

**State Relations and Assistance Division Monthly Call with States**  
**State Advisory Group Call**  
**August 26, 2020**  
**2:00 to 3:00 P.M. EDT**  
**U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs**  
**Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

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**SUMMARY**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) **State Relations and Assistance Division (SRAD)** held its monthly call with state advisory group (SAG) members on August 26, 2020. The web-based meeting focused on and was open to SAG members and other interested designated state agency (DSA) personnel. Lisa Hutchinson, Director of Center for the Coordinated Assistance to the States (CCAS), provided staff support for the call and Katie Penkoff, Deputy Director for CCAS, served as the moderator. Administrator Caren Harp introduced Joe Vignati, Chair of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) to discuss FACJJ and the importance of SAG Calls.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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OJJDP Administrator Caren Harp welcomed and thanked all participants to the call. The following OJJDP representatives, CCAS members, and DSA personnel were in attendance:

OJJDP	Name
X	Caren Harp
	Chryl Jones
X	TeNeane Bradford
X	Keisha Kersey
X	Nicole McCrae
X	Alyssa Malcomson
X	Tina Borner
X	Cara Blair
X	Diamond Lewis
X	Marisa Harris
X	Ricco Hall
X	Brittaney Ford
CCAS	
X	Lisa Hutchinson
X	Okori Christopher
X	Katie Penkoff
X	Cassy Blakely
X	Kia Jackson
X	Kenya Roy
X	Mark Ferrante
State	In Attendance/Mark with X
1. Alabama	Brian Forster
2. Alaska	Amy Gorn
3. American Samoa	
4. Arizona	Steve Selover

<b>State</b>	<b>In Attendance/Mark with X</b>
5. Arkansas	
6. California	Michelle Guymon, Brian John Back, Carly Dierkhising
7. Colorado	Kelly Abbott
8. Connecticut	
9. Delaware	
10. District of Columbia	Lisette Burton
11. Florida	Cathy Atkins, Caroline Zucker, Samantha Vance, Gloria Getland
12. Georgia	Samantha Wolf
13. Guam	Krisinda Aguon, Danielle Camacho, Gregorio Artero
14. Hawaii	Shannessy Ahu, John Paekuikui
15. Idaho	Chelsea Newton, Stace Gearhart, Shane Boyle, Bill Thompson, Stacy Brown
16. Illinois	Rick Velasquez
17. Indiana	Renee White, David Westenberger, Madison Shoemaker, Michael Ross
18. Iowa	Scott Musel
19. Kansas	Brock Landwehr, Terri Williams
20. Kentucky	Sara Redfield
21. Louisiana	
22. Maine	Tessa Mosher, Jill Ward
23. Maryland	Eric Ford, Chris Miele, Jessica Wheeler
24. Massachusetts	Jim Houghton
25. Michigan	Bob Higgins, Marcela Morales-Morris
26. Minnesota	Callie Hargett, Larry Eisenstadt, Raj Seth, Sara Thomas
27. Mississippi	
28. Missouri	Michelle Parks, Thomas Frawley
29. Montana	Rachel Gemar
30. Nebraska	
31. Nevada	
32. New Hampshire	
33. New Jersey	Shaniqua McRae
34. New Mexico	
35. New York	Euphemia Strauchn
36. North Carolina	
37. North Dakota	Russ Riehl, Lisa Jahner
38. Northern Marianas Islands	
39. Ohio	Camille Quinn
40. Oklahoma	
41. Oregon	Anya Sekino, Molly Rogers, Christina McMahan
42. Pennsylvania	Keith Snyder
43. Puerto Rico	Tatiana Perez, Jose Ojeda, Ever Padilla-Ruiz, Natalia Rios, Roselyn Cruz, Rick Velasquez
44. Rhode Island	
45. South Carolina	Shawana Frazier, Christine Wallace, Kayla Capps, Jay Elliott
46. South Dakota	
47. Tennessee	
48. Texas	
49. Utah	

State	In Attendance/Mark with X
50. Vermont	Don Hutchins, Elizabeth Morris
51. Virgin Islands	Berlina Wallace-Berube
52. Virginia	
53. Washington	Aaron Moore
54. West Virginia	John Stigall
55. Wisconsin	Allison Budzinski
56. Wyoming	Ashley Gregorio, Chris Jones, Jennifer Palsler, Erica Wood

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### **Welcome from Administrator Caren Harp**

First of all, to everyone who is weighing in on the chat box with the states you are representing and where you're from, this is tremendous! Thank you so much for joining us on this phone call. Welcome to our State Advisory Group monthly phone call which I think we're going to end up doing quarterly, but this is certainly a first for us. I know this is very close to the heart of Dr. TeNeane Bradford who's going to be talking to you in just a minute. She was so wanting to have this direct contact with state advisory groups and I just think this is wonderful. We're thrilled that you're on the line with us. And, we're just tickled to death about this particularly during this time. It's been a little bit challenging, I know.

