

JJAB MEETING

JJAB Chairperson: Eric Hawkins

Vice Chairperson: David Finke

February 2023 Meeting Summary



Date | time Friday, February 17th, 2023 | 1:00 p.m. | **Meeting Location** virtually via Zoom and in-person at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Room C107 – 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Meeting called to order by Eric Hawkins at 1:02pm

WELCOME & MEMBER ROLL CALL

Eric Hawkins, JJAB Chairperson

BUSINESS ITEMS

December 2022 JJAB Meeting Minutes

December JJAB Meeting Minutes were read. VK made the motion to approve as written after the correction of Daviess County (originally read ‘Davis’ as a typo). DF seconded this motion.

Youth Voice

EH (Chair) posted the question to the Youth in the Meeting, “What’s on your mind?”

Youth were present via Zoom, including one young Man from Woodsbend Youth Development Center (YDC), one young Man from Lake Cumberland YDC and one young Lady from Morehead YDC. The young Man’s name from Woodsbend YDC is J, who stated that he would love to see more hands-on activities and projects in school such as Physical Science experiments. VK let everyone know that a roller coaster project will be available soon with winners from each facility competing in Frankfort for an overall winner. JG asked J, “What is a typical school day like for you? J stated that a typical school day consists of vocational school (Electricity and Carpentry) and that his teachers are “Awesome.” The teachers provide academic assistance and work with the Youth, both in regular school classes on-line.

The next young Man’s name is R from Lake Cumberland YDC, and he stated that he’s excited to be a part of the JJAB and that he likes the work we’re doing. “For me being an offender, I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else,” he stated regarding being at Lake Cumberland YDC. He enjoys softball and basketball activities there, and he also gets to engage with the Community in cleanup and other opportunities and is appreciative for that experience. He said that he’s been incarcerated for two years now (since age 15) and doesn’t feel isolated or secluded. He expects to be incarcerated for another year or so before being released (he will be 18/19 when released).

Lastly, J from Morehead YDC reported that N (another Youth JJAB participant) was still sick and wasn’t at today’s meeting when asked by VK if she was joining in today. J also said it was her pleasure to be the tour guide to the DJJ Staff (VK, CG, MV, TK) that came to tour the facility earlier in the week (Tuesday, February 14th) and the visit was successful.

Legislative Reporting Update

State Representative Keturah Herron was originally scheduled to appear in today's JJAB Meeting and provided an update regarding new bills introduced earlier in the week that are addressing and will be affecting the Juvenile Justice system overall. Unfortunately, Rep. Herron couldn't attend, so RW was able to share these updates courtesy of CG. RW discussed the following two bills with the JJAB:

1. HB 323 – Create the Juvenile Justice Services Fund within the Department of Juvenile Justice; Appropriate monies to the fund; APPROPRIATION.
2. HB 324 – Regional Citizen Juvenile Justice Review Boards and the State Citizen Juvenile Justice Review Board to periodically review the cases of all incarcerated children and develop policy recommendations; establish duties of the review boards; establish membership of the review boards.

VK reported that House Bill 3 passed in Committee and has 2 Floor Amendments. She stated eight (8) Juvenile Justice Bills have dropped in the last few days, and there will be many case reviews and policy recommendations going forward.

New JJAB Member Appointments/Reappointments

RW announced three new JJAB Members that came from the Governor's Office including Judge Melissa Murphy Moore and Stephanie Spires out of Lexington, KY and Justin Miller from Louisville, KY. All three terms will expire in 2027. Additionally, there were three JJAB Members who were approved for reappointment. Deonte Hollowell (SEJAY Chair), Christina Weeter and Yolanda Johnson reappointment terms will all expire on 09/15/2027.

*The JJAB intends to officially appoint Tiffany Mullis, Tamar Israel and Brianna Neukomm before the next JJAB Meeting, which is 04/21/2023.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

The Motivation, Education and Leadership (MEL) Program

Brittiney Griffin (BG) presented a potential new program that can be beneficial in Juvenile Justice Facilities for Youth and throughout the Commonwealth. Core Youth programs that helped shape BG's upbringing is what has mainly inspired her to start her own program.

The mission of the MEL Program is to introduce entrepreneurship as an alternative solution for the sustainability of our Youth and recharge their cognitive function, so that they may have a choice at Life. BG presented program goals and talked about an operating budget of \$75,000. The goal is to make the program free of charge to Youth and Families with 100% funding provided. Target age range for Youth participants are 12-17 Years of Age that are considered at-risk or Justice-involved. The Board posed the question to the Youth members present and they all thought it would be a good program with hopes of BG and the MEL Program working directly with the Justice-involved young people instead of the DJJ Facilities at large. DF (Vice Chair) gave Ms. Griffin ideas to help improve the program to make it sustainable based his experience with diversion programs at the Jewish Community Center, including having virtual programming available along with navigating difficulties of transportation within DJJ Facilities. They also discussed identification of educational achievements and success indicators so the

MEL Program can have more data to measure the program's progress and overall success. EH (Chair) stated that future conversations will be set up to further evaluate the MEL Program.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) – Data Presentation

Todd Stetler (TS) and Rachel Bingham (RB) presented on the data (pre-court data) for AOC.

