**Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG)**

**Virtual Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, February 7, 2022

4:30pm - 6:00pm

**Member Attendance**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Present** | **Absent** | **Proxy** |
| 1. **Anderson**, Patrina (Trina)
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Barnes,** Mylan
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Bronson,** Floyd
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Burton**, Lisette
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Clark,** Sheila
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Del Valle,** Nataly
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Dennis,** Ra’Chelle
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Di Toro,** Jennifer
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Furr**, Laura
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Gregory-Dowling**, Shyra
 |  | X |  |
| 1. **Godin,** Daniel
 | X |  | Capt. Johnathan Branch |
| 1. **Hope,** D’Vontay
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Mobley,** Brittany
 | X |  | Tiffany Reid Collazo |
| 1. **Odom**, Terri
 | X |  |  Jacqueline Wright  |
| 1. **Patterson**, Jenise (Jo)
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Richmond,** LaShelle
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Rosenthal**, David (Dave)
 | X |  |  |
| 1. **Spain**, Penelope
 | X |  | Rondell Jordan |
| 1. **White,** Aaron
 |  | X |  |
| 1. **Wright**, Bruce
 | X |  | Jose DeArteaga |
| 1. **Woods,** Kyla
 | X |  |  |
| Staff Present | OVSJG - Melissa Milchman, Suzie Dhere, and Tawana StewartCJCC - Toni Lemons, and Kristy Love |
| Guests or Advisory MembersPresent | Lindsey Appiah, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice (DMPSJ) Helen McClure (DMPSJ)Ellan Hanson, DC Council Committee on Judiciary and Public SafetyPrana Nandi (community member/advisor to JJAG R.E.D. Committee)Allison Kahn Pauli (CASA DC)Rondell Jordan (Open City Advocates)Mark Timberlake (OVSJG)Asante Laing (CFSA)Jose DeArteaga (DYRS)Billy Easley, ANC 1A10 Commissioner |
| Notes Prepared by | Melissa Milchman |

AGENDA

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| Welcome | Welcome and Introductions (*Laura Furr, Chair)** *Welcome new voting members Ra’Chelle Dennis, Floyd Bronson and D’Vontay Hope*
* D’Vontay works with SMYAL and is a member of Supporting Hopeful Youth (DHS) Youth Action Board. He is interested in supporting YLA and community engagement work., hoping to be a part of the change in our community.
* Floyd Bronson works at School Talk DC as a Restorative Justice Coordinator. He has a sociology and early childhood education background. Floyd has 26 years of school-based experience and is looking forward to supporting JJAG from this lens and be of service to the community.
* Ra’Chelle always wanted to be a part of the advocacy community and is excited to be a space where she can be a juvenile and parent advocate. She works for Martha’s Table and is a parent of young people in DC. She has lived experience navigating District systems and resources. Now, she helps parents in Ward 8 navigate system resources and economic mobility programs. She continues to work as a family engagement specialist and connect with people in the community and be a leader.
* *Welcome and introduction of Lindsey Appiah, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice*
* Lindsey is from Massachusetts has a rich family history that brings her to this work with lived experience. Lindsey had a strong faith upbringing and her parents had experience growing up in the foster care system. Her parents fostered hundreds of young people.
* Lindsey studied community health at Brown University and attended Georgetown Law studying to be a child advocate. She then worked in Nashville Tennessee, as an assistant AG working for the child and family services agency there.
* She came back to DC to work as General Counsel at DYRS for 9 years and interim Director for the agency. Then, she became the Chief of Staff in the DMPSJ Office in 2021, and now is acting Deputy Mayor.
* Her Philosophy – I am still learning the community and believe the Answer is the community – government is not the answer to community ills. We have resources and responsibilities, and the focus should be used to uplift communities and the people we serve.
* Lindsey believes we are at a critical time. Our young people have a lot going on (pandemic, mental health challenges, gun violence, etc.).
* She is focused on advancing the Mayor’s priorities for public safety.
* Plans for engagement with the JJAG and other community experts: There will be times where we align and times where we do not, but we can all agree that we want our kids and communities to thrive. We have to evaluate all viewpoints and work together to create spaces where young people are able to thrive.
* Key Priorities Identified: Reduce Crime and Reduce Gun Violence
* Within that work, Lindsey is determined to improve coordination of resources amongst agencies. The goal is to focus on resources we already have but coordinate them in a way that maximizes impact.