As we go forward, I think this gives us a chance to share with you whatever information or resources we have that might make your work easier, but really and so importantly, it's our opportunity to hear from you, about what you really need from us. We don't want to spin our wheels here, just, "Oh, we think the field needs this, or we think the field needs that." We want to know what you really need, and how we can truly be helpful to you so that we can help you all to guide to funds and the performance of the juvenile justice systems in your states.

I also think this is an opportunity for you to get to know us a little bit. We don't stand on a lot of ceremony around here. We don't have a lot of pretense. We enjoy just frank conversations about how to solve problems and identifying what the real problem is and solving it. So, this gives us that opportunity, I think, a little bit, maybe to develop some trust. I know in years past, there's been problems with that, breeches with trusting. We've fallen off the rails a bit. This is an opportunity to kind of repair that, strengthen it. Give us the opportunity to become a really reliable partner for you. That's ultimately what we want. I'm thrilled. I'm not going to take any more time. There's lots of folks with lots to say. And, I'm just delighted that you're with us.

Joe Vignati is the Chair of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ). It's that advisory committee that by statute comes together and advises OJJDP about the kinds of things we need to be working on, and he's chairman of that. It's made up of SAG members. Everyone on that committee is a SAG member, so it's a great conduit of information both from the states to us, and of course from us them to the states. They're wonderful partners. We could not have a better FACJJ than the one we have right now. I'm just tickled to death to be working with them. And, Joe does a tremendous job as our chair of that committee, so Joe, if you would please, go ahead and talk to folks. Thank you all so much.

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### **Welcome from Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) Chair Joseph Vignati**

Thank you Administrator Harp. Hey everybody. Good morning, or good afternoon, depending on where you are in the country. I just want to thank you all for joining the call. And I know that these are kind of interesting times for us, but I think these calls are really important because it helps us recognize the important role each of you play in juvenile justice across the country. And these calls are really important because this work has to go on. And, I know we're going to hear a little bit later about our virtual national conference in October, and I'm excited to hear about that too, disappointed that I won't be able to see folks face to face, but we'll be able to interact in this virtual way, and like I said, this is important work and this work will go on, and I salute Administrator Harp and the staff at the Office for

being so open and so forthcoming in supporting this work. So, I'm going to say adieu and continue the good work everybody.

### **The Role of SAGs**

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**Cassy Blakely, CCAS** – Thank you so much. My name is Cassy Blakely and I am part of the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS), and we are the training and technical assistance provider I should say for OJJDP around titles to and other related items including report to you all on the state advisory group which we'll talk about here a bit on the call. But in the meantime, we want to talk a little bit about the roles of SAGs, and I think the primary thing to remember as you stand in that position as a state advisory group member is that you are partner to your designated state agency (DSA) staff as they work to not only administer the Title II funding and ensure compliance with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act but also in shaping efforts around juvenile justice in your state for young people, families in the communities in which they live, and that can mean a lot of things. So, that's your regular meetings, staying abreast on issues that are impacting the juvenile justice system in your state, not just in the system specifically, but in the systems that touch and link to and overlap with the work that you do related juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. Since many of you report to your executive officer and assist your DSA, your designated state agency staff, as they work towards compliance, as they work to be liaisons, and I think we really are partners.

The last thing I'll share is your role and responsibility as a state advisory group member is that we're coming up on a really exciting time where your three year plans are due for fiscal year 2021. And that's really a chance as a state advisory group member to help your state take a look at what the focus is not just around Title II, but around juvenile justice in your state and really shape the direction that that is going to go. What needs to change? What needs to evolve? What steps can be taken to be an advocate and a voice? And, I think it's a really, Congress had a lot of foresight in 1974 when they decided that states needed assistance from dedicated volunteer citizens to ensure that young people were getting what they needed in the system, and so thank you to all of you for the work that you do, and I will be back shortly to talk to you a little bit about what we can do to support you at the Center of Coordinated Assistance to States.