TS – Looking at performance measures and hot topics, a downward trend on complaint filings is one of the better projections in 2023 thus far. This is largely due to Misdemeanor complaints decreasing from 7, 583 to 5,797. Data was presented on public offenses and there has been an increase in school-related complaints, which is a rate higher than pre-pandemic for status and public offenses. The Diversion rate is staying outside of 20-21. Children that received diversion - steady success rate remains low in status offenses after 2020. AOC is working on a new tracking system to view what schools in Kentucky have the highest number of complaints.

FAIR referrals – High needs continue to be the driver. Violent Felony offenses follow similar downward trend as all complaints have seen recent reductions. Jefferson County specifically has reported higher numbers of robbery offenses with 80% being Black Youth, which only make up 20% of the Jefferson County population.

Most complaints (1,500) do not result in detention, but most of the complaints which are considered for detention result in detention. Youth of color make up a growing percentage of complaints from 2022, while White Youths had less than a third of complaints in 2022. Because of this, Black Youth become more disproportionately represented at the system's harshest contact points.

RB – Current Legislation and Concerns:

House Bill 3 hits on making accountability (Parental Cooperation and FAIR Teams), but mandatory detention is the worst part of this bill according to the AOC.

Violent Offenses under KRS 532.200

- Opening Violent Offense Records

- Jefferson County Youth Dentition Center

- House Bill 324-Regional Juvenile Justice Review Boards

Senate concurrent Resolution 86

Senate Bill 158- DJJ Performance Review

Senate Bill 162-Legislature Juvenile Justice Task Force

- CDW Program Needs

Psychosexual Assessments – need more providers to be more effective

Transportation for Youth and Families

- Mental Health Crisis Stabilization during after-hours custody situations

Statewide Least Restrictive Placements

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Update

TW – reported there are Youth Advocate Program (YAP) contracts in multiple areas across the state.

Daviess County will be doing Mentorship work within their school system and will be working with diversion Youth. YAP works with Communities to provide wrap-around services for Youth and families throughout the Commonwealth.

JDAI is currently looking for staffing contracts within all 120 Kentucky counties for SAFYE, and they're working on multiple contracts at the DAK level, including evening reporting centers. The goal of this work is to provide wrap around mentoring in schools. JDAI wants Statewide committee collaboration with 10 chairs, and most are judges. Smartlink has been approved and us being used statewide. Light of Chance contract for drivers and ATD progress resources are in Western KY. MR confirmed that a contract has been established and approved with JDAI to have 4 additional beds at YMCA Safe Place in Louisville, KY to address significant gaps for alternative options to housing with justice-involved Youth.

No Subcommittee Reports were made during today's JJAB Meeting.

TRAVEL UPDATES

None

CJJ/OJJDP UPDATES

CJJ Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. at the Marriott Marquis to take place Wednesday, May 24th through Friday, May 26th. More information can be found [here](#). Please email RW if anyone is interested in attending.

BUDGET

None

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

None

MEETING COMMENTS

EH introduced a book for everyone to read called 'Stolen Focus' by Johann Hari. More information on this book can be found here - <https://www.amazon.com/Stolen-Focus-Attention-Think-Deeply/dp/0593138511>

EH asked Youth what was on their heart, and if they would like to share anything:

J (Woodsbend YDC) is happy to know that the JJAB is working to help Youth succeed while in the Justice system, and Staff at Woodsbend are very much involved in his growth, development and progression.

R (Lake Cumberland YDC) is appreciative of the programs that benefit the youth, and said today's JJAB Meeting was very informative. He closed with saying, "I like this. Keep going."

J (Morehead YDC) said, "The Staff here are really good about supporting us Youth." She would

like to talk about her situation further if given the opportunity.

TK shared information about the upcoming Elmer Lucille Allen Conference on African American Studies (ELCAAS), which will be taking place this upcoming Thursday and Friday, February 23rd and 24th at Spalding University in Louisville, KY. ELCAAS will be led by our very own Dr. Hollowell, Chair for the SEJAY. Please register and learn more about this conference by viewing the link below:

https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0035-0020-C2F9E29946E640518DD38C41DFE7F054

NEXT MEETING

Friday, April 21st, 2023 | 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

Location: IN-PERSON at Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

VK made the motion to adjourn at 4:03pm, and MR seconded this motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:03pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

IN ATTENDANCE

Members/Designees:

Eric Hawkins (EH), Veronica Koontz (VK), Matt Reed (MR), Laura Karem (LK) Gregory Jones, David Finke (DF), Gregory Warner, Natalie Kelly attended in-person.

*Yolanda Johnson, Deonte Hollowell, Michelle Oakley, Christina Weeter, Jansen Hammock and Isaac Owen attended virtually via Zoom.

Guests:

Joseph Gomes (JG), Brittiney Griffin (BG), Todd Stetler (TS) and Rachel Bingham (RB) attended in-person.

*Brianna Neukomm, YDC Youth (Woodsbend, Lake Cumberland and Morehead), Tiffany Mullis, Tamar Israel and TJ Hopper attended virtually via Zoom.

Staff:

Carly Gill (CG), Tara Kelly (TK), Mavis Williamson, Rodney Webb (RW), Marie Varney, Theresa Wolcott (TW) and Karen Mucci.

*Anthony Wooldridge, Stacey Williams, Whitney Hayse, Michael Prater and Margo Figg attended virtually via Zoom.