STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING
July 10, 2023
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Held Via Videoconference

MINUTES

Participating Members:
Derrell Frazier
Jenny Egan
Loney Nguyen
Laura Wilt
Therese Wolf
Kya Hector
Janet Furman
Heidi Rochon
Kara Aanenson
Jeff Breslin

Staff:
Aubrey Gerhardt
Chris Miele

Guests:
Georgia Noone-Sherrod, Acting Vice-Chair
Tamerdis Hollywood
James Hollywood
La Tonia Rush

I. Welcome

Chris Miele called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. and gave the floor to Derrell Frazier to lead the gathering.

II. Youth-Led Gathering

Emerging Leader, Derrell Frazier, thanked everyone for joining and began conducting the youth-led gathering. The Emerging Leaders asked for members to discuss how they center and incorporate youth voice in their day-to-day work. LaTonia Rush shared that she focuses

her work in facilitation around children and how important it is to listen to youth and their needs in her work in Baltimore City. Emerging Leader, Kya Hector stated that she has recently begun speaking with youth in detention centers. This allows her to bring perspectives from youth who are incarcerated into spaces where it may not be readily available or seen to ensure they are heard; especially since their perspectives may be different than her own. Therese Wolf shared the importance of walking alongside youth, supporting them, and listening to them when they speak about what they need instead of telling them what adults think youth need. It is also important to use platforms that youths prefer using to provide tools, resources, or start meaningful conversations about what youths need.

Derrell Frazier added that there is no cookie-cutter approach to what meaningful engagement looks like. Adults must create space for and address concerns and ideas voiced by youth. Laura Wilt sees success in her diversion programs when youth are centered at the planning and leadership of the programs. Chris Miele added that he incorporated youth voice into his day-to-day by noticing the wins and learning from them to incorporate into standing procedures. He suggested that we adopt a goal-oriented strategy that guides how the Emerging Leaders committee conducts business within the State Advisory Group (SAG).

Kya Hector highlighted a briefing, originally shared by Loney Nguyen, hosted a couple of weeks ago led by youth panelists. The panel discussed youth-centered versus youth-led groups and spoke about youth centered legislation such as curfews. Though curfews may not seem harmful to youth, it is if you consider that some youth don't have a safe place to go which may cause them to have unnecessary contact with the juvenile justice system due to

curfew legislation. Kya shared this link to *A New Deal for Youth's* web page to use to help center voice in the SAG space.

III. Old / New Business

A. *Promoting Youth Voice and Engagement* - Loney Nguyen lifted up the work that the Emerging Leaders and other SAG members are doing. She highlighted the authentic engagement between SAG members who attended the 2023 CJJ Conference in Washington D.C. and a youth from New Hampshire's SAG. Loney Nguyen built on the Gathering topic of "centering youth voice" by stating that she uses her privilege and spaces to lift up youth voice and perspectives she hears in her day-to-day work. Tamerdis Hollywood built on this idea by sharing the "whole family approach" where one serves children and the adults in their life. This ensures that youth and their families are heard. She continued that at-risk youth often do not feel valued so it is crucial to show them respect and listen when they share their story. This concept feeds into equity and making children feel welcome, valued, and that they have a place.

Janet Furman asked how the SAG plans to include youth with intellectual/ developmental disabilities in discussions and spaces where juvenile justice reform and youth voices are being heard. It is crucial for members who have experience with diverse groups to bring their perspectives to the table and support the families. Janet is excited for two new staff members to join her team. Jenny Egan agrees with this point and seconds that information delivery must be different for youth with developmental disabilities given that they are overly represented in committed populations. Georgia Noone-Sherrod emphasizes the

importance of speaking the language of the young people and making an effort to save them from falling through the cracks.

IV. 2023 SAG Strategic Planning Updates and Discussion

Chris Miele notified the group of the Strategic Planning Committee's progress. The committee has identified a chair, Therese Wolf and Co-chair Kya Hector. Recent discussions have focused on youth engagement. The SAG is in year three of its three-year-plan and is beginning to discuss the next three-year-plan's development. The Committee will need to decide its final schedule.

The 2023 Title II solicitation was recently released by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and is due on August 21, 2023. It is the responsibility of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS) to submit all materials needed and ensure we are in compliance with the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA).

V. July 15, 2023 "13th" Documentary Screening Event

Derrell Frazier invited State Advisory Group members to the "13th" Documentary Screening Event that will be held this Saturday, July 15th at the Community Group in Baltimore City from 12:00PM -3:00PM. All are encouraged to attend and support the Emerging Leaders and Racial/ Ethnic Disparities Subcommittee.

VI. 2023 Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference Debrief

This debrief was postponed until the next SAG meeting.

VII. SAG Member Recruitment Overview

Aubrey Gerhardt shared updates on the status of appointments for candidates looking to apply for the SAG, reapplying for their second terms, and finishing their second terms.

VIII. Roundtable and Announcements

A. *Topics for Additional Discussion* - Aubrey Gerhardt listed several topics that have been mentioned by members who are interested in discussing them further. These topics include a SAG capstone project, SAG quarterly networking events, subcommittee administered mini-grants, how members and the public utilize the SAG to advance their work, member engagement, and member facilitation.

B. *SAG Capstone Project Ideas* - Kya Hector shared that she is communicating with different youth led groups like the Youth Action Board. It is crucial to ensure SAG onboarding materials for incoming Emerging Leaders are youth friendly and appealing. Emerging Leaders are also interested in creating catalogs and toolkits to use for collaborations with other youth-led groups and to spread information about projects they (ELs) are working on.

   A strategy the SAG could adapt is for each subcommittee to have its own goals and action items, then share progress when the SAG meets as a whole. The key piece to that idea is motivated leadership. While everyone has a capacity to lead, members must also be mindful of their capacity for their other responsibilities. If any member has a project idea and needs staff support, feel free to reach out to Chris Miele or Aubrey Gerhardt.Kya

Hector also shared that the Anne E. Casey Foundation entertains projects from the Emerging Leaders. Loney Nguyen shared two resources including the Wide Angle Media web page and information regarding Maryland's State Youth Advisory Board. She also stated that she is connected to Nia West-Bey, the Director of Youth Policy & CLASP and can inquire more information about them if the group is interested.

C. *Subgrantee Communication Pipeline* - Laura Wilt expanded on the topic of communication to subgrantees as a top priority since the grant reviews are SAG members top priority/task. A possible task for the SAG may be to create a narrative of what's happening in the SAG and on the ground in the community, giving people a ground level view of the SAG.

D. *New Member Recommendations* - As members search for interested candidates and recommend candidates to staff, please refer anyone interested in joining the SAG to the Recruitment web page.

IX. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on **September 11, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Upcoming SAG Meetings and Other Events**:**

Upcoming Strategic Planning Session: August 7, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.