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – Thank you so much Cassy. As Administrator Harp shared and also Chair Vignati in the opening remarks, we really want feedback from all of you on what the needs of state advisory group members are, so that we can make sure that the training and technical assistance and resources that we work to provide really do strive to meet those needs. And so, OJJDP leadership, is there any information you would like to provide on the feedback you have received thus far, or do we want to open the line and actually get some live feedback from the SAG members present on what their needs might be?

**Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** – For SRAD, the State Relations and Assistance Division, I wanted to make sure the SAG participants knew as Caren was saying, this is really a vision of mine to close the gap on where we share information and how we provide support to SAGs. Our division is committed to supporting every arm of the stakeholder groups with the Title II Formula Grants award. We have gone out as much as we could prior to COVID to attend meetings, to engage in meetings, to provide support to different work groups on different SAGs in each state. But, one of the common things I've heard throughout my visits is that we get SAG training back on board, that as SAG members come on board we have standardization around the type of training that is provided to our states and our new SAG members. So, we're working very closely with CCAS to ensure that that occurs and that there's a regular engagement with the SAG chairs and the SAG groups.

Caren and I and several of the staff have gone out, sometimes last minute, sometimes planned ahead to attend meetings. So, please, certainly continue to share those meeting dates with us. We are willing to participate as you go to remote platforms in your meetings to be there to answer questions and be present for you and partner with you as you are working on the start of your next 3-year plans, any

other projects and initiatives that are coming up, things that you need to hear from us about, we're willing to be there and be present and participate.

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### Feedback on SAG Needs

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A brief overview of the training and technical assistance available through CCAS was provided. A question and answer session was then facilitated with call participants.

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – Cassy Blakely is our team member who is Deputy Director over training and technical assistance. And so, as requests for training and technical assistance come in from designated state agencies and state advisory groups, they first go through Cassy and Kia Jackson who is another of our team members and Cassy and Kia hold assessment calls to understand what those training and technical assistance needs are. Cassy, is it possible for you to share some of the types of training and technical assistance requests that you have been receiving from the field recently as they gear up for adding new categories to SAG members, Three-Year Planning, et cetera?

**Cassy Blakely, CCAS** – Most certainly. And, I think that it would be wonderful to hear too if these are types of things that today's call participants are needing as you integrate as SAG members or if there are additional things that we can collaborate with OJJDP to make available to you. So, I will say we provide a number of training and technical assistance supports to state advisory group members in close partnership with their state's/territory's designated state agency and your State Relations and Assistance Division Program Manager. And, some of those things include very individualized support around integrating new members and orienting new members onto your team or developing your strategic or Three-Year Plan. We have an entire curriculum around youth engagement that we can help work with SAGs on as well as doing some SAG 101 trainings and coordination of Three-Year Planning.

We have a great collection of resources and examples that other states have shared over the years of the work that they do, so you can see what others are doing and connect to others across the country that may have similar needs as yours. And that is just a real quick run through, but if there is something that you would like assistance with and you are just not sure if it fits, you could always send it through TTA360, and we are happy to assist in that. I will say one exciting thing that our team is that the majority of us that serve on CCAS have engaged in the work from state level.

### Question and Answer Segment

**Raj Seth, MN** – I'm wondering how do we expand our work to better involve communities? Many of our grants and guidelines are still centered around colonized and systems oriented. How do we relax our guidelines and move toward engaging our communities to do more upstream work?

**Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** – There is a number of specific program areas in the Title II formula award that I would encourage SAG members to look at. There's the solicitation, what we can provide the [link to last year's](#). We can also provide the [link to fact sheet](#) and information that kind of point to those areas. So, while there is system involved work, there's certainly facility intervention programs. There are a number of other areas that the funding could be applied to. And so, I encourage you all as you are sitting and thinking about what your Three-Year Plan will look like to look at those areas as we focus some of the funding towards those areas.

