Meeting Minutes

Work Group Members in Attendance: Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Mr. Jay Clearly (representing Mr. James Johnston), Ms. Shebra Evans, Ms. Tracy Foster, Ms. Michele Finlayson, Dr. Marvin Krohn, Ms. Kimberly Pogue, and Ms. Amanda White

MSDE Staff in Attendance: Ms. Deborah Grinnage-Pulley, Mr. Shane McCormick, Mr. Walter Sallee, Mr. Elliot Schoen

Members of the Public in Attendance: Ms. Jeanine Blomberg, Dr. Thomas Blomberg, Mr. Nick Moroney, Mr. George Pesta

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Sylvia Lawson welcomed the work group members and guests. The members reviewed the minutes from the July 29, 2019, meeting. A motion to adopt the minutes as presented was made by Ms. Shebra Evans and seconded by Ms. Amanda White. The motion carried.

Presentation: Research Subcommittee

Dr. Lawson and Ms. Kimberly Pogue facilitated a presentation on behalf of the Research Subcommittee. The responsibilities of the subcommittee were shared with the members, which includes providing the history and background of juvenile services education within the State of Maryland, reviewing the existing juvenile services management model and academic year calendar within the State, and researching potential alternatives. Ms. Pogue shared information regarding the Alfred D. Noyes Children’s Center (Noyes), located in Rockville, MD, including the student capacity and current staffing numbers. Dr. Lawson shared information regarding Chapter 565-House Bill 1607, including the purpose of the legislation, and the establishment and mission of the 1607 work group.

Dr. Lawson shared the charge of the work group with the members and discussed the prior memorandum of agreement (MOA) between Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The MOA between MCPS and MSDE was established in January 2018, prior to the passage of HB 1607. Through this partnership students were provided with access to hybrid/online courses, including Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. Dr. Lawson acknowledged the contributions of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) in the partnership between MCPS and MSDE.
The members received information regarding the Noyes pilot project budget, including additional staffing requests and planned collaboration with MCPS. The budget request provides resources to fund additional staffing positions in a variety of areas, including: Saturday Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Principal Coach, Program Evaluator, Curriculum Specialist, Transition Support Staff, and Special Education Case Manager. Additional funding is slated to provide for initiatives, such as: family and community services, curriculum training for English and Mathematics substitutes, curriculum alignment review, and special education interventions. Ms. Pogue shared that forty to sixty percent of students at Noyes are special education students, and that additional resources for special education interventions would be tremendously beneficial.

The members reviewed the state listing provided in the meeting material handouts, which includes a management breakdown by each state in four difference categories: management by a state department of education, management by a local board of education, management by an independent school district, and management by another state agency. The handout also listed the number of students in juvenile services facilities as of the 2015 Census, and a description of funding within each state with links to view source materials. Dr. Lawson recommended to the members that the work group limit itself to review no more than eight states, and encouraged members to discuss within their subcommittees which states the subcommittee would like for the full work group to research. The members were encouraged to identify states that reflected the various management models provided, but that were also comparable in size and student populations to those in the State of Maryland.

The work group recessed at 9:56 a.m. to breakout into subcommittees.

**Work Group Subcommittee Updates**

The work group reconvened at 11:07 a.m. The subcommittees shared the states they would like for the work group to research. Ms. White shared on behalf of the Transition Subcommittee, and recommended researching the District of Columbia, the States of Florida, Washington, Oregon, New Jersey, Illinois, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Mr. Jay Cleary presented on behalf of the Operations Subcommittee. The subcommittee shared it was focused primarily on States that operated under a local-management model. The subcommittee was initially interested in the States of Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Oregon, and Washington; from its initial list the subcommittee selected the States of Florida, Oregon, and Washington. Dr. Lawson shared the recommended states on behalf of the members of the Equity Subcommittee.

The members discussed the number of states the work group should research. The Research Subcommittee focused on states based on the criteria within HB 1607. The District of Columbia, and the States of Florida, Oregon, Washington were mutually agreed upon by the members. The State of Kentucky was mentioned by three of the four subcommittees; Ms. Pogue shared that Kentucky operates under a state-based management model comparable to the State of Maryland. Mr. Cleary informed the members that many states operate differently between treatment and
juvenile housing facilities. Dr. Marvin Krohn explained why the Transition Subcommittee did not select the State of Kentucky. The members agreed to research the State of Kentucky.

The members agreed to research the States of Georgia and Illinois. The members discussed the states already selected and the management models within each. Dr. Krohn discussed the State of New Jersey, stating it is comparable in size to the State of Maryland in juvenile services population size.

**Extension Request Report**

Dr. Lawson stated the concerns of the members on the timeline for submission of the final report were heard, and that a request for an extension was submitted to the Governor, State Senate President, and State Speaker of the House. The Governor and Senate President have approved granting an extension to the work group. The members will be provided a final update on the extension request as soon as possible.

Mr. Elliott Schoen, MSDE Deputy Legal Counsel, provided information to the members on the renewal of the MOA between MSDE, DJS, and MCPS. The renewal is in progress, and is expected to be approved prior to the next work group meeting.

Ms. White asked for clarification on the work group timeline and the responsibility of the subcommittees in preparing the final report. Dr. Lawson stated that each subcommittee will be responsible for preparing a portion of the final report based on the tasks and responsibilities that each committee was asked to complete. Dr. Lawson recommended that the members bring a laptop or tablet to the September 23, 2019, meeting so that the subcommittees can collaborate and research during their breakout meetings.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jay Cleary and seconded by Ms. Amanda White. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.