

MISSISSIPPI JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – 2nd Quarter Meeting – April 16, 2021 VIA: Zoom

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Dr. Alfred Martin
Jaqueline Dedeaux
Katrina Phillips
Judge Tom Broome
Donald Brown
Ta’Shia Gordon
Toni Kersh

Dwayne Nelson
Dr. Lisa Nored
Dr. Angela
Robertson
Gloria Salters
Eric Williams

DPS STAFF:

Emberly Holmes
Jordan McMichael
Frederick McGee
Teresa Wash

SPECIAL

GUEST:

Alyssa Malcomson

EXCUSED:

Gary Davis
Justice Randy
Pierce
Linda Whittington
Gary Davis

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Martin called meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from 1st Quarter – February 5, 2021 meeting were submitted. Motion to accept minutes as written was made by Eric Williams, and seconded by Judge Tom Broome. Motion carried unanimously by members present.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

Dr. Martin began discussion regarding DPS placing a hold on the conference until the July 1 budget. Dr. Martin, Judge Broome and Toni Kersh will discuss a strategy to move forward. Toni Kersh thanked Dr. Martin for pushing for this conference because as our motto for the conference has been “Justice for All Youth”, this is the training that the persons that are working in that field get the training to make that happen.

Dr. Martin stated that have about \$80,000 remaining that needs to be spent from 2017 budgets. Discussion was held on the current groups submitting the applications. Request was made by Dr. Martin to submit ideas to him if you have a program that fits our initiatives. Discussion on grants continued and suggestion was made regarding combining 2018, 2019 and 2020 funds to be able to make a bigger impact.

STAFF UPDATE:

Emberly Holmes noted that the OJP is still awaiting feedback from the OJJDP’s Office of General Counsel (OGC) regarding the Transition Coordinator position proposed with 2017 Title II funding to ensure compliance with funding guidelines.

Emberly Holmes also noted Dr. Gardner and Mississippi State University submitted the 2020 RED Report to OJP on 04/05/2021. Minor revisions were made to the report on page 2 which now reads "Black youth were more likely to be petitioned" and the Table of Contents on page 3 has been updated. The revised copy of the report will be forwarded to Dr. Martin for the MSJJAC.

The OJJDP/JJ Specialist call held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 announced that there has been no solicitation release date. However, the OJP drafted the additional information required in the new State Plan and emailed the document to the Ad Hoc committee on 02/25/2021 for review.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CHOCTAW INITIATIVE:

Dr. Nored reported that some progress has been made. Dr. Martin has reached out to Mr. Blackmon to work with Tia Grisham to assist with moving the update forward since he has experience with similar initiatives.

RED/GRANTS:

Dr. Angela Robertson explained the steps involved in determining disproportionate minority contact (DMC) also known as racial and ethnic disparities (RED) as required by OJJDP. First, rates of referrals to juvenile court are calculated by race/ethnicity using the youth population as the denominator. Black youth are more likely to be referred to juvenile court than what is expected given their percentage of the youth population. Second, rates of diversion from the juvenile justice system are calculated by race/ethnicity using the number of referrals as the denominator. Black youth are less likely to be diverted. Researchers also examined other steps in the process of involvement in the juvenile justice system including pre-trial detention, adjudication, post-disposition secure confinement, and transfer to adult court. When race is the only factor considered, then disparities are identified for Black youth at each step of juvenile justice processing. However, when other factors are considered such as the gender, age, prior referrals, and severity of offense, Race was no longer a significant predictor of delinquent findings or secure confinement, but Black youth are still less likely to be diverted and more likely to be handled formally by the courts. Dr. Robertson suggested that these findings be considered in the awarding of grants. That is, that programs designed to increase diversion of low-risk youth and to provide community-based alternatives to detention be prioritized.

LEGISLATIVE:

Judge Broome announced that SB2282 passed without the Governor's signature. It states that no child under the age of twelve can be detained post adjudication.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Katrina Phillips has been in contact with Hinds to get an intern to assist with social media. Katrina also plans to take the social media class this summer through Hinds free tuition summer program. Next steps for the committee are on hold - waiting to hear about the conference to move forward with promoting it.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

Katrina announced that 2022 will be proclaimed the Year of HOPE by the Governor and asked that everyone be trained in the Science of Hope if given the opportunity.

Next meeting date is July 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Katrina Phillips

Katrina Phillips
JJAC Secretary