



Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice Webinar Meeting

Monday, April 28, 2014

**U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

ABSTRACT

The Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ), hosted a webinar meeting on April 28, 2014, to introduce new members, briefly recap the FACJJ history, highlight its evolving structure and the expected roles of its members, report on its 2013 recommendations and dissemination plans, and discuss its forward movement.

Robert Listenbee, OJJDP Administrator, praised the thoughtful recommendations that were presented to OJJDP this past December and are now slated for final publication later this spring. He assured FACJJ members that OJJDP staff has already begun to develop policy to facilitate the implementation of many of the 2013 FACJJ recommendations that address meaningful youth and family engagement, as well as youth justice in relationship to disproportionate minority contact. OJJDP is taking an evidence-based, trauma-informed, and developmentally-appropriate approach to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, understanding that violence and context contribute to the likelihood that a young person will come in contact with the juvenile or criminal justice system. To that end, it will increasingly lean on the FACJJ to think broadly and in-depth about what the nation needs to help children in juvenile justice and parallel systems, such as mental health, substance abuse, etc., or other systems related to violence that address the unique issues of youth.

A significant component of the FACJJ moving forward involves reexamining its current configuration—while simultaneously reaching out to constituent groups and stakeholders involved in juvenile justice—and being able to provide appropriate feedback on current and potential practices to OJJDP. FACJJ Chair Jim Moeser communicated a bold strategy to restructure the organization into flexible teams, where primary and alternate members are encouraged to achieve greater efficiency through a divide-and-conquer approach, address a wider range of issues, broaden their subject matter expertise, and even submit their own ideas/feedback to OJJDP.

The Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) is a consultative body established by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (Section 223) and supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Composed of appointed representatives of the nation's State Advisory Groups, the committee advises the President and Congress on matters related to juvenile justice, evaluates the progress and accomplishments of juvenile justice activities and projects, and advises the OJJDP Administrator on the work of OJJDP.

OPENING REMARKS, WEBINAR LOGISTICS, INTRODUCTIONS

Kathi Grasso, *Designated Federal Official (DFO), FACJJ, and Director, Concentration of Federal Efforts, OJJDP, OJP, DOJ*, acknowledged the commitment of James Moeser, *FACJJ Chair*, and other committee members, as well as OJJDP staff and contractors who shared their expertise to coordinate and facilitate the webinar. Special appreciation was expressed for the presence of Robert Listenbee, *Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)*, and Shanetta Cutler, *OJJDP Chief of Staff*. Members of the general public were invited to attend as listen-only observers and Ms. Grasso reminded all attendees that a webinar summary and slides will be posted on the FACJJ website (www.facjj.org) within 45 days of the meeting.

Michelle Duhart-Tonge, *Training and Technical Assistance Network Provider Lead, OJJDP National Training and Technical Assistance Center* (and webinar coordinator) gave a live demonstration on the use of webinar features and functionality.

James Moeser, *FACJJ Chair*, welcomed all attendees including new FACJJ members. He and Dalene Dutton, *FACJJ Vice-Chair*, conversed with these newest members and were pleased at their interest in serving on the team. The webinar agenda included an introduction of the new members, a recount of the FACJJ history and the role of its members, an update on the recommendations the committee approved in 2013 and report dissemination plans, and a forward look for the group. Roll Call was taken (* denotes new members):

- Starcia Ague *
- Tony Jones
- Kenya Lee
- Robin Lubitz
- Claudio Norita
- Haley Reimbold (absent)
- Symone Sanders
- Dalene Dutton, FACJJ Vice Chair
- ViEve Martin-Kohrs
- Raquel Montoya-Lewis
- Pat Berckman
- Aris Johnson *
- Dave Rosenthal *
- Ashley Beall *
- Rick Broderick
- Courtney Enright *
- Kimberly Larson *
- Sasha Pellerin *
- Linda Whittington (absent)
- George Timberlake (joined the call later into the webinar)

