphemia S. Adams	Y	<u>NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)</u>
John E. Carter, Jr., Chair	Y	<u>Office of Youth Justice (OYJ)</u>
Joseph J. Cocozza	N	Mark White, Deputy Commissioner
Brendan Cox	N	Tom Andriola
Michelle Diaz	Y (Albany)	Trista Deame
Edward Fergus	Y	Ian Grugan
Michael Green	Y (Rochester)	Lorraine Hogan
Hon. Martha Walsh Hood	Y (Syracuse)	Monique Owens
Emily Tow Jackson	N	<u>Office of Program Development and Funding (OPDF)</u>
Robert M. Maccarone	Y (Albany)	Jeff Bender, Deputy Commissioner
Sheila J. Poole	Y (Albany)	Meagan Armstrong
Meredith Ray-LaBatt	Y (Albany)	Maura Gagan
Karen Richmond	N	Joe Lostritto
Lester Young	Y	<u>Office of Justice Research and Performance (OJRP)</u>
		Rebecca Dimond
		<u>NYS Office of Children &amp; Family Services (OCFS)</u>
<b>TOTAL in attendance</b>	<b>10</b>	Nina Aledort
<i>Required for Quorum</i>	<b>8</b>	<u>NYS Commission of Correction</u>
		Cynthia Diaz
<b>Youth Member Candidates</b>		
Angelina Castro		Mary Trish Cina, Ulster County Probation
Niasha Hamilton		Katie Weldon, Kids Oneida

### Introduction

JJAG Chair Jack Carter opened the meeting, welcoming members and guests attending in New York and via teleconference from Albany, Rochester and Syracuse. Members voted to approve the agenda and the minutes from the most recent (December 6, 2017) meeting.

### Federal Funding Status Update (Jeff Bender, OPDF)

Mr. Bender distributed the Grants Summary chart, noting that it now reflects Title II awards only; the last Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) award has been closed out. Pointing out modest negative overall balances in some awards, long-term, Mr. Bender explained that over time some projects use less funds than anticipated and that if needed, FFY 2018 funds can make up the difference.

### Title II Application (Lorraine Hogan, OYJ)

Ms. Hogan reported that the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has released the 2018 Title II solicitation. As promised, OJJDP has simplified and streamlined the solicitation; the application is due May 18, 2018. Ms. Deame and the State Commission of Correction are working on compiling data to demonstrate New York's compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Compliance data is due April 2.

### **Update – Youth with Sexual Behavior Problems (Tom Andriola, OYJ)**

In December 2015, the JJAG authorized funding to support implementation, in up to six sites, of the community-based learning collaborative training approach developed by Oklahoma University for youth with problem sexual behaviors. Mr. Andriola reviewed progress on training and implementation of the school-age (7 – 12 years) model at those sites, where they are now conducting a train-the-trainer component. Last year, training in the adolescent model for youth aged 13 – 18 and their caregivers was offered at six additional sites; 12 senior leaders & 37 clinicians have completed two of the three trainings, with the final training scheduled for July.

### **Georgetown Certificate Programs**

#### **Updates**

OYJ Deputy Commissioner White provided brief remarks on the JJAG's investment in sending teams to certificate programs at Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR). Teams from New York have participated in certificate programs on topics including Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED), Supporting LGBTQ Youth, School-Justice Partnerships and Diversion Pathways, and Youth in Custody. Mr. White cited a report provided by CJJR that outlines the work undertaken and accomplished by each team and the status of their capstone projects; OYJ is exploring, with DCJS' Office of Research and Performance (OJRP), development of a survey for participants and other approaching impact assessment.

Mr. Andriola introduced guests representing two of the teams that have participated in CJJR's certificate programs: Mary Trish Cina of Ulster County Probation, who led a team attending the School-Justice Partnerships program, and Katie Weldon from Kids Oneida who led a team participating in the RED program.

Ms. Cina talked about the history of successful community collaboration, including development of Ulster County's Juvenile Community Accountability Board, piloted using JJAG funds. That earlier work built a foundation and prepared them to assemble a team ready to capitalize on the opportunity offered by the CJJR program. The Ulster County team included Ms. Cina representing probation, two case managers and a supervisor from service provider Family of Woodstock, two high school security personnel, and two community members that are JCAB volunteers: a retired corrections counselor and a forensic nurse.

The four-day program was packed with lectures and workshops provided by nationally-known leaders, interspersed with sessions that made time for team members to work on their own projects, with assistance from program facilitators. Ms. Cina emphasized her team's enthusiasm and appreciation; they found the learning invaluable and returned inspired and motivated to work on their capstone project. The group's plan focuses on three main goals related to reducing the impact of educational disruption due to school suspension: to expand their existing ("One-Eighty") program for use as an alternative to suspension; to develop a menu of relevant trainings for school staff, and to implement restorative circles as a means of reducing suspensions or helping students with post-suspension transition back to school.

Ms. Weldon introduced the Oneida County project by noting that the group's concern with racial and ethnic disparity in the county's juvenile justice system arose during their work together and with DCJS on initiatives

supported by Second Chance Act funds. The team included a family court judge, a probation officer, a Utica Police Department investigator, and representatives from community-based service provider Kids Oneida.

The Capstone Project they designed aims to increase knowledge of implicit bias and reduce RED at the point of school arrest and suspension in Oneida County. Initial efforts focus on two alternative education settings that have law enforcement onsite and significant arrest rates. The team will implement implicit bias trainings for school staff, police departments, the Department of Probation, the Department of Social Services, and community agencies. They will also develop a Graduated Response System to guide and drive diversion options in the two pilot schools. One of the Georgetown consultants has provided continuing technical assistance to help the locality build a data collection system, hoping to demonstrate effects on disparities, out of school suspensions and graduation rates.

In closing, Ms. Weldon noted the team's appreciation of the JJAG's support, which made the trip possible, and reflected on the value of the learning experience offered by the certificate program's faculty and structure.

Dr. Young mentioned that the State Education Department has conducted restorative justice training and that SED's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative shares the goal of reducing racial and ethnic disparities. He was struck by the potential for collaboration, as SED is working in these counties; it was suggested that the statewide MBK symposium (April 27-28) might offer an opportunity to gauge interest in collaboration around the issue. Discussion focused on issues related to outcome measurement and sustainability: collaboration as a means of strengthening relationships and broadening conversations to include policy implications.

### **Proposal**

Mr. Andriola presented a proposal for the JJAG's review;<sup>1</sup> the board voted unanimously to allocate up to \$210,000 for the purpose of sending additional teams to Georgetown's certificate programs. As in prior cases, funding is contingent on DCJS' approval and acceptance by CJJR of each team's application.

### **JJAG Annual Report**

Board members voted to approve the 2017 Annual Report. DCJS staff will provide to the Governor and Legislature as required.

### **Strategic Planning Debrief (John Carter)**

Mr. Carter outlined steps accomplished in the strategic planning process to date; he plans to forward a working draft of the plan to members within the week and requests written feedback. Next steps will include working with the executive committee to identify program and policy priorities from the strategic plan that will inform DCJS' three year plan for Title II Formula funds and to finalize the JJAG's strategic plan.

### **Raise the Age Implementation (Sheila Poole, OCFS)**

Ms. Poole described current OCFS planning activities related to implementing the raise the age legislation, which fall into three main areas. Concerning detention, OCFS and SCOC are working to promulgate new regulations for specialized secure detention facilities that will be needed for adolescent offenders; the second set of regulations is now out for public comment. Regarding services: there is a need to create additional capacity for needed for large number of JDs that will be processed through Family Court and placed in the custody of local department of social services commissioners; in most cases these youth will be placed in

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see *Proposal #1: Georgetown Certificate Programs*, provided to JJAG members in advance of the meeting and in meeting handouts.

foster care residential programs. Responsibility for contracting with vendors to provide these services has customarily been assumed by individual counties; OCFS has moved to centralize and streamline this process by working with the Division of the Budget to create a specific new model of raise-the-age residential services. They have issued a request for applications and are reviewing responses from 13 not-for-profit organizations across the state that are interested in becoming RTA residential care providers.

Finally, OCFS is increasing its state juvenile facility footprint. Renovations currently underway will add 80 beds at Industry, their limited secure campus in Monroe County, and 25 beds for young women at the Harriet Tubman Residential Center in Auburn. In addition, weekly meetings continue among partners OCFS, DCJS, SCOC, DOCCS and SED. Mr. Green echoed that this has been a very collaborative process with a shared vision: [the legislation provides] an opportunity to reach youth early with meaningful interventions that will keep youth out of the system and minimize its impact on young lives.

### **Youth Justice Institute**

Dr. Megan Kurlychek has agreed to lead the Institute for the next year. She has a broad juvenile justice background and is slated to be the faculty affiliate to the Institute; her leadership will allow hiring of staff for the Institute to proceed and other work of the Institute to move forward.

***The next JJAG Board meeting will be held Tuesday, June 5, 2018: 10:00am – 1:00 pm in Albany (80 South Swan Street).***