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – The other thing I might suggest. You know we had the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), this is just an example, the Department of Education come and talk about the [Title I Part D Program of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#). There's just so much that can be done if you can coordinate with your [Title I Part D Coordinator](#), and that's out locally in the communities, because that money can be spent on kids that are at risk of coming into the juvenile system, right? Educational kinds of things. Well, that's a huge swath of, unfortunately it's a huge swath

of our juvenile population out there in communities, and so there are just so many opportunities for tutoring and mentoring and all kinds of things that can get state advisory groups out there connected to the communities through use of DOE, partnering with DOE. That's one way. Another way is with the Department of Labor. They have a tremendous, everybody's got money, it seems like except us. No, I'm not complaining. I'm just saying, the Department of Labor has an office in every zip code. It's not just every state. It might be every zip code. No not every zip code. It can't be every zip code. Every county, or every state certainly. The whole purpose of that funding is workforce development for you. Right?

We did a whole presentation, we had them come and do a presentation for the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice (CCJJ). [That presentation is up on our website](#). You can actually get it there at CCJJ on our website. It was I think the last full meeting we had in person before COVID. So, you can go there and look and find the presentation, [find the contact at Labor](#), and find out some facts about the money and where it's located and the availability of it and how you partner with them to get into the communities, get out of that state capital hub and get out there into the communities. It will require partnering. That's just it. We're all trying to leverage funds, and do all of that, but the way to get out there I think is to partner with other agencies, particularly federal agencies in this case, to work with kids that aren't necessarily part of the system, and to work because they work with communities. I would wholeheartedly recommend those two as a place to start.

**Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** – I would even add that we have the resource guide that's being vetted right now. They have a number of other federal funding opportunities, to include those that are actively supporting COVID gear and other types of funding streams to help supplement what states would have gotten or could in addition to what it is that the Title II Formula funds will provide. If you are in a particular state, [your state has an assigned program manager](#). My staff are there to help you get some of that information pretty quickly after this call.

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – I love these questions you all are having here. And, what's so nice is that they are going to require answers from other members on the phone call which is great. It doesn't have to come from us. It should come from the wealth of knowledge that is the rest of the SAG member population. One of those is, "Do any of the folks on the call have ideas or recommendations on creative ways to facilitate the development of the Three-Year Plan, especially in a virtual format?" Well, that's great? Has anybody conquered that? Has anybody got a great plan that they're attempting? Or want to share with the group?

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – Cassy, some of the requests that have come in, you've actually worked with state advisory groups that have switched to allowing virtual meetings during COVID, right? And, so that because of open meeting laws required some additional protections in place, but it has been possible. Could you speak to that?

**Cassy Blakely, CCAS** – I'll say it all boils down to much of what Administrator Harp is saying. Folks are just getting real creative, and doing whatever they can to make it happen as we all are at this time. And so, as I mentioned in the chat box, some states have broken it down into bits and pieces, so they tackle it over a number of months of regular meetings as a full group, virtually. Others are tackling a nice long planning session virtually. Others still are divvying it up among their committees so they have very active engaged committees. Historically, some folks have used work groups that really do the heavy lifting, and then kicks it back to the full group for input, feedback and approval. So, it really is wide open for you to do what's going to work best for your group and your state, particularly given what Open Meetings Act or gathering rules, public meeting rules might be in your state.

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – In the chat box, Stacy Brown is sharing that it doesn't always have to be super high tech. She's sharing that they've used Google Docs to ensure that all their council members added their thoughts to upload maybe information necessary for meetings, and that it worked really well for folks. Dr. Bradford, did you have something to add?

**Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** – I don't think that there's much to add other than to make sure that you're reminded that we can help with the facilitation of engaging remotely. We are available to engage as well remotely. We want to be a part of those discussions. We want to be helpful to you in your work group discussions as we can be. And so, again, I would encourage that we partner beside you as you're having these discussions or meetings so that you can get real time feedback and information. Perhaps we can help partner you with someone on the FACJJ or other SAGs in other states so that you know where to go to get some of your questions answered.

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – I was reading the chat box also, and I see that Callie Hargett has weighed in and said that they have a three phase planning process and flow chart to help their SAG breakdown planning tasks and all of that, and that she's happy to share it. That's wonderful Callie. We'd appreciate it very much if you did that. Callie, if you would do that, that would be great.

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – Jessica Wheeler is sharing in their last Three-Year Plan they utilized survey tools to solicit feedback from both SAG members and the larger juvenile justice community within their state and this really helped them narrow down their priorities based on community feedback and community need.

