



**MISSISSIPPI JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

WWW.MSJAC.ORG

Alfred Martin, Ph.D., Chairman

Jaqueline Dedeaux, Vice Chair

Katrina Phillips, Secretary

2025 – 2nd QUARTER MINUTES

DATE: Friday, April 11, 2025

LOCATION: MS Department of Public Safety Planning Office, Canton, MS

Meeting Called to Order: 9:07 a.m. by Chairman Dr. Alfred Martin

ROLL CALL: Quorum established with 11 present in person, 5 by Teams, 2 excused, 6 DPS staff in person

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the 1st Quarter meeting were distributed. The motion was made by Marketa Motton and seconded by Toni Kersh. Minutes approved as written.

AGENDA ITEMS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Dr. Martin opened the meeting by thanking DPS for setting it up and Commissioner Sean Tindall for taking the time to attend. He then asked the members to introduce themselves and tell what agency they represent and their years of service in Juvenile Justice for the benefit of our special guests.

TITLE II DISCUSSION: Dr. Martin explained the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act, the roles of State Advisory Groups, and our concerns. Commissioner Tindall reassured the group that he did believe that the SAG work and the symposium were needed.

Director Joshua Broman reviewed the list of concerns and noted that the concerns were with the sub-grantees of the symposium. The DOJ and the Office of Inspector General are investigating these concerns. Dr. Martin read documents from Washington stating that no problems were found. He requested that a 3rd party be required to do the audit. Mr. Broman stated that Harper, Raines, and Knight, third party, were the ones who found the concerns.

Dr. Martin mentioned that we need approval to proceed with our community service grants. Commissioner Tindall said that we should approve the grants, and they would ask the investigating committee for approval before proceeding.

Several members made comments to the Commissioner and guests about the impact of this work on Juvenile Justice professionals. Comments were also made about the negative impact of the letter that was sent out and that members had to alert their agency heads about the letter since it seemed to say that the SAG was doing things that were not. It was requested of the Commissioner that the letter be revised to not show a negative connotation against the SAG. Commissioner Tindall said he would go back and send a letter out after this meeting confirming what has been discussed.



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STAFF REPORTS:

Title II Budget Update: A Budget Update was given by Director Bromen, and a discussion was held about the budget and amounts left in each year. It was mentioned that some of the funds that expire in September of this year could be expended on some of the juvenile detention facilities. Toni applauded the fact that they are providing us with ideas on how to spend the funds. Director Bromen will gather more information and present it to the SAG as soon as possible. (Handout attached).

OJP Director Update: Michael Hall stated that the team plans to review all current Title II sub-awards to see if we are meeting compliance standards and utilizing the funding optimally. This review will help OJP staff communicate to future sub-awardees the compliance standards associated with their awards.

- Currently, FY21 Title II funds are being expended. The Federal award will end in September of this year.
- Key Accomplishments:
 - OJP added new staff in December of 2024
 - OJP is working with MBI on the Death In Custody initiative
 - OJP Compliance Monitors conducted roughly 300 visits during the 1st quarter of 2025.
- Barriers:
 - The JJ Specialist position is vacant
 - Title II **sub**awards need monitoring (Ms. Darmishia Johnson will help with Title II **sub**award monitoring until a new JJ Specialist is hired and trained).
- Plans/Activities for Next Quarter: Director Hall and Director Bromen are working with Dr. Robertson on implementing the Juvenile Justice System Reform and Reinvestment Initiative. Due to the programmatic adjustments being made within PSP, this program will be conducted differently from the outset.

Compliance Monitoring: Kirby Wilson stated that he is the Federal Compliance Monitor for the northern part of the state, and they have hired Michelle Bunkheila for the southern part of the state. They are mandated for only 33% of the universe (which includes police departments, sheriff departments, detention centers, and any other place that might hold juveniles). Our compliance team have committee to visit 40-50% of facilities each year.



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COMMITTEE UPDATES:

GRANTS COMMITTEE: Gloria Saulters announced that we had 15 applications submitted. The committee reviewed and scored. (Spreadsheet attached) Dr. Robertson explained why she gave some low scores and some actions that could be taken to bring their application up to par. Motion from the committee that we fund grants to Numbers 1-11. Motion carried. Motion from the committee that Items 12-14 be evaluated through DPSP and be allowed to strengthen their proposal to be presented again for approval. Motion carried. Gloria stated that item 15 had an excellent application, but their funding was above our grant limit. A motion was made that DPSP contact them to see if there was some portion that we could fund for them. Motion carried.

R'ED, Diversion: Dr. Robertson announced that Dr. Gardner has her report prepared, and Dr. Robertson will be reviewing it and should have it sent to us soon. Dr. Martin stated that as soon as the report the members receive the report, we will need to review and respond quickly with any changes. Dr. Robertson stated that the new project focuses on the front end of contact with the system, and the report should show us the top 10 -15 courts that we can target for improvements.

ANNUAL REPORT: Willie Blackmon reported that we have the 2024 report in draft form with a few small areas that need inclusion. Each committee chair needs to have some input on their committee's actions for the year. The draft should be coming shortly, so please input your information and return it as soon as possible.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Katrina reported that the website has been updated. We need Bios and Pictures from the missing ones. We also need content for our website and Facebook page.

LEGISLATIVE: Toni Kersh reported that the Human Trafficking task force was re-established; MYCIDS is moving to a different area of AOC and moving to a more virtual system, and will tweak the system. There was legislation about making the Youth Court System uniform across the states, and that will continue to be reviewed. A Youth Court task force has been added, headed by Judge Staci Beville, Lee County. A Sextortion Act was implemented and mental health language updated to be Intellectually Disabled instead of Mentally Retarded.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Director Broman made the following recommendations to the advisory group: 1) Getting an attorney from the AG's Office to represent the SAG. 2) Finding a way to record meetings and ensure the transparency of minutes. Dr. Martin stated these were good recommendations and will be investigated further by the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

3rd Quarter meeting will be scheduled once we have more information about the investigation and moving forward with the conference.

Tentative dates:

Symposium August 6-8, 2025 (travel on August 5)

4th Quarter - October 10th. Tentative Retreat dates October 8- 10th - Possibly DeSoto County.

Adjourned: 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Katrina Phillips

Katrina Phillips
MSJJAC Secretary