REMARKS—ROBERT LISTENBEE, ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

Robert Listenbee, *Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)*, gave heartfelt thanks to Mr. Moeser and Ms. Dutton. Inspired by their vision, he communicated his pleasure and anticipation in working closely with all FACJJ members and he acknowledged their leadership in their respective fields of expertise. As a previous member of the FACJJ and now as OJJDP Administrator, he understands the critical advisory role that the FACJJ plays in providing much needed insights about the state of the nation, outside of Washington, DC and the federal government. Mr. Listenbee praised the FACJJ's thoughtful recommendations to OJJDP, which were finalized at the December 9, 2013, meeting. He anticipated that the final report on those recommendations will be published later this spring and will be on the OJJDP

must-read list, focusing on topics highlighted by each of the previous four FACJJ subcommittees: evidence-based youth justice practices; youth engagement; youth justice and schools; and youth justice and disproportionate minority contact (DMC). OJJDP staff has already begun to develop policy that will facilitate the implementation of many of the 2013 FACJJ recommendations dealing with meaningful youth and family engagement, as well as youth justice in relationship to DMC. Mr. Listenbee promised that further responses to the 2013 recommendations will be forthcoming throughout the remainder of this year. The report highlights subjects also being addressed by federal government initiatives, including the White House initiative My Brother's Keeper, launched this past February, and the Supportive School Discipline Initiative. My Brother's Keeper is designed to give every boy and young man of color—who is willing to work hard and play by the rules—the opportunity to reach his full potential. Please visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper> for more information on this important initiative.

New and existing FACJJ members were encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Attorney General's Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence, as one of several U.S. Department of Justice and OJJDP initiatives that influence the development of programs and policies. Mr. Listenbee referred to the National Academy of Science report, commissioned by OJJDP titled "Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach: Implications for Federal and State Programs, Policy and Practice," and presented by Arlene Lee, *Director, Committee on Law and Justice, The National Academies*, this past February. That presentation and other meeting materials may be accessed from the FACJJ website at <http://www.facjj.org/>. OJJDP is taking an evidence-based, trauma-informed, and developmentally-appropriate approach to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, understanding that violence and context contribute to the likelihood that a young person will come in contact with the juvenile or criminal justice system.

Mr. Listenbee conveyed great interest in future conversations about how to address the critical needs for our nation's vulnerable children, youth, and families. The Administrator responded to a question from FACJJ member Symone Sanders about the status of specific recommendations upon which OJJDP has already begun to act. Having touched on this earlier in his comments, he added that OJJDP intends to issue policy statements regarding youth engagement, family engagement, and racial and ethnic disparities during the current calendar year.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACJJ MEMBERS

Jim Moeser, *FACJJ Chair*, introduced the new members and asked them to briefly share about their background, interests, and expectations in joining the Advisory Committee [detailed BIOs are available on the FACJJ "Meetings" website page at <http://www.facjj.org/meetings.html>]:

- **Starcia Ague, WA** (*Primary Member*)
- **Ashley Beall, J.D., ND** (*Alternate Member*)
- **Courtney Enright, AK** (*Alternate Member*)
- **Aris Johnson, TX** (*Alternate Member*)
- **Kimberly Larson, J.D., Ph.D., MA** (*Alternate Member*)
- **Sasha Pellerin, NM** (*Alternate Member*)
- **Dave Rosenthal, J.D., DC** (*Alternate Member*)

HISTORY OF FACJJ/ROLE OF PRIMARY AND ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Dalene Dutton, *FACJJ Vice-Chair*, and Mr. Moeser wanted new FACJJ members to understand the history of the FACJJ, and how it operated under a different configuration. Previously, the FACJJ had representatives from all the states and territories and was a larger group. Now much smaller, with 14 members and 14 alternates, the goal is for the group to become more nimble, yet still work hard to hear from states without a voice at the table. The message to these states is that the FACJJ wants very much to hear from them and encourages them to reach out to one of the appointed members. Ms. Dutton mentioned that, while primary members vote when called on certain items, alternate members must also understand that their role is equally important. Alternates are to be fully involved and prepared to make an informed vote, in the absence of the primary member. To that end, alternate members are included in discussions and deliberations right up to the point of a vote. Mr. Moeser emphasized the expectation for alternate members to be equally active participants, including supporting the work of the sub-teams, as the FACJJ moves forward in developing recommendations for OJJDP.

