

# Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

December 4, 2019  
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
1112 South Wabash Avenue, Suite 2-200, Chicago, IL 60605

## Meeting Minutes

### Board Members

Present in Person: Heidi Mueller and David Olson

Present by Phone: Jerry Butler, Jennifer North, Jennifer Vollen-Katz, Julie Biehl

Absent: Walter Brandon, David Kelly, Annetta Wilson, Rick Velasquez

Other Attendees: Deloris Smith, NeAngela Dixon—via phone

### I. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting began at approximately 12:10 p.m. with quorum present.

### II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March 5, 2019 and September 13, 2019 were approved by the Board.

### III. Director's Report – Director Heidi Mueller provided the following report to the Board:

#### A. **MH v. Findley and Mueller Termination Order**

At Director Mueller's request, Chief Legal Counsel NeAngela Dixon provided the update: IDJJ is officially from under the MH consent decree and no longer under monitoring or litigation. The termination notice from the court was received on November 14, 2019. Data will continue to be collected about revocation and resumptions and made publicly available. The agency will comply with all the procedures and processes for revocation hearings and collaborating with PRB to ensure everything is handled appropriately so that we won't have to report to the court on those efforts.

#### B. **RJ v Mueller Annual Status Report**

IDJJ received the annual monitor's status report from the monitors for the year, which were filed with the Federal Court. Members of the Board were emailed copies of the reports with a chart that summarizes status, remedial plan requirement and monitors' assessments (*red = not compliant; yellow = partial compliance; green = substantial compliance; and white = held substantial compliance and area is terminated out of the consent decree*). Director Mueller asked Chief Dixon to expound on DJJ compliance status.

Chief Dixon remarks:

1. **Mental health provisions:** Substantial compliance has been reached in many areas. The monitors anticipate that as progress continues, DJJ can achieve substantial compliance in all areas of that provision within the next year. A major issue within the past year was psychiatric hospitalization of youth. The department have contracted with specific providers and is making efforts to collaborate with more providers. We are now in discussions with other state agencies about how the State could better respond to adolescent psychiatric services. We will continue to focus on the remaining areas relate to staffing issues, treatment units, administrative positions, and mental health staffing ratios. Another major area that will get focus is family therapy. Although in partial compliance, we will be more transparent of our efforts to connect families to achieve substantial compliance. Some efforts recognized include WebEx technology as a way for

youth to see their family via the web, as well as the work being done to incorporate Aftercare to help with better transitions for family engagement and family therapy.

Chief Dixon expressed that mental health is in a good spot and to make sure to communicate and highlight efforts for family therapy.

2. **Education:** At St. Charles, the lack of full-time school instruction remains a major issue and will be a primary focus of the agency. Pere Marquette and Harrisburg should drop off monitoring because both have two consecutive years of substantial compliance in many areas. Other than the full-time school at St. Charles

Additional area to communicate with the monitors and to persuade the courts to make findings in the favor of DJJ is the modified school calendar, which we were in substantial compliance the first two years but receiving a finding of partial compliance the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. However, DJJ felt this should have been off monitoring or substantial compliance because the modified school calendar had not changed, however the monitors expectations essentially changed. Presenting that DJJ got back into substantial compliance. Director Mueller added that the way the monitors expectations changed was not consistent with established best practice in the field. The school calendar was modified within the consent decree and more consistent with best practice.

3. **Confinement, Safety and General Issues:** Kelly Dedel monitors all those provisions which are areas that have a lot of progress either mostly substantial compliance or partial compliance. Ms. Dedel indicated that she sees DJJ moving into substantial compliance in all areas in the next year or two and that much of the work for partial compliance is just consistency—making sure right policies and procedures are in place and being executed correctly. The next step in court is to address a plan by the department of how we will move into substantial compliance in all remaining areas. Director Mueller added that in this area, Kelly Dedel calculated the rate of substantial compliance for each facility to gauge how each were doing. **Harrisburg and Warrenville** are at about **92%** substantial compliance rate...small doable changes needed for 100%. **Pere Marquette** about **82%**, **Chicago** about **75%**, and **St. Charles 50%** which was an improvement from the previous monitoring movement.