*Related Updates and Transitions: DYRS Director Hilary Cairns is transitioning out of her role. There are a lot of transitions happening, so Laura is noting that JJAG is a space to communicate and work together to stay accountable to youth and community through this time.* |
| JJAG Priorities | Recap and Discussion of the JJAG’s Priorities (*Laura Furr, Chair*)*Related Updates and Transitions: DYRS Director Hilary Cairns is transitioning out of her role. There are a lot of transitions happening, so Laura is noting that JJAG is a space to communicate and work together to stay accountable to youth and community through this time.*Member Check-in: How are we feeling?* Excited for work this year!
* Feeling uplifted by the YLA and waning to keep that front and center
* Sad about Hilary Cairns transition and worried about a direction shift at DYRS
* Hoping to see DYRS and the juvenile justice community continue to prioritize the “Lead with Love” philosophy.
* Overall, rhetoric in DC around kids and young people continues to be negative, and youth know what is being said about them. It is important to be mindful about the policy and programming pieces but also be considerate of how we speak about young people and show how we value young people.

JJAG Efforts Recap and Review: There are 4 key work products that encompass the JJAG’s priorities and the work of this body that we’ve developed over the past several years.1. Addressing PINS (status offenses) in the community without system involvement
2. Resolution 2022-01: Supporting Enhanced Responses to Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy
3. Resolution 2023-01: Enhance Mentoring and Expansion of non-punitive forms of engagement through investments in mentorship, workforce development, and the arts.
4. Reducing racial and ethnic disparities in arrests of youth
* With these things in minds, we want to identify opportunities for collaboration and alignment with the mayor, amongst agencies and community members, etc.
* Additional current events context: Recap of the [mayor’s meeting](https://youtu.be/5wVFE0W-HTc) with school principals Jan 11 and pushback on SRO recommendations – through these recent convenings, there is a need being expressed by school leadership for additional strategies and responses to student behaviors and needs

DiscussionDM Lindsey Appiah Discussion and Response: Transition can feel destabilizing and challenging. The changes are not about philosophy (“what does love look like in public policy” philosophy is going to continue to be maintained). The particular strategies and how we operationalize that may need to shift because communities do not feel safe and juveniles are a part of that picture.* They Mayor met with Principals and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners recently. One of the observations from those convenings is that anxiety feels heightened to the same as it was in the 90’s. While crime is not at the same level, the fear level is perceived as the same.
* When asked what will help, principals asked for SROs back. However, the Mayor is asking, what else and considering all options to respond to the identified gaps. Will coordination of safe passages, ONSE leadership academy or other resources (e.g., educating school personnel on how to access resources that youth need) mitigate these challenges and provide the requested supports?
* There is no intention to abandon our belief in prevention, and investments being made on that side are not lessoned. We still want to prevent system involvement at every level.
* We also have to grapple with how to make people feel safer.
* We still maintain the belief that all young people SHOULD NOT be served by the JJ system, but the gap between where we want to go in the prevention space and where we are is what we are currently working on.
* We also need to acknowledge the shifts of the pandemic – higher truancy and higher mental health needs.
* We are still trying to staff up to meet the level of needs, which is an administrative challenge.

