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RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Second Meeting – The Funding Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes

Place: Hampden County Sheriff's Department
627 Randall Road
Ludlow, MA 01056

Date and Time: August 19, 2019 from 11:30AM -1:00PM

1. Call to Order

Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi called the meeting to order at 11:38 AM.

Voting Members

Susan Jeghelian (MOPC), Scott Taberner (EOHHS), Allison Cartwright (CPCS), Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi (HCSD), Erin Freeborn (C4RJ), Senator James Eldridge, participated by phone

Others in Attendance

Michaela Martini (EOPSS), Monica Dominique (HCSD), Jon D'Angelo (HCSD) and Denise Mason (HCSD).

2. Welcome

Members introduced themselves and their role in the Committee.

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 22, 2019

Monica Dominique proposed the following changes:

- On page 4, within the text of the “**Office**” paragraph Senator Aldrich’s name should be changed to the correct spelling of Eldridge.
- On page 5, within the 1st paragraph of “**7 Other Matters**” Hall should be changed to Amy Hall.
- On page 6, in the beginning of the 2nd paragraph under “**For Next Meeting**”, “scoping committee” should be changed to “scope committee”.

A motion was made by Scott Taberner to approve the minutes.

The motion was seconded by Susan Jeghelian. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Update on “Determining the Scope Subcommittee

The Scope Committee has determined that they will start an inventory of all restorative justice programs in the Commonwealth.

After meeting with Chairman Neal, Sheriff Cocchi submitted a request to the Congressional Research Office filed through Senator Elizabeth Warren to compile a list of funding sources both public and private. Sheriff Cocchi and Jon D’Angelo will visit Washington, D.C. in October to see if they can tap into funds that may be available. They hope to sit with Amy Hall about the scope of the work to help propel this forward. Senator Eldridge added that there is an increase in funding for re-entry programs.

Sheriff Cocchi stated that when funds are put into re-entry and aftercare programs, we are seeing the yield as offenders not coming back into the prison system. Susan Jeghelian added that research shows that there is a 10% reduction in recidivism with every hour spent in mediation with families, spouses and friends working to set up the relationships they will need upon release. Sheriff Cocchi then spoke about the 96 DOC residents currently housed in the HCSD Step-down program. They are engaged in Re-entry programs as well as housing services before they are released. They are some of the most stable offenders in the HCDS system. Sheriff Cocchi, along with a network of other sheriffs know that it is necessary to step up prevention techniques.

5. Discuss financing and future funding

The Subcommittee discussed how much money it would take to conduct the inventory review. Susan Jeghelian explained that the \$80,000 to \$90,000 discussed in the previous July meeting was only for the study. If the Committee finds models (through research) that they like, then resources will be needed to fund pilots and/or an office. Sheriff Cocchi added that there are 2 directions to focus on: the first is to find out what is out there; and the second is find out what is working. The Committee should look at other states as well as Massachusetts to see what is working.

The Subcommittee then discussed how long the study may take. Susan thought it may take nine months to a year.

Scott relayed a conversation he had with Ed Dolan. Ed suggested the subcommittee contact the Kennedy School of Government's Operations Management Course professor to task the students with creating an inventory of restorative justice organizations and programs in Massachusetts and beyond. Teams of 2-3 students could be set up to work on whatever may be needed for them to do. They could help get a structure in place to implement the survey. The Committee would supply them with a 1-2 page outline of what those needs may be. Due to a new semester about to begin, this process should be started within the next couple of days. Susan added that Northeastern may have a similar program as well. If the students were given specific assignments they could get it done within a semester.

The subcommittee started a discussion outlining the possible nature of the work they would assign to the student teams. The subcommittee agreed that the student teams would be utilized for research while the Committee's job would be to come up with a strategy. The Committee also acknowledged the importance of listening to the voices of the people who are doing the work in Massachusetts.

Sheriff Cocchi suggested that the subcommittee take a vote to start *Phase One* by getting the Kennedy School of Government on board since the semester is about to start.

Susan put forth a motion to submit a request for assistance from the Kennedy School of Government to create an inventory of restorative justice programs and organizations in Massachusetts for services and training and benchmarking states with restorative justice codified in legislation.

Scott Taberner seconded the Motion.

The Motion passed unanimously by all voting members.

There was a discussion about who the liaison might be to write the proposal to the Kennedy School. Scott and Susan decided they would work together to put out the proposal. Erin added that she would send Scott a link to a national database of restorative justice programs.

Scott asked if EOPSS should be engaged in a discussion about the FY2021 budget. Michaela Martini agreed to speak to Chairman Andy Peck to find out who would be the best person to speak to about FY2021 budget proposals regarding restorative justice. She also mentioned that she will speak with the fiscal team at EOPSS about a mechanism for collecting and spending the monies that the Subcommittee pulls together.

Susan asked Senator Eldridge if this may be the time to resuscitate an infrastructure for an office to manage the scope of the work, which was included in a draft in the Criminal Justice Reform Act Legislation that ultimately did not become part of the final budget. The Senator believes it is too early at this point in time. The subcommittee then discussed perhaps starting with a small staff within EOPSS to form an administrative structure and potentially growing to become a separate office.

It was agreed that unless they have a reason to reconvene, this would be the last meeting of the Funding Subcommittee.

6. Public Comment and Open Session for Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting.

N/A

7. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Scott Taberner at 1:12pm and seconded by Allison Cartwright. The motion carried unanimously.