

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 10, 2013

510 4th Street, NW, Building B, Room 202

Attendance: James Ballard III, Hilary Cairns, Carmen Daugherty, Shyra Gregory, Charisma Howell, Judge Lori Parker, Ram Uppaluri, Tony White, Dave Rosenthal, Fannie Barksdale, Adam Aljoburi

Discussion:

- (1) **Truancy Roundtable (held October 10, 2013):** JJAG had a brief discussion about the roundtable held today, noting that none of the presenting agencies (DCPS, charter schools, etc.) raised great concern about their ability to adhere to the requirements of the Attendance Accountability Act and relevant regulations.
 - a. **JJAG's letter to DCPS:** JJAG sent a letter to DCPS requesting responses to various questions related to truancy and compliance with the Attendance Accountability Act. JJAG has not heard back from DCPS.
- (2) **Diversion Letter to Mayor Gray:** Carmen drafted a letter to the Mayor regarding the lack of diversion programs in DC (both for truancy and juvenile offenses) and asked for comments from JJAG. JJAG discussed the need for diversion programs, noting that the only official diversion program is Access Youth, which has received local funding from JGA to work with two schools. JGA is considering expanding its funding to other diversion programs. Further discussion to be held at the next JJAG meeting.
- (3) **Annual Report:** the Executive Committee will be making final revisions to the report to present to JJAG at the next meeting.

Subcommittee Updates:

- (1) **Youth Committee:**
 - a. Committee is looking into creating a brochure to help explain JJAG to youth and recruit members.
- (2) **Policy Committee:**
 - a. Committee developed the questions for DCPS contained in the letter referenced above. Some committee members are attending the "Creating Community Solutions" workshop this weekend regarding mental health services for youth and families and will see if anything comes out of that session that is applicable to the work the Committee has done regarding mental health. JJAG members suggested that the Committee should focus on diversion (both for truancy and juvenile offenses).
- (3) **Grants Committee**
 - a. No updates

(4) Compliance Committee

- a. CJCC's compliance monitor completed site visits to various non-secure homes, as well as training on compliance monitoring.

Announcements:

1. The next DC Model Court Collaborative on Disproportionate Representation of Minorities will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 4:30 at the Court. The focus will be on diversion.
2. The Family Court training regarding teen pregnancy that had been scheduled for October 17 has been canceled due to the government shutdown.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 14 at 5:00

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2013

510 4th Street, NW, Building B, Room 202

Attendance: Mary Abraham, Andrea Allen, Fannie Barksdale, Hilary Cairns, Willie Dandridge, Carmen Daugherty, Shyra Gregory, Daniel Okonkwo, Lori Parker, Jamie Rodriguez, Dave Rosenthal, Gitana Stewart-Ponder, Ram Uppaluri,

Welcome: JJAG welcomed new member Andrea Allen, Director of Attendance at DCPS.

Discussion:

- (4) **Truancy Updates:** Andrea Allen gave an overview of DCPS's attendance protocols and reported that there likely are more than 1000 students who are eligible for Court referral due to 15+ unexcused absences, and thousands who are eligible for Student Support Team (SST) meetings due to 5 and/or 10 unexcused absences. Andrea noted that the rule that missing more than 20% of school day counts as a full-day absence is resulting in even more absences than projected. DCPS central office is urging teachers to let students in mid-class to reduce the numbers of absences that result from the 20% rule. She also noted that her office will not refer youth to Court Social Services unless the schools have met their burden regarding SST meetings, home visits, etc.
 - a. **JJAG's letter to DCPS:** JJAG sent a letter to DCPS requesting responses to various questions related to truancy and compliance with the Attendance Accountability Act. JJAG has not heard back from DCPS although the appointment of Andrea Allen to JJAG was one of the requests in the letter.
 - b. **MPD process regarding truant youth:** Commander Dandridge reported that MPD is now checking to see if youth picked up for truancy are committed to DYRS or under CSS supervision. Identifying this information enables supervising probation officers, OAG, etc., to recommend changes to the conditions of release given that most of these youth are under Court order to attend school. Commander Dandridge reported that the impact is that more youth are being put on electronic monitoring. Without providing specific numbers, Commander Dandridge reported that many of the youth picked up for truancy are committed to DYRS, but few are under CSS supervision.
 - c. **JGA update:** Mary Abraham reported that seven community based organizations (the Collaboratives, Catholic Charities and Boystown) are

working on a JGA-funded truancy initiative targeting elementary schools. Intervention occurs at the 5-day unexcused absences mark.

