

SMART on Juvenile Justice: Enhancing Youth Access to Justice Initiative

SJJAC Quarterly Meeting Minutes July 7, 2017

Opening

The SMART on Juvenile Justice: Enhancing Youth Access to Justice SJJAC Quarterly Meeting was called to order by Dawn Williams at 10:05 am on July 7, 2017 in the Carvel State Office Building, 10th Floor Conference Room, 820 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.

Present

Romie Griesmer (CJC), Lisa Minutola (ODS), Dawn Williams (ODS), Kit Lunger (OPD), Colin Dunlavey (OPD), Kirstin Cornell (DCJ), Donna Pugh (YRS), Addie Asay (Family Court), Monika Germono (OPD), Alanna Farber (ODS), Meghan Crist, Tricia Widdoss (Skadden), Michelle Darling (YRS).

Discussion

- Dawn Williams gave a welcome and introduction. A motion to approve the minutes from the April 7th meeting was approved. Those present provided introductions.
- Planning Grant: A brief update was given by Dawn Williams: This grant is up in September. There are still trainings happening under this grant and we are having some data work done by UD. Romie Griesmer gave a brief description of the data analysis being conducted: it is regarding the initial detention hearings, JP court versus FC, with counsel or without counsel.
- Reform Grant: A brief update was given by Romie Griesmer. This grant focuses on diversion, DMC, and data relating to these areas. JJAG is being reauthorized next Wed July 12th and JJAG is expected to appoint a TASK force to begin work under this grant. Our TA provider has already begun conducting interviews for the assessment and will be on site July 18 & 19 doing in person meetings.
- Implementation Grant:

Work Group Updates:

- New: Education Work Group needed. Alanna Farber and Romie Griesmer gave a brief overview of the need for this group to serve youth with school issues post-disposition. Please give names of people you think should be included in this group to Alanna or Romie.
- Post Disposition Group: Alanna Farber is attempting to get new law students involved in visiting the youth in detention since the old students have graduated. Alanna has connected with Brandywine Counseling who has a new reentry contract with YRS. Brandywine will see the kids who are not meeting with YAP regarding reentry needs, mainly at cottages. Please keep Brandywine in mind for referrals. Two expungement clinics are coming up: the first on July 21st in Sussex County (expecting 40-45 kids). Training for this clinic is happening this afternoon at Skadden (including their summer associates). The second clinic is happening on August 4th at Delaware Law School (over 30 kids are expected at least). There is an Attorney training for the second clinic on July 26th. SB 54 passed widening the net for youth to apply for discretionary expungements with varying waiting periods. Now there are very few offenses not eligible for discretionary expungements (murder, rape, kidnapping). Alanna is following up with PD former clients who want to file for discretionary expungements

and distributing these cases to attorneys. SDARJ has raised money to cover the cost of expungements for numerous expungements in Sussex County. Lisa also mentioned that HB 176 recently passed the legislature which makes 30 day suspension from school for “deadly weapon” discretionary instead of mandatory.

- Training & Expungement: Up to this point Lisa & Dawn have been the only JTIP certified trainers. Next week 5 more lawyers will be trained from DE (and others from PA, NJ and NY) at the law school. Dawn Williams described formulating the plans for the September 29th Summit. The day will include a Welcome and a Thank you to Legislators. Dawn hopes to incorporate Steve & Alex’s stories. The overall theme of the summit is the Roles we all have in JJ system. Some of the breakout session topics that are being discussed are: implicit bias, juvenile confessions, being trauma informed, restorative justice, sex offender registration, and post disposition work. Dawn plans to do separate trainings in the areas we are not able to fit in at Summit. There will be more trainings for the entire bar as well as in-house for 2017-18. ODS has been able to send attorneys to some specialized trainings. Meghan & Dawn have been working to Delawar-ize the defense standards for juvenile practice that will be completed by the fall. Meghan is going to start working on a community forum with DCJ for outreach. Ideally, we would like to do these forums on a quarterly basis.
- Initial Detention: Colin Dunlavey mentioned that there is an upcoming meeting with Judge Newell where the video bail issue will again be discussed. Kate Parker-West has written a position paper on the topic that will be used to advocate the discontinuation of this practice. Lisa Minutola mentioned that for the future, JJAG may have to look at juvenile bail issue. If the work on adult bail results in a constitutional amendment, we will have to examine this in light of kids.

Conclusion

- Dawn Williams suggested that working groups meet before next SJJAC meeting.
- Please spread the word about the Summit September 29th and the Expungement Clinics. If anyone has topics or speaker ideas for Summit, please let Dawn know.
- Alanna is trying to get some space in FC in all three counties once or twice/month to advertise post-disposition services.
- Please send any suggested people for the new Education Work Group to Alanna and Romie. The NJDC Report will be published next Wednesday.
- Lisa Minutola announced more legislative news: the civil citation bill (adding paraphernalia & second bite opportunity) passed. Donna Pugh noted that her volume has increased significantly. Last year she had 115 referrals, this year she’s already at 190. Donna also made a request for interns. We need to look for the state to begin funding her position.
- Another legislative update is the Waiver of Counsel Rule was codified. Also, the bill on transfer laws passed. The only juvenile offense that is still a mandatory transfer is firearms. Lisa believes that there will be a signing ceremony of these bills at the August expungement clinic at the law school. Jon Offredo is working on this.
- Michelle Darling announced that YRS is working with a new assessment now and she will provide more information at the next meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting will be in October.