



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Office of the Administrator

Washington, D.C. 20531

27 AUG 2009

Dear FACJJ Members:

It has been seven months since the new Administration began and I was named Acting Administrator for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

One of our most important goals during this time has been to strengthen communication with the field and ensure greater transparency. To do this and to help inform our work, we initiated an outreach effort that has included listening sessions with researchers, practitioners, state and local officials, program administrators, tribal nations and grantees; and, specific to the FACJJ, a series of calls with members. We will continue these listening sessions and integrate regular and systematic outreach into our program and policy development efforts. We have also begun identifying areas where changes in policy, program or practice could be useful to helping OJJDP achieve its mission.

The FACJJ, too, has stated a desire for improved communication with OJJDP and greater transparency with the intent of improving its functioning.

Therefore, OJJDP has decided to refocus the October FACJJ meeting for these purposes: (1) to provide a forum for us to hear from you; (2) to engage in discussions focused on development of several options to help a federal advisory committee on juvenile justice better achieve its statutory function; and (3) to acquaint members with key OJJDP staff, operations, initiatives and resources. Robin Delany-Shabazz, Designated Federal Official to the FACJJ, will work with the planning subcommittee to revise the agenda to include small and large group discussions designed to draft a range of options to the Administrator; presentations from and consultation with staff; and a listening session.

The agenda for the October meeting will still include the FACJJ-planned training session on DMC but will defer further development of the 2010 reports. We anticipate that the work undertaken to this date by members of the Annual Report Subcommittee will be continued under the leadership of co-chairs Cecely Reardon and Dave Brown, and that initial report drafts will be presented for discussion at a spring 2010 meeting.

In revising plans for the October meeting, we take advantage of this period of transition to strengthen and better equip the FACJJ for the future.

Those who took part in the October 2005 meeting at which the FACJJ drafted its core values, principles that still undergird the work of the FACJJ, will recognize the utility of

pausing to reorient on the overarching purpose. Moreover, having been a listener at all the sessions OJJDP has held to date, I can personally confirm the value of such meetings.

Let me repeat what I have conveyed in my calls – that is our appreciation for your service to the Office, Congress and the President. The charge of providing advice on matters related to juvenile justice is both challenging and critical. I commend and thank each of you for the time, energy and commitment you devote to our mutual work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Slowikowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

Jeff Slowikowski