

**NH Juvenile Justice Reform Commission
Executive Order 2021-11**

Regular Meeting Minutes

TO: Members of the Committee

FROM: Jennifer Archer
Juvenile Justice Specialist

MEETING DATE: January 9, 2023, 9:00 am, Dolloff Classroom 1

Members of the Committee Present: Samantha Morin, Ph.D.
Director Joe Ribsam
Steve Ranfos
Joy Barrett, Child Advocacy Center
Mark Rolon, Parent Participant
Nicole Rodler, Juvenile Diversion Network
JPPO Gerard Quin
Eddie Edwards, Dept. of Safety
Det. Michael Geha, Salem PD
Officer Richard Bergeron, Hollis PD, SRO
Geoff Wilson, CASA
JPPO Allyson Clary
H.D., Youth Participant
Judge Susan Ashley

Members of the Committee Absent: Attorney Pamela Jones
Representative Cody Belanger
Jorge Santana, Dept. of Education
Morissa Henn, DHHS
Lara Gruner-Orf, Becket Family of Services
D.V., Youth Participant

Others in Attendance: Jennifer Archer, Juvenile Justice Specialist
Amy McCormack, Associate. Bureau Chief
Caitlyn Bickford, DCYF Interstate Compact
Beth Margeson, DCYF Attorney
Renee Touhey-Childress, Dover Children's Home
Dorothy Thrush, Juvenile Diversion Network
Alissa Cannon, Diversion Network

Meeting Discussion:

Dr. Morin acted as Chair for the commission meeting. The commission voted to accept the November meeting minutes with a motion from Director Ribsam, a second by Mr. Rolon, and all in favor. Dr. Morin provided a report out from her attendance to the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention conference. Dr. Morin highlighted the movement to transition from strength based and incentives to healing centered engagement for probation case management. She advised that there

is support for an increase in referring youth to diversion prior to court involvement. Dr. Morin advised that Texas and other states are transforming youth detention centers that are vacant into vocational centers, teen drop in centers, and treatment based school programs. She advised that some youth detention centers are using a balanced model of increasing length of commitment show no increase in recidivism based on that model change. Dr. Morin advised the commission about workshops she attended regarding state advisory group member involvement. She said some state advisory groups utilize social media and bring meetings to the youth involved to support their participation. Dr. Morin advised that some state advisory groups have subcommittees focused on supporting the compliance monitoring role.

JJS Archer provide a report out from her attendance to the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention conference. She advised the theme was treating children as children. Her takeaways from the youth panel included youth advocating for youth on advisory boards to receive help to learning how to participate and advocate, and help figuring out the how/who/when/where of the system. Youth of all backgrounds voiced that the biggest challenge leading to poor choices and delinquency are poverty. They see a lack of resources in their communities for mental health and substance use treatment. Youth advocated for violence interrupters and home therapist to have increased wages to help with longevity in staffing. They feel the nations priorities for infrastructure outweigh the nation's needs for ending homelessness. The youth voiced that solutions tend to add more obstacles/barriers like needing identification to apply for assistance. They voiced appreciation for violence interrupters in communities all hours and that they want the juvenile justice system to stop working a 9-5. JJS Archer advised hearing from Youth Move who will be putting out a tool kit and holding regional round table meetings. She advised receiving in depth trainings around the core requirements and compliance monitoring. JJS Archer informed the group that California applied to Medicaid for a waiver regarding the termination of eligibility upon entrance to a locked facility and is pending approval. Director Ribsam answered the groups questions on the current Medicaid rules regarding secure facilities and the termination and suspension of eligibility.

JJS Archer provided a survey to members for the self-identification of their roles on the commission. She explained this was a resource recommended during the conference as well as working on a welcome packet for new members. JJS Archer provided the commission with a year plan of scheduled commission and subcommittee meetings. Director Ribsam advised that member's appointment letters were being mailed. JJS Archer passed out copies to members who were present. Director Ribsam explained that during a meeting to add and remove members of the commission it was recognized that the letters had not been disseminated by the Governor's Office. Director Ribsam advised the terms stagger between 2-5 years and that 90 days prior to the expiration of an appointment members need to decide if they intend to leave the position or remain on the commission in order to plan around membership recruitment needs.

Director Ribsam provided an update on the legislation surrounding the Sununu Youth Services Center. He advised that a bill is before the house and another before the senate. He advised that current legislation has the facility closing in March with no alternate plans for the youth currently being served. Director Ribsam stated that the two options both include a new facility to up to 18 youths. He advised Senator Sharon Carson is sponsoring the bill and that the Child and Family Law committee will be working on the details of the bill as it moves forward. Director Ribsam updated the commission regarding House Bill 254, which intends to further limit the offenses eligible for secure detention and commitment but that the bill includes a judicial override that can undermine the intent of the bill.

A youth member provided the group with her input and experiences related to the treatment of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Some of the recommendations she shared included having probation officers and other workers ask what the youth want; youth need adult living skills; youth

need to have a voice in their transition planning when leaving the system; workers should meet youth prior to reading a file so that they don't pass judgment on a youth's character prematurely; time out rooms in residential programs are not developmentally appropriate; youth should have input regarding medications they are prescribed; workers and adults need to understand that an intervention ability to be supportive is determined by the youth receiving the intervention; and workers should take the time to have more meaningful conversations with the youth they work with.

Alissa Cannon provided the update for the Systems Improvement subcommittee. She advised that the group continues to work through the systems mapping process. She advised they have been inviting different agencies and divisions to present on their mission and services available to youth and families. The subcommittee is working to identify overlaps and gaps as the services intersect with the juvenile justice system. Ms. Cannon reported that the subcommittee has received presentations from Daryl Tenney of the Bureau of Children Behavioral Health and Jennifer Doris from the Department of Education. She spoke about the student wellness Multi-Tiered System of Support. The subcommittee will receive a presentation from public health during the January meeting and a presentation from the family resource centers during the February meeting. Joy Barrett stated that the point is to see how it all fits together, identify gaps and missed opportunities for earlier interventions working in a capacity that is broader than juvenile justice services. Associate Bureau Chief of Field Services McCormack advised that the subcommittee has created a six-tier framework of interventions and is working to classify services and supports into the framework.

JJS Archer advised that the Legislative subcommittee is resuming monthly meetings on January 17th and that the Youth and Families subcommittee is resuming monthly meetings on February 7th. The commission agreed that the Youth and Families subcommittee should connect with the Youth Advisory Board members to gain perspective around lived experience.

JJS Archer provided the Ethnic and Racial Disparities report out with support from Nicole Rodler. They updated the group on the upcoming Juvenile Justice Diversity Equity and Inclusion Networking Forum scheduled for January 19th. JJS Archer advised the group that the intent of the forum is to foster collaboration between agencies and teams in New Hampshire who are working on common goals. To kick off the quarterly networking forums the Ethnic and Racial Disparities subcommittee is hosting introductions with a structured youth panel and parent panel. The group hopes to empower everyone by harnessing empathy for the important work all teams are engaged in. JJS Archer advised the subcommittee hopes to bring together 1-2 members of each group to attend the networking forum. Vital information on each agency/team's goals and purpose will be collected through the registration process and shared at the forum. JJS Archer advised that Mark Rolon is assisting with the coordination of parent panelists and participating himself. She advised that the commission's two youth members are participating in the youth panel.

The commission discussed the presentation it received in November from Strategies for Youth on the Juvenile Justice Jeopardy program. Associate Bureau Chief of Field Services McCormack explained the program for those who were not in attendance. The commission supports moving forward with the project. The System's Improvement subcommittee was tasked with determining the details of how expansive the project will be. The group discussed wanting schools, diversion programs, juvenile justice staff, and community entities to have the opportunity to receive the training and perform the Juvenile Justice Jeopardy game.

During open discussion, Ms. Cannon advised that there is opportunity for anyone interested to join the Diversion Summit Planning Committee. She advised interest in opening registration beyond Diversion programs.

Motion to adjourn presented by Director Ribsam, second by Officer Bergeron, and all in favor.

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2022 9-11am.