REPORT ON 2013 FACJJ REPORT AND REPORT DISSEMINATION PLAN

Jim Moeser thanked those who have helped with this effort: Dalene Dutton, Rob Lubitz, Reggie Robinson, Kathi Grasso and OJJDP staff, and others who have labored over the recommendations presented in December 2013. He indicated that work is in progress to finalize a summary of the recommendations and make it available electronically. A relatively small number of hardcopy versions of this summary may be produced but the goal is to provide individuals with the larger, more detailed digital report. FACJJ will talk further with OJJDP about dissemination to relevant Congressional committees so that the appropriate groups will see these recommendations.

Kathi Grasso, *DFO*, stated that OJJDP staff and communications teams met to complete a final editorial review and formatting, in preparation for public dissemination. The tentative timeframe to finalize the report is in the next couple of weeks (May) and notification to the FACJJ will occur immediately. Limited print copies will be produced as the document will be primarily accessible online, most notably via the FACJJ website at <http://www.facjj.org/>. Given the advisory role of the FACJJ, further plans will include coordination with the Office of Communications, Office of Justice Programs, to disseminate reports to the President, Congress, and other parties. Ms. Grasso will contact the group to schedule a teleconference for further orientation on topics that are relevant to the work of the FACJJ members. She also requested that FACJJ members contact her with any ideas about important aspects of the dissemination plan, such as the names of other individuals they believe should see this report.

FACJJ MOVING FORWARD – OUR CHARTER

Jim Moeser communicated that “moving forward” involves the restructuring of the current FACJJ configuration to increase its responsiveness to OJJDP interests and initiatives. While concurrently reaching out to its constituent groups and stakeholders in the field who are involved in juvenile justice—seeking input from a number of sources—the FACJJ must be able to provide appropriate feedback on current and potential practices to OJJDP. Specific areas of concern within the charter are the Objectives and Scope of Activity, and the Description of Duties. The FACJJ Charter,

within which this group must continue to operate, expires February 2015. As ideas flow into the FACJJ, members will ultimately group, prioritize, and convey these ideas to OJJDP, while providing advice on other matters as requested by the Administrator. There is an interest in conducting meetings with a shorter notice and providing turnaround and feedback faster than the traditional meeting schedule, while honoring rules and regulations related to transparency.

Input Sources

Mr. Moeser described four (4) sources of information and feedback that come through the process: the OJJDP Administrator; the State Advisory Groups (SAGs); other Stakeholders/Groups; and FACJJ members themselves.

1. The first area of input comes directly from the OJJDP Administrator. Mr. Listenbee remarked that OJJDP is in an unusual position, working on several Administration priorities and fielding numerous daily requests to provide input directly to the Administration, at the highest level, supporting the development of programming and policy, staying on the right track, and providing guidance to the Administration. OJJDP will depend on the FACJJ to think broadly and in-depth about what the nation needs to help children in the juvenile justice and parallel systems (e.g., mental health, substance abuse), or other systems related to violence that address the unique issues of youth.
2. The second area of input involves SAG outreach. The current geographical regions will be used by primary and alternate members to divide the outreach tasks to SAG chairs and juvenile justice specialists in their areas for feedback. Mr. Moeser and Ms. Dutton plan to attend the June meeting of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and interact with different SAG members.
3. The third area of input originates through stakeholders and groups, and others constituting a category of “widely disseminated invite.” This area needs continuing work. Robin Delany-Shabazz, *Associate Administrator, State and Community Development Division, OJJDP*, has compiled lists of stakeholder/advocacy groups who are actively engaged in juvenile justice and who have previously provided recommendations to OJJDP. The challenge will be to keep “widely disseminated” or “widely distributed” both practical, manageable, and within the scope of the FACJJ Charter. Ms. Dutton and Ms. Grasso will work to better define that scope so the advisory group is not so overwhelmed, while simultaneously opening the door for input from groups with traditionally less access to OJJDP as they might wish.
4. The fourth input area represents the committee members. Their divergent history and perspective to the process and issues being addressed by OJJDP represent the very reason they were selected. The FACJJ members have demonstrated experience that can bring a rich dialogue to issues that are important to their states or personal field interests, and while allowing the members to also have input into the process.

Member comments were as follows:

- Responding to ViEve Martin-Kohrs’ comment submitted through the webinar chat feature, Ms. Dutton agreed that, in addition to the historical professional groups always within reach, it will be critical to seek input from youth, parents/families, and other groups.

- Mr. Moeser acknowledged several comments proposing the development of a master list, balancing the need to be thorough and to achieve a fairly broad outreach for input against the need to keep the effort manageable.
- Symone Sanders suggested the critical need to develop a strategic planning process to actively seek and acquire the feedback, specifically from system-involved youth.
- Rob Lubitz said when looking for input from other organizations, the group should avoid very broad, general recommendations and may wish to focus on specific actionable items (things upon which OJJDP, Congress, and/or the President can specifically act) to facilitate tracking the progress being made on the various recommendations.
- Mr. Moeser indicated that the charter and scope discussions in February will address the boundaries of what OJJDP can achieve.

Work Groups/Subcommittees

Jim Moeser next explained that the group's structure was split into three (3) teams. Consideration was given to assignments, in terms of some primary and alternate members in each group, crossover in expertise, and individuals' backgrounds. There will be a process for routing recommendations to different teams with the goal of having each team address a wide range of issues and subject matter. For example, all groups should be receiving ideas on research. More will be discussed in the October 2014 meeting, but the initial goal is to begin feeding information to the different work teams, giving them a chance to experience a wide range of recommendations and feedback, that are coming in and require sorting. More suggestions are needed on how to organize the work or consistency when the groups reunite. Ms. Dutton clarified that all work done in the workgroups goes back out to the entire FACJJ. The process is designed to divide and conquer, and do some preliminary work with sufficient research to make an informed decision as a full FACJJ entity. An attractive aspect of this workflow and structural approach is the opportunity to hear and to do some research on a variety of topics.

Mr. Moeser reiterated the importance of both the alternate and primary members in a group; especially that the alternate members are fully involved and informed in these teams as well, in the event they need to step in for a primary member who is unavailable. He assured attendees of the group's flexibility as the process goes forward and the willingness to make adjustments along the way. Both he and Ms. Dutton emphasized that the previous four subcommittees would be replaced by the three new work teams. The exception would be if the FACJJ felt the need to reconvene a previous subcommittee as an ad hoc group only, for a specific focus. For example, if there was a particular question around evidence-based practice in the report that a previous subcommittee had already addressed, that might serve as criteria to reconvene that particular group. However, that group would not continue meeting on a regular basis.

Each group will need a volunteer to serve as its facilitator or chairperson and Mr. Moeser requested that interested individuals notify him or Ms. Grasso. Ms. Grasso concurred and informed the members that, similar to what was done during the previous formation of subcommittees, OJJDP support and contractor staff will be available to work with each team, to assist in pulling together and identifying helpful resources.

Sample Timelines

Jim Moeser discussed the timelines needed to make the new process work, and that are tied to the major input groups. Ms. Dutton, Ms. Grasso, and Mr. Moeser need to determine the right language, recipient, and deliverable, in a way that does not overwhelm the team.

- The challenge is to solicit and generate the language for some initial outreach ideas, around dissemination and request for input, within the next few weeks for stakeholders and SAGs.
- Additionally, the FACJJ must develop an initial list of stakeholder groups that can be identified for input. The process does not have to be perfect but it must begin soon.
- Another timeline references a letter or solicitation to the SAG Chairs, and Juvenile Justice Specialists, followed by dissemination. The primary or alternate member, for that area, will decide how to divide the work of making contact, and the SAG follow-ups will include inquiries as to SAG receipt of the letter, if they understood it, when will their group meet, how will they proceed, what are their critical timelines, feasibility concerns, etc. The goal is to deepen and strengthen relationships with SAGs, particularly those without representation on the FACJJ.
- The target timeframe to distribute the SAG recommendations is mid- to late-July for review, allowing the team captains/chairs to organize that data. Teams must consider what is coming in from folks out in the field around juvenile justice that their work team thinks is important.
- A FACJJ webinar (or perhaps a teleconference) is tentatively scheduled for September, followed by in-person discussions to prepare recommendations in October.
- The October timeline coincides with the 40th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice Prevention Act which created a transformative change in how people view juvenile justice, and the FACJJ is looking for that kind of vision and leadership to be reinforced through reauthorization. So Administrator Listenbee will inform the FACJJ of any scheduled events for October, which may impact available meeting times.
- Hopefully in October, the full group can discuss their final recommendations and prepare them in the November-December timeframe, for submission by January and February of 2015.
- This schedule is ambitious but doable in light of the aim toward flexibility and heavy reliance on the different teams to work synergistically and efficiently, once they begin receiving information.

Dave Rosenthal questioned to what extent members should solicit ideas from the SAGs. Can/should FACJJ members assist the SAGs by offering ideas or topic categories, and can members even submit their own ideas? Mr. Moeser suggested members inform people of their understanding of the scope of FACJJ, but that people should also be free to send recommendations they have already adopted, or recommendations that they would fit within that scope and framework. He also reiterated this direction to Tony Jones (and his alternate), to reach out to his area SAGs. Solicitation from other stakeholder national groups will come in a sort of parallel process, but all of the information that comes in will then be fed back to the teams on an assignment basis. In other words, a member might not directly work on issues he/she directly solicited.

Mr. Listenbee assured the committee that OJJDP wants to be on the cutting edge of change within the nation, and be informed about issues percolating through FACJJ or the SAGs that have not yet reached the national level. OJJDP is actively engaged in research, training and technical assistance, policymaking, development, and research, to make it possible for youth to have better

outcomes in the nation's juvenile justice systems. Right now, he cannot provide the range of issues requiring focus – he wants the FACJJ to tell him that; but he certainly does not want to be 10 years down the road before realizing that important issues have been ignored. Ms. Dutton pointed out that this plan, this new organizational structure, absolutely relies on active participation from both the primary and the alternate members. So it is not about a once-a-year in-person meeting in Washington, DC: rather, it is about coming together in groups, sinking their teeth into it, and doing some meaningful work.

Mr. Moeser initially hoped to assemble a broader group to determine the appropriate role for the FACJJ, as it relates to reauthorization and where that stands. However, Mr. Listenbee indicated that while they all embrace and are very excited about the possibility of reauthorization, they will have to wait until there is more clarity coming from the Department itself about process. Tabling that plan, Mr. Moeser also put out a call for volunteers (only primary members) to review the current FACJJ bylaws.

Ms. Dutton reminded the group of the need for discussions on warnings and cautions, especially for new members who have not yet completed the orientation related to ethics involved in serving on the FACJJ. Ms. Grasso planned to indoctrinate new members but felt a refresher for existing members would also be useful, even to the extent of developing a training curriculum. The most efficient method might be via telephone, albeit several hours long, and she will follow up in a few weeks about further orientation.

SUMMARY, NEXT STEPS, AND MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Jim Moeser thanked the group and acknowledged his hope that they have outlined a process that will work. He and Ms. Dutton have spent time discussing the process. Their desire is to be manageable and open to outside input, carry out the important role that is envisioned for the group, and respond to both the Charter as well as requests from OJJDP, going forward. He invited members to contact Ms. Dutton, Ms. Grasso or himself with issues or problems. Expect more details on this within the next 3-4 weeks. Presentation slides, most notably depicting the input sources, new team structure, and sample timeline, are available on the FACJJ “Meetings” webpage, at <http://www.facjj.org/meetings.html>. Next steps are to:

- develop an initial list of stakeholder groups from whom the FACJJ wants to get some solicitation/feedback;
- work with Ms. Grasso to get contact information out on SAGs and other groups; and
- identify workgroup/team chairs.

Kathi Grasso indicated that Joyce Mosso-Stokes will send a request for the webinar evaluation to FACJJ members only. Ms. Grasso communicated her appreciation for everyone's support and patience with the technology, and welcomed technical suggestions.

Jim Moeser expressed thanks for the support from Ms. Grasso and staff in ensuring the visibility and forward movement of the issues and recommendations brought forth by the FACJJ. He adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.