**Cassy Blakely, CCAS** – New Mexico shared on last month's JJ specialist called that they're also using survey tools I believe bilingually to reach out to the community to gather information on what to include in their Three-Year Plan. So, states, like I said, are just figuring out what they can do given the space.

**Brian Forster, AL** – As the SAA for Alabama's JJ program, I have a difficult time getting tribal and youth involvement with our SAG. It is hard to get participation on the SAG when there is really no interest from those parties. How have other states tackled this issue?

**Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** – I just want to make sure that we're able to at least point him in the right direction because we have engaging in a significant partnership with another division in OJJDP that really works very closely with our tribal partners as well as POC liaison. Keisha is also our liaison for tribal engagement and working on ways to really help with the outreach and generate the level of interest that may seem lacking. There are targeted ways, best practices if you will, that will help engage our tribal partners and our partners in ways that we're finding to be successful. So, we can certainly follow up and be a part of your meeting discussions and figure out ways to include and generate interests within those specific groups on the side.

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – We think youth involvement is critically important and we've tried to, we're attempting anyway to model that in our operation here, because we have a youth presentation, and youth speakers at every one of our [Coordinating Council](#) meetings, at least for the past year. And, I hope that continues, because this is just a reminder, these are the people we're serving, and we need to hear from them and incorporate their thoughts into our work, so we have that, and we're planning to have youth speakers at the SRAD national conference, right? So, you all will be hearing from youth, and we try to incorporate them at every kind of at trainings where groups of practitioners are coming together. We want the youth voice there to try to spur that engagement, but it's tough.

I mean I understand that it's tough to find youth and troubled youth to participate. I know we also are having tribal speakers, and we were having tribal youth come to our CCJJ in July, but everything kind of fell apart as a result of this health issue, so we just have to keep trying. We want to model it for everyone. Model it across the board for everyone.

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – And to that, we are putting in the chat box a link from the OJJDP website to the [Tribal Youth Programs and Services Information](#), and there you'll find information of course about

OJJDP's recent [Tribal Consultation Webinar](#) that was held, and I believe we saw a list there recently about specific virtual events that really made sure that youth, tribal youth voice was obtained from the states and territories that have tribes.

**Cassy Blakely, CCAS** – And, I'm noticing questions about formally incarcerated young people. And, observing and just raising to our attention that the Act calls for young people with direct system experience to serve on your state advisory group. So, that is in the statute, and so those young people have a doorway into your state advisory group. So, it'd be curious, and we're happy to talk more and troubleshoot what barriers you might be interacting with, and you can also reach out to your SRAD Rep of course for your state to troubleshoot some things, but those folks are welcome at SAG tables according to the statute.

**Molly Rogers, OR** – Has anyone had any experience or success in reaching into youth in placement/facility to solicit youth engagement?

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – Washington State is a strong example of a state that has been able to reach into its facilities to make sure youth voice is obtained.

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – Okay. This is Caren again. You know the glare of the little light bulb. I just want to, we need to incorporate this discussion into our Facility Superintendent Training, because as our facility superintendents, this is the third cohort that just jumped off, started off last week or earlier this week. Anyway, it was great, and what we need to do, it's our third cohort and we need to incorporate this into their training between now and the next six months, because each cohort comes in and there's about 50 of them. And then, they train for six months. And, we need to incorporate this issue into it so that they can in facilities kind of start having this conversation with youth and try to engage them and say, "Hey, who wants to do this? Or, have a voice, take a role on the advisory committee?" It can come from both directions. We need them to understand the importance of that and how they might encourage youth to do that. What do you think? Am I crazy? I'm perfectly fine being crazy. Go ahead and tell me.

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – I think that's a great idea Administrator Harp, and if I could share as part of the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States, one of our partners is the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators and those are executives from short and long term juvenile detention and correctional facilities across the states and territories, and as part of the Center for Coordinated Assistance scope of work there is a Superintendent Training as well as a Deputy Director Training which is coming up, and I think that is absolutely an appropriate place to really talk about youth engagement and youth voice, and from my time working in facilities as well, there often now are student councils and other leadership bodies within facilities that really could be engaged hopefully in some way shape or form. And, we've got folks weighing in in the chat box. Alaska has conducted focus groups in their facilities and programs. In West Virginia, juveniles from facilities are actually brought to SAG meetings by facility staff. So, it sounds like states are really working hard to make sure youth voice is incorporated.