- (5) **Diversion Letter:** Carmen drafted a letter to the Deputy Mayors regarding the lack of diversion programs in DC (both for truancy and juvenile offenses) and asked for comments from JJAG. Final comments are due by Monday, November 18. In collaboration with the Policy Committee, Carmen will review final edits and email the letter to the Deputy Mayors that week.
 - a. Daniel Okonkwo reported that a team from the Kennedy School at Harvard is looking at diversion programs in DC, in particular the feasibility of a citation diversion program.
- (6) **Annual Report:** Final edits are due by Tuesday, November 20.

Subcommittee Updates:

(5) **Youth Committee:**

- a. No update.

(6) **Policy Committee:**

- a. Committee is working on finalizing the Diversion Letter described above.

(7) **Grants Committee**

- a. No updates

(8) **Compliance Committee**

- a. No report

Announcements:

1. The next DC Model Court Collaborative on Disproportionate Representation of Minorities will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 4:30 at the Court. The focus will be on diversion per a presentation by Mr. Fois in the OAG's office. In addition, Professor Henning from Georgetown University Law Center will be discuss her article, "Criminalizing Normal Adolescent Behavior in Communities of Color: The Role of Prosecutors in Juvenile Justice."

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 12 at 5:00.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 12, 2013

510 4th Street, NW, Building B, Room 202

Attendance: Andrea Allen, James Ballard III, Fannie Barksdale, Hilary Cairns, Carmen Daugherty, Shyra Gregory, Bobby Ladson, Daniel Okonkwo, Lori Parker, Gerren Price, Jamie Rodriguez, Bridgette Royster, Ram Uppaluri, Tony White, Angella Bellota

Welcome: JJAG welcomed new member Andrea Allen, Director of Attendance at DCPS.

Discussion:

(7) Diversion in DC:

- a. DC Model Court Collaborative meeting: Attendees heard from Kristin Henning, professor at Georgetown Law who spoke regarding the criminalization of normal adolescent behaviors and this phenomenon's disproportionate impact on minority youth, and Andres Fois, Deputy Attorney General, regarding diversion in DC.
- b. MPD's diversion model (draft): Bobby Ladson spoke on behalf of Commander Dandridge regarding MPD's efforts to implement a new diversion program. Details about the program were murky, so Ladson will follow-up with Dandridge to get full information about things such as the role of DYRS, YouthLink, etc.
- c. Diversion letter from JJAG: Carmen forwarded the JJAG-approved diversion letter to the executive branch. Subsequently, the Policy Committee met with Gerren Price, the newly-appointed truancy specialist in the Mayor's office, and the Committee is in the process of setting up meetings with point people in the Deputy Mayor's offices for Health and Human Services, and for Public Safety.

(8) **Annual Report:** Completed and Submitted.

(9) **Request for JJAG funding:** The Council for Court Excellence has approached JJAG to request money to support a study regarding school discipline. Carmen will circulate the request for a vote.

Subcommittee Updates:

(9) Youth Committee:

- a. No update. Bridgette stated again that the two grantees, UrbanEd and MCIP (Multicultural Career Intern Program) are required under their grant agreements to make a participating youth available to attend JJAG.

(10) Policy Committee:

- a. See above re: meeting with Gerren Price and requested meetings with the Deputy Mayors offices. The Committee is working on next steps regarding diversion.

