

Meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice

Thursday, February 6, 2020, 2 – 2:30 p.m. ET

Webinar

SUMMARY

The **Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ)** held a quarterly meeting via webinar on Thursday, February 6, 2020. **Elizabeth Wolfe**, *Designated Federal Official (DFO), FACJJ, and Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)* provided staff support for the meeting.

Caren Harp, *OJJDP Administrator*, led and moderated the meeting. FACJJ members participated, and members of the public observed. The recording and a summary of the meeting will be available on the [FACJJ website](#) within 90 days.

The FACJJ's three subcommittees – Subcommittee on Facilitating Compliance with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, Subcommittee on Educating the Field, and Subcommittee on Special Topics – presented recommendations for consideration. All recommendations were accepted unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Elizabeth Wolfe opened the meeting, and Administrator Harp welcomed all participants and observers. The following FACJJ members were in attendance:

- Judge Thomas Frawley, Missouri
- Adolphus Graves, Georgia
- Corey Haines, Michigan
- Judge David Hejmanowski, Ohio
- Anthony Pierro, New Jersey
- Kathryn (Kate) Richtman, Minnesota
- Danica Rubenstein, West Virginia
- Joseph (Joe) Vignati, Georgia
- Berlina Wallace-Berube, U.S. Virgin Islands
- Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, Louisiana

VOTE ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FACJJ SUBCOMMITTEES

The FACJJ considered each of the following recommendations and accepted them by unanimous voice vote.

Subcommittee on Facilitating Compliance with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Issue Statement

In December 2018, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) of 2018 was signed into law, reauthorizing and substantially amending the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

(JJJPA). The amendments made by the JJRA became effective in FY 2020 (October 1, 2019). Several of the provisions of the JJRA pose implementation and compliance challenges for OJJDP and for individual states. It is the role of OJJDP and the FACJJ to provide guidance to state advisory groups (SAGs) and state compliance officers on implementation. These recommendations seek to address two of the largest and most pressing questions raised by new JJRA language.

Recommendations

- 1. Second or Subsequent Violation Language:**
OJJDP should advise states that this language prohibits a juvenile from being continuously re-incarcerated based upon a single violation of a court order. Detention time may still be imposed on a valid court order violation, but once a juvenile has served that time, in order for them to be returned to detention, a second or subsequent violation would have to occur, be charged, and be determined to be true.
- 2. Effective Monitoring Universe Language:**
OJJDP should be empowered to implement an effective monitoring system that ensures state compliance with federal requirements across all state facilities that are subject to the Act’s provisions. Further, the new use of the word “effective” should permit OJJDP staff sufficient leeway to develop a compliance review plan that utilizes tiered, rotational, or multi-year reviews in a manner that is intended to garner maximum effectiveness with minimal burden on individual state systems. Of utmost importance is that OJJDP staff be permitted sufficient leeway to determine the compliance review system that is most likely to be “effective.”

Subcommittee on Educating the Field

Issue Statement

Juvenile justice is a unique area of law and jurisprudence. All juvenile justice professionals – whether they are judges, prosecutors, defenders, law enforcement professionals, educators, probation officers, or staff from community-based organizations – need foundational resources to help them carry out their work effectively. Although existing OJJDP resources are of phenomenal quality and value to the juvenile justice field, they are not widely recognized and are underutilized. Easily accessible information for professionals, families, and youth is needed to effectively serve the unique interests of judicial systems and communities. Better trained and more aware professionals will lead to improved and optimal results.

Recommendations

- 1. OJJDP creates a juvenile justice primer that is easily accessible to new juvenile justice professionals.** This primer would provide learners with an adequate knowledge base regarding the purpose and function of the juvenile justice system. It also would direct learners to existing resources that could better prepare them as they advance in their careers.
- 2. OJJDP publishes its resources in an intuitively organized and searchable manner and thereby increases awareness of these resources in the juvenile justice field. A**

better organized and searchable website will fill the void of this valuable information and elevate OJJDP properly as the lead agency in the field of juvenile justice for states and localities.

Discussion: The goal of this recommendations is to ensure that everything OJJDP maintains is searchable using simple search terms and organized in a way that makes sense to users, including judges, new and veteran juvenile justice professionals, and families.

- 3. OJJDP fosters relationships among federal staff, the FACJJ, and juvenile justice professionals by more clearly and deliberately engaging the SAGs in the work of the Office. This includes specific trainings on the role of the SAG, its relationship to the community, and its obligation and commitment to the ideals of the JJDP. This type of engagement will encourage SAG members to endorse OJJDP as a training mechanism and will build awareness of existing resources among SAG members and therefore the larger field of professionals.**

Discussion: Administrator Harp noted the timeliness of this recommendation, given OJJDP's receipt of multiple requests from SAGs to work with the Office.

Subcommittee on Special Topics

Issue Statement

Rural communities face several challenges, including higher rates of poverty, limited access to quality health services, lower academic attainment, a lack of workforce development opportunities, and poor infrastructure. Compared to their urban counterparts, rural areas have less economic growth and Internet access, fewer educational institutions and hospitals, and higher rates of poverty and unemployment. These challenges place greater demands on the nation's rural counties and municipalities. OJJDP, the FACJJ, and SAGs can play a role in supporting rural communities in their efforts to address the significant social, educational, and health-related challenges facing at-risk and system-involved youth through meaningful engagement and capacity building.

Recommendations

- 1. OJJDP increases access and opportunities for rural communities to apply for federal and state-level grant funding.** This includes:
 - a. Providing assistance to rural communities in basic grant-writing skills;
 - b. Developing a marketing strategy specific to rural communities;
 - c. Including language in solicitations, where appropriate/allowable, that prioritizes awards to rural communities; and
 - d. Streamlining solicitations, where appropriate/allowable, to encourage and enable rural communities to apply for funding.
- 2. OJJDP provides training and technical assistance to help increase the capacity of rural communities to sustain youth-serving programs.**

3. OJJDP encourages collaboration with other federal partners – including the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, and Education – to implement comprehensive programs to address the needs of children in rural communities.

Discussion: Mr. Vignati expressed his appreciation for OJJDP's efforts to host federal partners at the most recent in-person FACJJ meeting in Kansas City, MO; those partners presented to the FACJJ about their agencies' services.

4. OJJDP designates staff as rural community subject matter experts.

Administrator Harp expressed her deep gratitude for the recommendations and shared that OJJDP has already begun to implement them. For example, the Office has already designated staff members as rural community subject matter experts.

Administrator Harp added that Attorney General Barr's goal of providing coordinated outreach to rural communities to assist them in accessing federal funds led OJJDP to complete an eight-state (Arizona, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota) outreach tour; staff provided Grants 101 training to rural communities to help them find funding and overcome barriers to completing applications.

Administrator Harp asserted that such training needs to be provided during every funding cycle so that rural communities are able to access much-needed funds.

NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT

The approved recommendations will be posted to the [FACJJ website](#) within one week of this meeting, and they will be incorporated into the Office's report to Congress. FACJJ members will receive a notification when the recommendations are posted.

The next meeting of the FACJJ will be held in person at OJJDP on Friday, March 6, 2020. FACJJ members will be contacted at the beginning of next week regarding meeting logistics.

FACJJ members thanked the subcommittee chairs for their guidance; subcommittee chairs expressed appreciation to Administrator Harp and to members; and members praised the work of OJJDP's dedicated, supportive, and highly competent staff.

The recording and a summary of the meeting will be available on the [FACJJ website](#) within 90 days.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. ET.