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – These comments are amazing. This is great. I'm so happy to see this, West Virginia bringing kids to the meetings. This is wonderful. We definitely partner with CJA to do this facility superintendent level training and they're just the group, right? They're the ones that have all of the facility folks, deputies, directors, everybody, and we just need them at the table. We need them engaged in this or to make it a priority among folks who work in the facility, so the facilities can understand the need, the value of having youth voices at the state meeting. This is wonderful. You all are doing some great stuff out there.

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – Exactly. Exactly. So, we're seeing what's happening in Virginia. Great youth voice, and we should mention, Rodney Robinson, I believe is his name, who was the national teacher of the year is actually from a Virginia detention facility, and he was a keynote at the Title I, part D National



Conference. So, it's exciting to see the collaboration really that's occurring between education and juvenile justice as Administrator Harp mentioned. And, you'll see within the chat box, we have a [link to the Title I part D website](#) where you can find out who the contacts are within your state. There's actually an interactive map that will tell you who within your state education agency is responsible for facilitating that program, and we also have a link to the [Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act](#). You know there is specifically in that funding youth who are justice system involved are actually a group of emphasis within that funding as well.

**Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** – I see Stacy Brown (ID) your comment from Idaho about the Youth Council that brought in [Hasan Davis](#) to speak. It was amazing to watch the excitement the juveniles had when they're sitting an adult you understood and listened. Absolutely no one more powerful than to have someone who's overcome the struggle and comes back to inspire youth to lead law abiding lives and things as we enter society.

**Raj Seth, MN** – How do we make us obsolete--- grants go directly to communities and not through us .... we are seeing growing divides in our communities --- zip codes make a difference during this double pandemic --- COVID-19 and systemic racist policies --- these needs are further escalating young people causing more harm --- maybe it is just a MN thang!

**Carly Dierkhising, MN** – Second Raj's comment. We struggle with ensuring that grant funding goes directly into the community and does not has to pass through a law enforcement agency. What are OJJDP's thoughts on this?

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – I was just noticing, let's see Carly following up on Raj's comment and the struggle ensuring that grant funding goes directly into the community and does not have to pass through a law enforcement agency, and what are our thoughts on that? I am not quite clear on the question. Can you type a little more on that?

**Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** – Who's getting that funding-

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – Yes, and what grant funding are we referring to? And, are we talking about Title II money, and this idea that it has to go through a law enforcement agency? If you could just type a little more so I could figure out exactly what the problem is, I'd love to hear that.

**Lisette Burton, DC** – Our SAG is meeting via Zoom, and I'm sure others are as well. Will there be upcoming guidance about facility monitoring virtually or other monitoring flexibilities due to COVID?

**Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** – And I see another follow up to the follow up. Something to say. It says, "Our SAG is meeting via Zoom, and I'm sure others are as well. will there be upcoming guidance about facilities monitoring virtually or other monitoring flexibilities due to COVID?"

**Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** – So, in terms of monitoring, the level of detail other than monitoring is unclear here, but there are some basic requirements led by the statute in regulations of Title II that guides compliance monitoring activities in the states. Two of those are inspection and then verification. Those two things, we are not giving a waiver for or actually providing guidance around doing that virtually. We've had calls to the Compliance Monitors to kind of discuss the potential for considerations of should COVID limit their ability to actually do onsite inspections and data verification. Doing that in facilities virtually is very different from what we call programmatic compliance monitoring or auditing. Very different set of circumstances to actually begin to see certain core protections be complied with and how that data is verified is very difficult to see, but we did and Administrator Harp can go into more detail, discuss the kinds of things that could be done in lieu of if COVID is preventing you potentially of doing those things.

We don't want to discourage, we actually want the states to think innovatively about actually getting the necessary PPE gear, advocating for essential status so that they can get in there and make sure youth are safe while they are actually in certain types of facilities.

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – Here's the deal. The law requires it. And, we are not in a position to waive anything at the moment. We don't have discretion around that, but what we have said is, "You all do the very best that you can, document everything. If you get orders that say, "and you know here are executive orders coming from governors, county judges, everybody about who can come in a facility, who can't what you have to do, if employees can work, if they can't work," all of that kind of stuff. It's different across all 56 states and territories. So, what we're telling you is this is the law. Right? And, we need to do it. If there are things that stop you from doing it because you have an executive order that says something or a judge that won't let you or facility that won't let you in or whatever it is, just document it when you send us all of your stuff.

Now, COVID, the compliance data and all of that, TeNeane and I have just been working on that today. Everything that is relevant to your fiscal year '20 funding was back in fiscal year '19. Right? And so, none of that is affected by COVID, so I don't think we have to worry. You don't need to worry about your funding issues, the impact of COVID on your funding at this moment. Believe me, I know it's complicated, but I also understand, this is monitoring and things that you're doing now is what you are going to submit for your '21 funding.

And, what we've said in the past, and what we continue to say is that, "The law requires what it requires." [Our guidance is on our website](#). But, just simply document every hurdle, and anything that prohibits you from doing what's required. Just document everything, and then hopefully, we have some reason to be hopeful that we're going to get guidance that tells us under pandemic conditions, we have the discretion that we need to not enforce it stringently. I don't know that that's the case right now. I can't tell you that, but that's my hope. That's certainly how we're going to move forward and advocate, that we need discretion. We need some ability to assist states as they overcome these problems. Everything's a balancing test. Right? We want to protect the employees. We want to protect the youth. We want to protect the people in the facilities.

We have all of that and then we want to protect them not only from illness, but also from whatever difficulties, whatever the core protections are, all four of the core protections. So, that didn't answer a whole lot. It just says essentially, you're going to have to leave it with us, but just document, document, document. I believe that was Joe Vignati, the chairman of FACJJ. I believe that was his advice to everybody the last time we all came into this group, discussed this issue, was just document everything you're doing, every order, or you can't do this, or you need to do this, whatever it is. Document, document, document, and send it all to us. And, from there, we'll be in the best position to figure out how to determine compliance. I mean, I know that's not as specific as you would like, but that is as specific as I can give you, and as if Title II needed anything else to make it complicated. Here, let's just throw a little pandemic in there. That'll work. That's it. It's getting too easy for everyone to comply with Title II. Let's add that. No, I know it's incredibly tough, but that's all I can tell you. Just, keep complying to the best of your ability. There's nothing you can do, but the best you can do, and document when you can't, and that's it.

**Raj Seth, MN** – Can you share the memorandum of the joint-partnership between schools and JJ?

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – There was a question around memorandum of understanding between justice facilities and schools. And so, we placed a few resources in the chat box, one resource is from the Title I Part D Program. It is actually a tool that helps [schools and facilities develop a formal agreement](#) of deciding who would do what. The other resource is around the [School-Justice Partnership and Diversion Pathways](#) program through the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. It looks like it's on hold for now, but it is something that they've offered in the past. And Administrator Harp and Dr. Bradford, I know in the

past that OJJDP has funded this [School-Justice Partnership National Resource Center](#) and although funding has expired for that particular initiative, a lot of the resources live on, including a memorandum of understanding for school justice partnerships. So, we just placed those links, including [Tribal Youth Programs and Services](#), to speak to those needs in the chat box related to that particular question.

**Raj Seth, MN** – I am new to this process --- why do people call each other Administrator so and so? in academia they try to diminish the 'A' word.

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – I see a question here from Raj. Apparently, I was breaking up. I apologize for that. You're new to the process. Why do people call each other Administrator and so on. Boy, isn't that a great question. Here I'll tell you why. Unfortunately, the statute, that's what the statute calls the person who is responsible for running the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. And, that's me. So, I'm the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. That is by statute. Sorry.

**Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** – There was one more question that I thought... There was a follow up I think you asked Caren about a little bit more clarity around Minnesota's question regarding funding going is it Title II funding that's going to a law enforcement agency, and if that should be the case, that the statute guides who gets the funding. So, we need to be clear that the DSA, the designated state agency, is a law enforcement agency, because I'm not sure if that is the case. I'm still not sure if we know the specifics of how Minnesota operates and where the funding goes. We have to do a little bit more homework on our end and certainly are open to engaging in a conversation after this meeting to make sure we understand your question and the mechanisms around how the funding gets to where once it goes to the designated state agency, this requires a little bit more homework.

**Steve Selover, AZ** – "We have been unable to certify our SAG members because our governor has a different priority since the onset of the pandemic. How do recommend we move forward?"

**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** – This is one of those situations where I think you do the very best you can and then document what you've been unable to do, or if you've received something that says from the governor's office, "We're not taking that up right now, we have other problems we're trying to solve. We'll take that up later." Whatever the situation is, just document that and send it to us. Okay? We want to find every way we can legally to exercise whatever discretion we can legally to facilitate the flow of money through the state because this is what, cutting off funding to you all would just be a disaster.