## C Monthly Report Updates

- The September monthly report (includes numbers from May, June, July, August and September). **Population:** Spring 2018 - the population dropped and hit low point in May of 2019 when it was 247. As of September, 276. Population has hooved between 255-263 for the last couple of months. Continued trend of **Admissions** being lowered, having dropped over the past 30 years drastically.
- **Mental Health Data**, FY 2019 and FY 2020 Percentage of youth on psychotropic meds Our average is a little higher than what the national average is. National range is between 20% and 40% Chairman Olsen asked why Illinois is higher. Director Mueller answered that it may be a combination of things: (1) *Partly due to the consent decrees*, (2) *diligent about mental health assessment and* (3) *review an evaluation of psychotropic medication*.
- **Education:** Students enrolled, teachers employed, percent of special ed students, overall diplomas are on shown on the charts in the monthly updates. DJJ is meeting consent decree ratio in all facilities for General Education teachers: 1 teacher for every 4 students. Special Education not met in two facilities but working to get those hired. We now have Special Education Resource Coordinators at each school, and they help with youth who have IEPs.

- **Reportable Incidents** – Data shows that September was a good month for overall rate. This counts individual incidents not individual youth
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**D. One Year Goal Progress**

DJJ as well as other state agencies had to develop 1-4-10-year goals for the incoming Administration. DJJ developed the 1-4-10--year target goals over four different priorities:

1). **Transitioning to a developmental restorative functional custody model.** 1-year target progress: (a) Developing developmentally appropriate policies and practices to engage and improve access for families. This goal has not been completed. (b) Engaged with VERA Institute who received a grant from the K.C Foundation for use with collaborative workgroups. They did an assessment of policies and practices and starting As of January 8, VERA will start a 6-month project working with staff to evaluate our current policies and practices and make suggestions and recommendations for improving family access and family engagement as well as training staff to be more skilled in family engagement. (c) Updating youth uniforms; (d) Establishing partnership with RJ Hubbs for youth in facilities as they transition back to community. (e) Establishing mentoring programs pipelines at all DJJ facilities (northern facilities have been done; working on the southern facilities); (f) Opening a gender specific trauma informed victim services home for girls [this has been done in partnership with Maryville Academy located Bartlett]; (g) Maintain a population in secure custody below 300 (achieved).

2) **Improving outcomes by improving practice.** 1-year goal: (a) Establish an annual training feedback protocol and move towards continuous quality improvement. Chief of Professional Development has revamped annual training and have incorporated a more interactive model that includes staff feedback. (b) Other targets: rolling out of staff wellness, leadership academy and crisis response teams statewide. (c) Standardizing and training the staff disciplinary process is a big goal for this year. DJJ has a new Labor Relations person who is working with Chief of Staff to standardize disciplinary process for staff. (d) Establish budget and resources to support positive youth behavior and supports – has been done. (e) Set aside actual line item in budget for PBIS that supports PBIS activities and in cooperate RJ practices in youth disciplinary proceedings.

3) **Successfully exiting consent decrees.** 1-year targets (a) terminate MH v. Findley, which was done November 14<sup>th</sup>. (b) next target is increasing the percentage of areas in substantial compliance with RJ v Mueller Remedial Plan to 75%. (c) Establishing an IGA with DCFS to improve stable placement of dually involved youth; awaiting DCFS signature. (d) Expanding college admissions pipeline for youth in all facilities and increase the percentage of youth participating in post-secondary education training to 20%. DJJ has about 15% of youth in post-secondary programming

4) **Building a supportive efficient administrative infrastructure.** (a) Establishing a process for property control and updating the purchase process. Purchase process starting January 1<sup>st</sup> will go to completely online system, allowing from the Governor's office to see line item of what each agency are spending. (b) Established sustainable youth benefit fund process that incorporates youth decision making, developed our own IDs, taken over youth benefit from IDOC, finishing developing policies that require youth committee sign off for expenditure of youth benefit funds. (c) Work with facilities to develop protocols and identify youth to work on the Finance Committee. (d) Complete conversion from IDOC legacy policies to IDJJ specific policies. (d) Establish an HR process and an IT governing structure process. Establish an Onboarding Orientation process for all staff except for Executive Staff. CMS has approved job descriptions for DJJ's own HR department; awaiting approval to post. Expect to start hiring within next month or two. The establishment of an IT governance structure process: DJJ now has

their own Chief Information Officer Kelly Ingram, Cluster Chief Information Officer through DoIT and reporting structure that takes care of governance process.

**E. January Program Launches**

YAP Pilot Program to begin taking youth in January 2020. The Family Engagement work groups received a grant from NYU for renovation for spaces in DJJ. A site visit is scheduled at IYC Chicago on December 9, and work begins in January.

**IV: Goals for 2020**

- Bring St. Charles into substantial compliance with consent decree
- Focus on Family Therapy and Family Engagement
- Build our continuum of support and resources in the community for youth as they return
- Transition from facility to Aftercare: Improve transition program for youth—**more purpose driven**. Build more like skills development and independence planning.

**V: New Business**

No New Business

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately. 1:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

Date: June 3, 2020

Location: IDJJ — 1112 South Wabash Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Chicago, IL 60605