

Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice Webinar Monday, March 4, 2013

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) convened a webinar meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) on Monday, March 4, 2013, from 3 – 5 PM, Eastern Standard Time. The meeting's purpose was to hear updates from the four FACJJ subcommittees about their work in drafting reports with recommendations that will be submitted to the FACJJ for the FACJJ's full deliberation and consideration in the late summer or early fall 2013 and to set a timeline for subcommittees' submission of their draft documents to the full FACJJ.

Robin Delany-Shabazz, outgoing OJJDP Designated Federal Official (DFO) to the FACJJ, introduced Kathi Grasso as the new DFO, and Acting OJJDP Administrator Melodee Hanes discussed the OJJDP reorganization, the sequestration, and the Attorney General's Defending Childhood Initiative. FACJJ members were asked to sign in 30 minutes prior to the start of the webinar to iron out any technical logistical problems.

Call to Order

Ms. Delany-Shabazz called the webinar to order, welcomed attendees, and turned the meeting over to Ms. Grasso, the new DFO. Ms. Grasso has an extensive background in the law, child advocacy, and research; her bio is posted on the FACJJ website. Ms. Grasso said she had read the bios of the FACJJ members and looked forward to working with them. Michelle Dunhart-Tonge, from OJJDP's National Training and Technical Assistance Center and the host of the webinar, gave a brief demonstration of the webinar logistics. FACJJ chair Reggie Robinson then welcomed participants and thanked them for making time for the meeting. He welcomed Ms. Grasso, noting her experience and passion for children, and thanked Ms. Delany-Shabazz for her many contributions to the FACJJ. The webinar was attended by 14 FACJJ members, OJJDP staff, and non-FACJJ members, who listened and viewed the webinar as observers, but did not actively participate.

Update from OJJDP

Mr. Robinson introduced Ms. Hanes, who provided updates about OJJDP and thanked FACJJ members for their time and many contributions to the Office. She noted that the President has announced his intent to nominate Robert Listenbee Jr., one of the FACJJ's own, to be the new OJJDP Administrator. Ms. Hanes anticipated that Mr. Listenbee would be sworn in during the upcoming weeks and she will keep the FACJJ informed about his status. She also discussed OJJDP's reorganization, which is in process, with both staff and grant programs being reassigned. Once glitches are worked out, OJJDP will officially announce and describe the reorganization.

Ms. Hanes said the reorganization supports OJJDP's vision of a nation of healthy, educated children who are free from violence. To achieve this vision, OJJDP's mission is to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system or to ensure that, if they do enter the system, that this contact is rare, that they are treated fairly, and that they benefit from the experience. Under the reorganization, OJJDP's Youth Development Division reflects the 'rare part' of the mission; the Juvenile Justice Improvement Division represents the 'fair part' of the mission by promulgating best practices and research to support these practices; and the State and Community Development Division reflects the 'beneficial part' of the mission, ensuring that communities

work together to assure that youth in the juvenile justice system receive the best services and evidence-based practices.

As for the sequestration, Ms. Hanes said OJJDP's primary goal "is to do the best job we can to manage the budget reductions embodied in the sequestration." She said the Office is determined to protect its mission and to mitigate the sequestration's impact on its State, local, tribal, and nonprofit partners and on its workforce. Ms. Hanes said that under present sequestration the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is looking at cuts of \$1.6 billion while the Office of Justice Programs is looking at \$107 million in cuts. She said DOJ leadership is still deciding how to manage the cuts so that they have minimal impact on grants, programs, mission, and workforce. Ms. Hanes also pointed out that the sequestration does not affect funding levels for programs and cooperative agreements funded in 2012 or earlier; it only affects 2013 funding levels.

The next critical budget date is March 27, when the current Continuing Resolution expires. Ms. Hanes explained that Congress can either pass a final spending bill appropriating funds for fiscal year 2013, or it can pass another Continuing Resolution. Under either option Congress can choose whether or not to address the budget cuts in the sequestration.

Finally, Ms. Hanes reported that the Attorney General's Defending Childhood Initiative Task Force unveiled its recommendations to the Attorney General on Dec. 12, 2012. At the Attorney General's request, OJJDP is preparing a plan to implement the recommendations. Once the plan is developed, OJJDP will ask FACJJ members for input.

Annual Request for Information

Mr. Robinson then discussed the FACJJ Annual Request for Information (ARI), which was sent to all State Advisory Groups (SAGs), State juvenile justice specialists, and State disproportionate minority contact coordinators on Feb. 19, 2013. Responses were originally due back by March 4, but the deadline was extended to March 12. Mr. Robinson encouraged FACJJ members to reach out to the States they represent and to urge them to respond to the questionnaire. The responses will help FACJJ subcommittees finalize their draft reports with recommendations.

Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

Mr. Robinson then asked the subcommittees to update FACJJ members on their progress in developing recommendations for the FACJJ's deliberation and approval in late summer or early fall.