- (11) **Grants Committee**
 - a. No updates

- (12) **Compliance Committee**
 - a. No report

Announcements:

1. Ram alerted JJAG to the release of the “Equity Report” (<http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/About+DCPS/Press+Releases+and+Announcements/Press+Releases/New+Joint+Report+Outlines+Academic+and+Discipline+Trends+in+Public+Schools+in+DC>) which looks at various data regarding in-seat attendance, suspensions, etc., in both tradition and charter public schools.
2. Carmen reported that JJAG still needs additional members to serve on JJAG.
3. CJJ membership is \$5k. We will vote on this at the next JJAG meeting.
4. The JGA website is being updated to include more detailed info about JJAG meetings, etc.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 9 at 5:00.

DC Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2014
5-7 pm

Minutes

Present: James Ballard III, Violet Browne, Hilary Cairns, Carmen Daugherty, Shyra Gregory, Marcus Mitchell, Theresa Mount, Gitana Stewart-Ponder, Bridgette Royster, Lori Parker, Ram Uppuluri, Tony White, Roxanne Williams, Robin Winer, Bruce Wright,

1. **Grant Recipient Presentations:** JJAG heard from the two JJDPA/JGA grant recipients
 - a. **Multicultural Career Intern Program (MCIP):** MCIP is housed at the Columbia Heights Education Campus and serves only youth attending that school. The program includes a variety of services, including after-school tutoring, sports camps, and school monitoring. The goal of the program is to keep at-risk youth engaged in school, combat gang activity, and increase academic success of the students.
 - b. **UrbanEd:** UrbanEd is a workforce development and computer training program for older youth (ages 17+). The youth participate in computer classes four days per week (9-1, with the next class starting March 11) and job placement is usually achieved at the completion of the 10-12 week program. The grant is used to support slots for the computer classes, with the intent that the slots would be filled by DYRS-involved youth. However, because DYRS has not referred enough eligible youth, the program is open to other applicants.
 - c. JJAG members asked questions of both grantees regarding outcomes, etc. Both programs are supposed to identify youth to attend JJAG. The grantees are in the process of working with the JGA evaluator to develop the outcome measures that will be used to evaluate these programs in FY14. It was suggested that the evaluator should present to JJAG.
2. **Update on Council for Court Excellence Funding Request:** JJAG members voted by email on this funding request. The request did not pass due to a combination of No votes and ineligible Yes votes submitted by JJAG appointees who are not in good standing due to inactivity.
3. **Delinquency Diversion:** Carmen Daugherty, James Ballard, and Hilary Cairns reported on a meeting they attended with Abby Bonder in the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services' office and Quincy Booth in the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety's office. Abby is the lead person at the executive level addressing the gap in delinquency diversion options. She is working on a short-term plan for FY14 to address these gaps by utilizing existing programs (unnamed at the meeting). The hope is that identification of the resource gaps will provide justification for an FY15 local commitment of dollars. JJAG representatives will meet again with Abby at the end of the March to hear about the proposed plan.
4. **Committee Updates:**

- a. **Policy Committee**: See delinquency diversion discussion above.
- b. **Youth Committee**: Members were not present at the meeting; Carmen reported that the committee had been talking about a youth brochure and getting youth from the Mayor's Youth Advisory group to attend JJAG, but no word yet on either of these.
- c. **Ethics Committee**: Dave Rosenthal clarified that in fact there is no such committee on JJAG. We did discuss the fact that there are many JJAG appointees who have been inactive for some time; Carmen has been working with the Mayor's office to get new appointees on board.

5. JGA Updates

- a. Bridgette Royster reported that the JJAG portion of the website will be up in March.
- b. JJAG annual report was submitted in January
- c. The FY13 report is due June 30.
- d. Coalition for Juvenile Justice membership: JJAG discussed paying the annual membership fee, which would include reduced fees for the annual CJJ conference, technical assistance, etc. JJAG started to take a vote on the membership, but then this was tabled for further discussion at the strategic planning session to be scheduled soon.

6. Four Core Requirements

- a. Tony White reported that he is preparing to do secure site visits and an MPD/DYRS data review

7. Other Updates:

- a. The Model Court Collaborative quarterly meeting will be held on March 4 at 4:30.
- b. Bridgette and Carmen will work on getting a facilitator for JJAG's potential strategic planning meeting.
- c. Dave and Hilary both applied to serve as an alternate to the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice