STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING

March 6, 2023
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Held Via Videoconference

MINUTES
Laura Wilt

Participating Members:
Joe Rossow, Chair
Kara Aanenson
Lajan Cephas
Jenny Egan
Derrell Frazier
Derek Getic
Lynette Holmes
Miya Horsey
Loney Nguyen
Heidi Rochon

Staff:
Christina Drushel-Williams
Aubrey Gerhardt
Chris Miele

Guests:
Georgia Noone-Sherrod
Tamerdis Hollywood
James Hollywood

I. Welcome & Roll Call

Chris Miele called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Roll was taken from the participant list.

II. Chairs Remarks

Joe Rossow, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed the possibility of reevaluating the meeting time to accommodate member schedules. He encouraged everyone to share their thoughts on this issue in the announcements part of the meeting.

III. Old / New Business

A. *Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes* - January meeting minutes were not approved because a quorum was not present.

B. *Appointment Updates* - Aubrey Gerhardt provided an update on the appointments process. Currently, applications are not open for positions that do not require the Senate's approval due to the new administration appointing department secretaries

and other similar positions. Ms. Gerhardt will reach out to new members pending appointment and current members who must reapply when more information becomes available.

IV. Agency Updates

A. *Department of Juvenile Services (DJS)* - Lynette Holmes informed the group that she is retiring and her last day with DJS is March 31, 2023. Her replacement will be David Brown from the Anne E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Justice Strategy Group. Ms. Holmes encouraged the group to reach out to Mr. Brown for State Advisory Group matters.

In mid-January, an evening reporting center opened in Glen Burnie, Maryland. A new evening reporting center in Reisterstown, Maryland will be opening in April. This is great news for new resources for children in Maryland and DJS is excited about the expansion of evening reporting centers. Ms. Holmes notified the group that Alfred D Noyes Children's Center is still closed at this time and they are reevaluating the number of juveniles held to determine if the facility will be reopened. The Maryland Youth Residence Center is temporarily closed due to flooring issues that are currently being worked on.

V. 2023 SAG Strategic Planning Updates and Discussion

Led by SAG Chair Joe Rossow and Office staff, the Maryland SAG has recently endeavored to self-assess capacity and begin strategic planning to prepare for the 2024-2026 Three Year Plan. 2023 is the last year of the SAG's 2021-2023 Three-Year Plan and has been slated as a planning year. Mr. Miele explained that the SAG has many areas to consider when formulating the next three-year plan, including:

- Adopting mission and vision statements
- Selecting SMART[1] goals and objectives
- Increasing the SAG's relevance as an authority on youth justice
- Researching and championing new reform efforts
- Supporting the implementation of existing reform across the state
- Partnering with all branches of government
- Collaborating with relevant professionals in the field
- Forging meaningful relationships with stakeholders in the service of youth justice

Chris Miele opened the floor for members to share their thoughts on the planning process. Derek Getic stated that developing the 3-year plan ahead of time makes sense and agreed with the efforts. Mr. Rossow provided a report regarding the SAG's ongoing training and technical assistance received by OJJDP's Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS). CCAS is helping our SAG with capacity

[1] https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/resources/phqitoolbox/objectives.html#:~:text=A%20SMART%20objective%20is%20one,organization%20will%20achieve%20a%20goal.

building and planning by sharing resources and connecting the MD SAG with other SAGs, including the Vermont SAG chair and vice chair for discussion. Gaining perspectives from other successful SAGs will help us increase our impact in Maryland. Jenny Egan questioned who will be driving our efforts, what is put in place to ensure others understand juvenile justice in Maryland, and what are we building towards/ what is our goal. Loney Nguyen added that the Emerging Leaders have projects dedicated to educating the community on the juvenile justice system. Christina Drushel-Williams added that the role Emerging Leaders guides the SAG with Youth Voice which is crucial for success. Having youth who have experience with the juvenile justice system guide our juvenile justice reform efforts will lead us to success. Chris Miele clarified that the goals of the SAG are broad at this moment in time and that the members, Emerging Leaders, and reducing racial and ethnic disparities should drive the SAG's the mission. Laura Wilt added that the previous three-year plan was helpful in understanding the SAG's goals but the SAG did not have the ability to support legislation toward juvenile justice reform during this legislative session that we needed on certain bills.

VI. Reviewing Building SAG Capacity Toolkit[2] Results

Chris Miele shared the results of the Building SAG Capacity toolkit form that was sent out to all members for completion. The form has a total of five responses and provided some insight into the future of the SAG and member capacities.

VII. Roundtable and Announcements

A. *Suggestions for SAG meetings*
Members were invited to share any suggestions they have to improve SAG meetings. Lejan Cephas stated that she prefers the current time for SAG meetings because they work with her schedule. Derek Getic added that the Building SAG Capacity toolkit was very telling and helpful. Members are still welcome to complete the form if they would like to.

B. *SAG Strategic Planning Retreat - July 17. 2023*
Please save the date for an in-person strategic planning retreat for SAG members to come together to brainstorm and work towards consensus on individual components of planning. All SAG members should plan on attending this in-person event on July 17th, 2023; time and central location TBA. A vote to fund food and refreshments was not taken due to a lack of quorum. Further details regarding the in-person SAG strategic planning retreat will be released to members when available.

C. *Compliance Monitoring Site Visit Schedule Update*

[2] https://www.juvjustice.org/sites/default/files/resource-files/SAG%20Capacity%20Building%20Toolkit_final.pdf

Aubrey Gerhardt notified the group that the current compliance monitoring site visit schedule will be shared this week. Members who wish to attend a compliance monitoring site visit must complete training with Mr. Harper prior to the date of the site visit. All SAG members are strongly encouraged to attend the training so please reach out if you would like to be added to the Compliance Monitoring Training Session.

Please email Ms. Gerhardt which site visit(s) you would like to attend with your name, position, and employer (if applicable) so that Mr. Harper may seek facility approval for members that plan to attend. All dates and times are based on the facilities' schedules and therefore subject to change. These visits will only address compliance. Staff and SAG members may also schedule additional site visits with subrecipients and other youth justice entities to explore additional topics.

Jenny Egan shared that she would like to increase data collection in her own job with the Public Defender's Office as well as gather data that might be helpful to the SAG to inform policy positions or recommendations. Mr. Miele emphasized the relevance of Ms. Egan's focus on youth held in adult facilities amidst the SAG's ongoing strategic planning efforts, and encouraged all members to consider their active roles in setting the SAG's agenda moving forward**.** Georgia Noone-Sherrod agreed that this group must act upon data and raised the idea of establishing a data committee.

D. *Racial and Ethnic Disparities Subcommittee Update* - Derek Getic shared that the racial and Ethnic Disparities subcommittee is focusing their time on engaging with youth in facilities. He emphasized that meaningful connections and relationships with each other, is what best facilitates change.

VIII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on **May 1, 2023 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Upcoming SAG Work Sessions, Training, and other events:

- April Strategic Planning Work Session: April 3, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Compliance Monitoring Training Session: April 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
- Upcoming Compliance Monitoring Site Visits: See attached site visit schedule
- Virtual Strategic Planning Work Session: July 10, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (@ SAG mtg)
- In-person SAG Strategic Planning Retreat: July 17th (Location and time TBD)