The idea is to give you more resources if we possibly can. So, that's kind of where we're coming from, but of course, we're going to follow the law. This has to be done legally. So, again, just document what the problem is. Whatever you have from the governor's office or what have you that indicates, they're not going to be taking that up, or taking up that certification issue for a while or whatever, document it and when you submit your material.

**Katie Penkoff, CCAS** – Absolutely and there seem to be a lot of questions related to making sure that all communities are engaged in the planning process and in receiving funding and part of what Cassy Blakely and the TA team at the Center for Coordinated Assistance for States can do is really help you brainstorm who are the stakeholders within your state, how you find them, where you identify them, and how do you begin to engage them to make sure that you really have a diverse stakeholder group represented within your state and supported within your state as they work to improve juvenile justice and delinquency prevention efforts.

## SAG & Youth Strategies from the States

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Stacy Brown, ID – It sounds elementary, but we utilized Google Docs, and all of our Council members added their thoughts, and we found this actually worked fantastically.

Jessica Wheeler, MD – In the last 3-year plan, we utilized survey tools to solicit feedback from both SAG members and the larger JJ community. This helped us to narrow down our priorities.

Callie Hargett, MN – I created a three-phase planning process flow chart to help assist the SAG break down planning tasks. Happy to share it.

Amy Gorn, AK – In Alaska we conduct focus groups in our facilities and programs.

John Stigall, WV – In WV we have had Juveniles from facilities brought to SAG meeting by the facility staff.

Stacy Brown, ID – In Idaho, our Youth Council brought in Hasan Davis to speak in our detention facilities and conducted interviews with the juveniles. It was amazing to watch the excitement the juveniles had, when there stood an adult, who understood, and listened.

Larry Eisenstadt, MN – Being a youth WIOA program coordinator in MN, we do our best to serve juvenile justice participants. What WIOA staff need in serving JJ participants is what employment and training services are specifically needed for such youth allowing them to a path of economic and social self-sufficiency. WIOA is interested in serving these "opportunity youth." Sometimes, we need youth voice in determining what services are truly needed. We are customer driven.

## 2020 SRAD National Conference Update\*

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**Cassy Blakely, CCAS** - The 2020 SRAD National Conference will be held on October 6-8<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 5:30 P.M. EDT. SAG members are encouraged to join. More information pertaining to the conference will be available soon. If there are specific questions or resources that you need or that you would like to see developed, please submit those ideas to your OJJDP representative. You can also send them to the CCAS team at [ccas@air.org](mailto:ccas@air.org). The CCAS team consists of Dr. Lisa Hutchinson, CCAS Director, Dr. Katie Penkoff, who oversees resource and tool development, Ms. Cassy Blakely, who manages TTA efforts, along with Kia Jackson, Mark Ferrante, and several other team members who support the team.

*\*Since the OJJDP SRAD SAG Call on August 26, 2020, the conference dates have changed. The conference will now be held virtually on November 16-18, 2020.*

## Closing Statements from Administrator Caren Harp and SRAD Associate Administrator Dr. TeNeane Bradford

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**Administrator Caren Harp, OJJDP** - I'll be happy to just thank you all so much for participating and giving us this great list of questions. If we weren't able to get to them through the chat as things rolls by, we'll have a transcript of the chat, and we can certainly get back and answer every single one that was asked either through email or posting on the website or something like that, but we will get back to you, CCAS or OJJDP either way. Just thank you. It's just so important to help us build this relationship to you all and help you all to understand us and us to understand you and figure out how to help you with the problems that you're having, whatever those might be.

And also, we don't say it enough, to share the successes, because your states out there, some of you in various pockets of your states, sometimes the whole entire state, you're doing tremendous things. You're making huge strides in helping the juvenile population and we want to highlight that. We want to

be a megaphone for that so that others can learn what's going right in jurisdictions in your states so that they can mirror those and attempt them in their states because you all that peer to peer state to state training and information sharing is just the best thing that can happen. So, I thank you so much for taking your time with us today. TeNeane, do you have anything?

**SRAD Associate Administrator Dr. TeNeane Bradford, OJJDP** - Just excited for the next one. Excited that we got it going. Have a wonderful afternoon.