WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

Maryland
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY

DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING
July 7, 2025
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Held Via Videoconference

MINUTES

Participating Members:
Mayor Lajan Cephas
Derrell Frazier
Janette Graham
Kya Hector
Rachel Johnson
Shannon McFadden
Natalie Miller
Jessica Port
Christopher Thompson

Staff:
Mary Abraham
Aubrey Gerhardt
Jennifer Krabill
Layomi Omolola

Guests:
Timika Thrasher

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ms. Omolola called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. A quorum was present as additional members joined the meeting during the initial conversation.

II. Approval of the Minutes*

Ms. Omolola noted that minutes from the May 5, 2025 meeting were sent to members prior to today's meeting for review. Mayor Cephas moved to approve the minutes as written and Ms. Port seconded. No objections were made and the May meeting minutes were approved.

III. CJJ Conference Debrief

Ms. Omolola provided a quick debrief of the Coalition of Juvenile Justice (CJJ) National Conference in May 2025. The keynote address described the eras of the youth justice system. The key takeaway from the keynote address and conference was to invest in the capacity of "the village".

IV. Federal Submissions

A. R/Ed Report

Ms. Omolola announced the completion of the R/Ed Report for State Fiscal Year 2025. An overview of the contact points and disparity trends were provided. Goals from the year were shared along with their evaluations.

Ms. Omolola then reviewed goals for the upcoming year including monitoring JJAC grantees in partnership with the grantee engagement subcommittee, providing technical assistance to state court officials, and community outreach to the Eastern Shore, in hopes of reducing racial and ethnic disparities in Maryland's youth justice system.

The R/Ed subcommittee will develop and implement the plan to address the highlighted disparities in Maryland's Eastern Shore communities. The report will be shared with members following the meeting.

B. Compliance Data

Ms. Gerhardt informed members that the Compliance Monitoring Tool (CMT) used to submit state compliance data, R/Ed plan, and required assurances to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was successfully submitted. Maryland will be found in compliance with the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Separation of Juvenile and Adult Offenders (Separation), and Removal of Juvenile Delinquents from Adult Jails and Lockups (Jail Removal) core requirements. Maryland will be found out of compliance with the Removal of Juveniles charged as Adults (JCA) core requirement. This is the first year OJJDP can deem a state out of compliance with this core requirement, per the JJDPA and violation threshold issued by OJJDP dated January 15, 2025. Ms. Gerhardt and Ms. Krabill are working with stakeholders to draft a statewide plan to achieve compliance with the JCA requirement and will keep the SAG updated with action items.

Ms. Gerhardt will keep members updated on site visits to Maryland's facilities which members are welcomed to join.

V. Recruitment and Retention Updates

Ms. Omolola provided updates for membership. New members introduced themselves, including present professional positions and previous professional experiences.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Emerging Leaders

The ELC has been in contact with six new youth members who expressed interest in joining. Recruitment is still on-going, so members were encouraged to refer youth to fill out the interest form that will be sent with the minutes. Members were informed to share any community events coming up this summer/fall that the ELC can participate in.

B. R/Ed

Ms. McFadden shared an upcoming screening her organization is hosting on September 6th. More information will be sent to members following the meeting.

C. Grantee Engagement

Seven JJAC/JSMR grants were awarded by GOCPP for this fiscal year. Since the grants encompass a large percentage of the organizations' budgets, technical assistance training is necessary to support new efforts for addressing juvenile crime. Technical assistance is crucial, especially for new grantees, to ensure the organizations are meeting requirements for grant implementation, such as reporting and appropriate spending. These JJAC grants encompass many regions in the state to serve as many youth in as many communities as possible. If you are interested in chairing the grantee engagement subcommittee, please email Ms. Krabill at Jennifer.Krabill@Maryland.gov. The group did not have questions regarding the JJAC/JSMR grants.

VII. Roundtable

In the name of the SAG priorities and addressing noncompliance with the juveniles charged as adults requirement and Racial and Ethnic Disparities around the state, SAG member collaboration and subcommittee function are crucial. If there is interest to create an ad hoc subcommittee to work toward removing juveniles charged as adults from adult facilities, please let SAG staff know.

Mr. Frazier shared an opportunity for youth ages 17–29 to be paid for sharing their experience with the justice system. This opportunity will be shared with members following the meeting and should be shared with interested youth in their networks.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on September 1, 2025, **at 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.**