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MEETING MINUTES
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: January 12, 2021

Time: 11:00AM-1:00PM

Virtual Location: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only) [857-327-9245](tel:857-327-9245) Phone Conference ID: 340-146-417#

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Peck at 11:04am.

		<u>Video/Call</u>	<u>Absent</u>
1	Chair -Andrew Peck	X	
2	Scott Taberner	X	
3	Rep. Sean Garballey	X	
4	Sen. James Eldridge	X	
5	Becky Michaels	X	
6	Allison S. Cartwright	X	
7	John Millett	X	
8	Ret. Chief Fred Ryan	X	
9	Stephanie McCarthy (*)	X	
10	Mary Quinn	X	
11	Judge Rosemary Minehan	X	
12	Kara Hayes	X	
13	Carolyn Boyes-Watson		X
14	Erin Freeborn	X	
15	Cheis Garrus		X
16	Susan Jeghelian		X
17	Strong Oak Lefebvre (**)	X	

(*) Designee for Diane Coffey

(**) Strong Oak joined the meeting at 12:18

EOPSS Staff: Anjeza Xhemollari, Spencer Lord and EOPSS intern Katie Queally

Others in attendance:

Over 10+ members of the public attended the open meeting.

2. Welcome

Chairman Andrew Peck welcomed all committee members and attendance was taken.

3. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2020

Roll call was taken to approve the meeting minutes. All present members voted in favor to accept the meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. The Annual Reporting Subcommittee, Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 1, 2020

Allison Cartwright and Kara Hayes approved the meeting minutes from September 1, 2020. Strong Oak was not present at that time to vote on the meeting minutes. Strong Oak joined the meeting at 12:18pm.

5. Reflecting on 2020 and RJAC to VOTE on the 2020 Annual Report

Chairman Andrew Peck started a discussion by his reflections of 2020. He joined RJAC in fall of 2019 and as he was catching up in meetings and restorative justice principals, COVID hit and the groups work was suspended for some time. As fear and anxiety was uncertain at that time, he understands that it could be difficult, and it became the new normal. Chairman Peck talked about how COVID and how restorative justice has broadened his perspective in a lens through the criminal justice system. The intersects have never become clear to him and he sees how communities are impacted by the criminal justice system. Chairman Peck has a newfound focus that address inequalities across multiple systems and groups. Chairman Peck recognizes that some members of this committee are much more informed on restorative justice, than he will ever be. Chairman Peck wants to work together in 2021.

Kara Hayes is very appreciative of how Chairman Peck started this conversation. She indicated that the system does not hold and have all the answers. This moment in time reflects deeply on why changes are needed in the criminal justice system.

Senator Eldridge thanks Chairman Peck for opening the meeting in this format and reaffirms on what Kara has said. His reflection comes from the point of view of a legislator, who has learned a lot from the last session. He worked for about six years to pass this bill on restorative justice. He asks the question of how can we expand restorative justice across the state? What can the legislator do to better support the work for all of us, especially on the financial front. He recognizes that no program or initiative is ever going to be perfect.

Scott Taberner appreciated how Chairman Peck started the new year. Scott recognizes how Chairman Peck lead the meeting and how he captured his own thinking, but also what everyone else was thinking. Scott talked about the last meeting and how it had brought the members at a peak about the true meaning of a circle process. He felt bad that Strong Oak was not part of this meeting because she really helped the members better understand the potential for what restorative justice is and how to use the principles. Scott stated that he would like to see the Committee continue to build on that structure and have earnest conversations.

Becky Michaels echoed on what everyone else was saying and she was heartbroken about missing part of the last meeting. Becky indicated that at the last meeting some members were worried about the meeting not being confidential and not a safe space. Becky also talked about missing voices at the table and how the Committee should not lose sight of members of the public.

Mary Quinn added that the heart of restorative justice is relationships. She supported the idea of working together and modeling what we are trying to create.

Erin Freeborn thanked Chairman Peck for starting the year this way. She loved the circle process because each person had lifted something that was on her mind or in her heart. She echoed on what was said and understands all the struggles we endured in 2020. Erin talked about, how do we pull our relationships together, how do we form all different points of the system, how do we work together to restore this system? How do we build

relationships within this committee to move forward and build off our work? She is excited for this creative group to get to work. She was grateful for the mini sessions of different programs and speakers in 2020.

Chairman Peck asked the Committee to vote on the 2020 Annual Report. Becky Michaels made the motion. Scott Taberner second the motion. Roll call was taken to approve the 2020 Annual Report. All present members voted in favor to accept the annual report. Motion passed unanimously.

6. 2021 Visioning - what do we want to accomplish in the next 12 months

Chairman Peck talked about his vision of 2021 and the accomplishments he wanted to achieve. Chairman Peck opened the floor for discussion. Chairman Peck stated that he would love to create more inventory during 2021.

Kara Hayes stated that she has been vocal about the need of a survey and is interested in participating. Senator Eldridge second the inventory efforts. Mary Quinn stated that restorative justice inventory is the extensive work being done.

It was determined that Chairman Peck and Kara Hayes would work together on moderately drafting a survey questioner and bring it at the next meeting.

Becky Michaels agreed with the idea and suggested to look at the RFP for guidance.

Members of the committee talked about the inventory mandate but also explored ideas of other ways to impact the system. Such as creating education and awareness around restorative justice programs.

Becky Michaels stated that was a conversation worth having and probably it would be a good idea to create a subcommittee. The subcommittee would run somewhat parallel as the survey questioner but does not have to be fully on the same timeline.

Erin Freeborn indicated that some of those conversations dovetail with the memo that Susan and Carolyn drafted in 2019. She also sees a lot of value in reporting back to the legislator at the end of each year.

It was determined that Becky Michaels will Chair the Planning Subcommittee and this item will be added to the agenda next month.

7. How can we move forward with the resources we have

a. survey of programs/practitioners taking cases from the CJS and those interested in doing so

b. next steps and purpose for RJAC

Scott Taberner talked about the membership of the group. He stated that obviously there is a particular legislation that calls for various representatives to actually participate, but he indicated that over the past year he has noticed the importance of reaching out to other individuals and organizations that should have a voice.

Impressed by the number of guests that faithfully attend these sessions and whose input is very valued. Maybe we can explore ways to have others join the committee. Maybe part of the subcommittee to enlarge the circle.

8. Public Comment (10 minutes)

Brenda Nolan thanked Chairman Peck for opening the meeting the way he did. She indicated that Strong Oak also helped a lot in the last meeting. She liked Erin's comment on legislation and legislature. Very grateful for the conversation today.

9. Open Session for Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 Hours of the Meeting

N/A

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:27