JJAG Members Discussion and Response: * Keep youth at the forefront and continue to make it open and accessible for youth to provide feedback.
* JJAG wants to be useful in the strategic problem solving. How can JJAG serve as a resource or asset to the transitional space we are in?
* We feel strongly about keeping LOVE at the center of the philosophy.
* JJAG wants to support the coordination work, as we work with youth, we also have to continue to support and integrate family supports with equal vigor.
* Please include educators in our conversations to understand the impact the last few years have had on our educators and school support staff. A protective factor that makes youth feel safe is when they have a trusted adult in the classroom, so those voices are important too.
* Connecting threads of grief, which the pandemic and gun violence have amplified for our community. Many young people are experiencing grief. There is research being done on this and the science of hope (as a protective factor) at the University of Oklahoma and University of Kentucky. It could be helpful to think about acknowledging grief and building hope as a framework for how we are thinking about responding to the challenges in our community.
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| JJAG Business | Update on JJAG Business (Melissa Milchman, JJ Specialist, and *Toni Lemons, Compliance Monitor)** Compliance monitoring visits- CJCC Presentation Attached
* Toni covered the core requirements of the JJDPA, and the role of the compliance monitor to review data and inspect facilities to ensure that DC complies with and meets those requirements. Toni reports the status of our compliance to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
* Toni visits 13 sites, manages and revises our compliance monitoring manual, and completes reports on those visits, and manages requests for data from JJAG.
* Toni identified zero compliance violations last fiscal year.
* Toni also manages our state plan to reduce racial and ethnic disparities and she collects and reports data to OJJDP on our goals to prevent involvement for youth at all points in the District’s system.
* If you want to join a future compliance site visit, let Toni know. We need to request permission from the agency where we are going to visit. This would mean that part of the visit will serve as a tour and part will be closed to review confidential data.
* Reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act – we are at a time when Congress will be considering reauthoring (and maintaining investments in the JJDPA). This is a time fir advocates to ask for continued Title II funding or ask for changes that might be needed in the law to gap fill. CJJ put out a call to members and advocates to identify changes or suggestions to submit for reauthorization consideration. See attachment with current suggestions. Contact, Toni or Melissa if you have feedback that you would like for us to submit to CJJ. We will discuss it at the March JJAG meeting.
* Coalition for Juvenile Justice conference workshops and attendance -CJJ is having their annual juvenile justice conference in May. YLA submitted a proposal to present, and Laura and Mylan are both going to be speaking at the conference. Members should reach out to Melissa if they would like to request JJAG to support their registration (as there are fees).
* OVSJG has a New Director- **Jennifer Porter** was appointed Director of the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants on Friday 2/3/23. From 2010 to 2019, she worked in government relations and adolescent health advocacy at Children’s National Health System. In 2019, she was appointed Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office on Women’s Policy and Initiatives, serving as the chief advocate for women and women’s issues and building capacity with nonprofit organizations and government agencies to address the needs of women.
* Meeting survey- JJAG would like input from members about our meetings and returning to in person meetings. Please fill out the survey to share your feedback.
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| Community Education Resource | Introduction and call for volunteers to support community education efforts (Laura Furr, Chair)JJAG is going to draft a one pager that outlines 5 things you need to know about community safety, youth and JJAG. Contact Laura if you want to support this work.Kyla and Pranav volunteered to support this work. |
| Updates and Announcements | Invitation to members, advisors, and partners to share updates, opportunities for collaboration, news, etc.The Council for Court Excellence Requests for Support in Crossover Youth Audit (contact Takeyshia.johnson@courtexcellence.org or sign up [here](https://calendly.com/jennifer-ubiera/survey-focus-group-planning?month=2022-12)).DC Council is Hosting a 2023 Youth Hearing – February 25 @ Noon at the Rise Center. Learn more or sign up to participate here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctWgxTyYNI0kXcfdNkAJaC1G85kjpD7AK0rNnCHLm2oVDFnQ/viewform>DYRS has an open RFA for Youth Programming to support the Violence Prevention Initiative (Due February 24): <https://dyrs.dc.gov/page/current-funding-opportunities>Youthfrence is on Saturday *March 04, 2023 10am-2pm @ The Arc 1901 Mississippi Ave SE – conference focused on parents and youth navigating the juvenile justice system -* [*https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youthference-remix-parent-addition-tickets-529687027157*](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youthference-remix-parent-addition-tickets-529687027157) *– YLA plans to participate and table.*  |
| Adjourn | 6:05PM |

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