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NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
First Meeting- Determining the Scope Subcommittee

Place: Northwestern District Attorney's Office

One Gleason Plaza

Northampton, MA 01060

Date and Time: July 29, 2019 from 11:00AM-1:00PM

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order

Strong Oak called the meeting to order at 11:20AM

Voting Members

Becky Michaels, Northwestern DA's Office

Carolyn Boyes-Watson, Center for Restorative Justice-Suffolk University

Representative Sean Garballey

Diane Coffey, MOVA

Andrew Peck, Undersecretary for Criminal Justice-EOPSS

Strong Oak Lefebvre, VBCIC

Senator James Eldridge, *participated by phone*

Hon. Rosemary Minnehan, Retired Trial Court Judge, *participated by phone*

Absent

Fred Ryan

Others in Attendance

Anjeza Xhemollari, EOPSS

Brenda Nolan, RJCMA

Bernie Nolan, RJCMA

2. Discussion of mandated scope

All members of the subcommittee discussed the scope. How deep and narrow do we want to examine each program? What the scope should be and how do we define that? At first members had a different perspective of who should be involved, court based vs. community based, reentry, setting standers, guidelines, missions? What are we inventorying and what are role as an advisory committee should be?

It was established that the committee will not interfere with programs already in existence. All members want to inventory all programs related to Restorative Justice across the state.

Carolyn Boyes-Watson spoke about partnering with an Institution of Higher Education. She also spoke about tracking adult and juvenile based justice programs. The inventory of these programs starts first, looking at them through a narrow or broad lens is second.

Discussion among several members of the committee focused on whether court-based programs are "community programs." It was pointed out that the court programs are mandatory, not voluntary. According to the General Laws related to Restorative Justice, community-based restorative justice programs are voluntary. If any of these programs are pre-arraignment, the court can't be part of the tracking or inventory.

Before long, the discussion focused on inventorying all Restorative Justice Programs in the Commonwealth. Representative Sean Garballey and Senator James Eldridge proposed a legislation intended to see an expansion of the use of restorative justice practices across the Commonwealth and to support those programs.

Carolyn Boyes-Watson suggested that members of community-based programs could be invited to present their models to the RJAC.

Diane Coffey made a motion that the scope of the RJAC include an inventory of all restorative justice programs in the Commonwealth. The discussion that ensued emphasized that the RJAC is not seeking to regulate community-based programs. The RJAC members are inquiring about innovative programs in existence.

Since Senator James Eldridge and Judge Rosemary Minnehan participated by phone a roll-call vote was taken. The vote was taken one by one and the motion passed unanimously by all voting members.

4. Discussion of how to include the work of innovative community programs.

All present agreed this item already covered in previous discussion.

5. Determine future agenda items and meetings.

No need for future meeting

6. Determine next meeting date

Unnecessary. The scope has been determined.

7. Public Comments

Observers spoke of the need for education regarding restorative justice. The three observers thanked the committee for their interest and candor in their discussions.

8. Adjourn

Diane Coffey made a motion to adjourn at 12:20PM. The motion was second by Undersecretary Andy Peck and carries unanimously.