State Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 6, 2026, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Held Via Videoconference

Members in Attendance: Mayor Lajan Cephas-Bey (Chair), Beyer Bullard, Tiana Davis,Wanda Frink-Little, Gineen Gray, Lori James, Rachel Johnson, Christian Mash, Natalie Miller, Jessica Port, Delegate Kym Taylor, Chris Thompson, Timika Thrasher

Staff in Attendance: Mary Abraham, Layomi Adegbenro, Aubrey Gerhardt, Deena Hauser, Jenny Krabill

Other Guests in Attendance: Delegate Sandy Bartlett, Sarah Kaplan

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mayor Cephas-Bey called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. A quorum was present as additional members joined the meeting during the initial conversation.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Cephas-Bey noted that minutes from the May 4, 2026 meeting were sent to members prior to today's meeting for review. Mr. Mash moved to approve the minutes as written and Ms. Port seconded. No objections were made and the May 4, 2026 minutes were approved.

III. CJJ Conference Debrief

Mrs. Adegbenro expressed her admiration for the annual conference and the work all stakeholders in the field do to help youth. She and Ms. Gerhardt discussed a workshop on juvenile fines and fees, which examined the negative impact financial burdens can have on incarcerated youth and their families. Ms. Gerhardt also summarized key takeaways from the compliance monitor sessions, including discussions on federal audit expectations and monitoring practices with representatives from other states.

Ms. Frink-Little reported on Hill Day advocacy training and the Spirit of Youth Awards, underscoring the importance of honoring young people's achievements. Mr. Bullard shared plans for a joint meeting between the Maryland Emerging Leaders Committee and its DC counterparts to address recruitment challenges and strengthen regional youth collaboration.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis about innovative approaches to fines and fees, Ms. Gerhardt noted that other jurisdictions have implemented successful models and said she would share the workshop resources by email.

IV. Compliance Data & Reporting Update

Ms. Gerhardt provided an update on Maryland's compliance with the JJDPA, noting that the state is out of compliance for federal fiscal years 2024 and 2025 with the 223(a)(11)(B) requirement, resulting in a 20% reduction from the annual federal grant award. She explained that Maryland has made legislative progress, including reducing Maryland's enumerated offenses beginning October 1, 2026 and requiring all youth to be held in juvenile facilities by October 1, 2029. She also reported that Maryland remains in compliance with the remaining core protections and encouraged SAG members to participate in future site visits or reach out with compliance-related questions. Ms. Frink-Little reflected on recent site visits to correctional facilities, describing them as a valuable opportunity to observe facility operations, understand compliance practices, and gain perspective beyond written reports.

Ms. Gerhardt also shared updates on ongoing collaboration with the Maryland Judiciary to revise Interest of Justice (IOJ) order forms, which are required to justify the placement of youth charged as adults in adult facilities. The revisions are intended to improve documentation and reduce future 223(a)(11)(B) violations.

Significant concerns regarding OJJDP's new federal compliance thresholds were discussed. Delegate Taylor asked whether Maryland's compliance determination could be appealed. Ms. Krabill explained that there is no formal appeals process but expressed openness to sending a letter to OJJDP. Members also discussed whether other states have pursued similar requests and whether OJJDP would consider them.

V. Subrecipients' Site Visit Debrief (Leaders Breeders and Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc.)

GOCPP staff shared their experiences visiting subgrantee organizations that received Title II funding this past fiscal year. Mrs. Adegbenro was impressed by the programming of the subgrantees and the extent of engagement that is required to assist the at-risk population across the state. All members to join future subrecipient site visits. GOCPP staff also encouraged

exploring innovative approaches, such as academic-style housing, to support youth not served by existing justice systems.

VI. Roundtable

Ms. Krabill shared that appointment terms for three members are almost up, as they were appointed mid-term. Since they have not yet completed a full three-year term, the three may be contacted by the Appointments Office if additional information is needed. She also asked members to consider what voices may be missing from the SAG.

Delegate Taylor introduced Eric's ID Law, noting that approximately 24,000 Marylanders have added the butterfly designation to their state-issued identification cards for individuals with autism or other invisible disabilities. Ms. Miller shared that the information has been distributed to Department of Social Services (DSS) caseworkers serving youth in foster care. Delegate Taylor noted that a presentation by Eric can be scheduled for those interested.

VII. Adjournment

Delegate Taylor motioned for the meeting to adjourn and Mr. Mash seconded. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on September 7, 2026 **at 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**