Youth Justice and Schools: Subcommittee Chair Dean Williams reported that this subcommittee has been meeting periodically by telephone and that some new members have joined the subcommittee. Rather than focus on new ground, the subcommittee is concentrating its efforts around the Council of State Government's (CSG's) Consensus on School Discipline Project. Mr. Williams suggested that when the CSG's final report is released in late October or November 2013, the FACJJ members champion the report and use their contacts with the SAGs to highlight the report. Because the FACJJ is tasked with making specific recommendations to OJJDP, Mr. Robinson asked if the subcommittee could use anything in the CSG report to develop some recommendations. One suggestion was to look at national standards for school resource officers. It was also suggested that the subcommittee draft recommendations based on the CSG's interim report, since the final report will not be ready until after the FACJJ has

approved its own recommendations in the fall. Mr. Williams said he would discuss this with the subcommittee.

Evidence-Based Youth Justice Practices: Subcommittee member Jim Moeser reported the subcommittee is working to get a sense of what States are actually doing related to evidence-based practices and how evidence-based practices are being implemented, especially in regard to research. The subcommittee is also looking at outcomes beyond recidivism, such as positive youth development. To help guide them, the subcommittee worked with the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) to include questions about evidence-based practices in the ARI. Subcommittee members are also studying States' 3-year plans to get a clearer picture of what is happening at the State level regarding evidence-based programs. The subcommittee also prepared and is studying a bibliography, which it was requested to share with the full FACJJ. Subcommittee member George Timberlake said the subcommittee will also draw on a white paper about evidence-based practices prepared by the Center for Prevention Research and Development at the University of Illinois. The subcommittee is looking at recommendations that address the need to provide training and support to help jurisdictions assess and improve their implementation of evidence-based practices and proposing changes to the format of the 3-year plan narrative.

Youth Justice and Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC): Subcommittee Chair Kenya Lee reported that the subcommittee is considering recommendations that address DMC law enforcement training, DMC and cross-over youth, and DMC and family engagement. Recognizing that a juvenile's first contact with the juvenile justice system is often with law enforcement, the subcommittee noted the need for law enforcement training and looks forward to gaining input from subcommittee member Tony Jones, police chief of the Gainesville (FL) Police Department. Gainesville is one of three MacArthur Foundation's Model for Change sites. The subcommittee also has also proposed that OJJDP submit a technical request to the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform to conduct a policy review of national standards and/or best practices. Finally, the subcommittee wants to develop a fact sheet that discusses how youth are processed through the juvenile justice system. Mr. Robinson suggested that instead of writing the fact sheet themselves, the subcommittee could identify points to be covered in the fact sheet and recommend that OJJDP produce a fact sheet that addresses the suggested elements.

Youth Subcommittee: Chair Haley Reimbold reported that after the fall FACJJ meeting the subcommittee scaled back its ambitious recommendation agenda to become more focused on two areas: institutionalizing youth engagement at OJJDP and raising awareness in States and communities about the importance of involving youth in juvenile justice issues. The subcommittee proposes a number of activities including instituting an OJJDP committee comprised solely of youth, using and building on current resources such as the Youth Engagement Curriculum, and working in partnership with youth to develop technical assistance and training around youth engagement. When asked by OJJDP if a youth engagement webinar would be helpful, Ms. Reimbold responded 'most definitely.' Subcommittee members cautioned that to be successful, the webinar would need to include youth.

Next Steps

Mr. Robinson thanked the subcommittee members for their hard work and the progress that has been made to date. He then proposed the following timeline (with which subcommittee members agreed):

- **March 12:** State responses to the ARI due to JRSA.
- **End of March:** JRSA will submit report summarizing ARI responses to OJJDP; the Office will forward to FACJJ members.
- **Mid to Late May:** Conference call with Chair, Vice Chair, Subcommittee Chairs and OJJDP to discuss status of draft recommendations.
- **July 19:** Subcommittee draft recommendations due to OJJDP for distribution to Chair, Vice Chair, and FACJJ membership.
- **Mid August:** Webinar for FACJJ membership to discuss draft recommendations.
- **Fall:** Face-to-face meeting, depending on budget restrictions, to deliberate on draft recommendations and approve final ones.

Because the FACJJ is relying in significant ways on the responses to the ARI, Mr. Robinson reiterated the need for FACJJ members to encourage their States to respond to the ARI. Following this meeting, OJJDP will let FACJJ members know the status of the States that have responded to the ARI; this will help FACJJ members know which States need a little ‘nudge’ to reply.

Before adjourning the meeting, webinar participants were asked to electronically respond two poll questions concerning the ease of utility of the webinar platform and whether OJJDP should continue to use webinars to assist the FACJJ. The majority of members responded positively to both questions.

Mr. Robinson then adjourned the meeting.