

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ARTHUR BOLTON ASSOCIATES

PROPOSED-AGENDA

for completing the balance of the Commission's work

July 1 - December 15

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on June 10th in Portland, Arthur Bolton Associates was asked to prepare a "master plan" for the balance of the Commission's work. The plan which we suggest the Commission adopt is outlined in the following pages.

Briefly, staff propose a series of meetings each of which will focus on one of the four areas on which the Commission is concentrating - Prevention, Criminal Behavior, Non-Criminal Behavior and Juvenile Courts. Before each session, Commissioners will receive a packet of materials, prepared by staff, to be read as background material. Each meeting will begin with staff presentations based on demographic information about Maine's children which they have analyzed, available relevant literature, relevant sections of Maine's existing statutes and regulations, and available model legislation where appropriate. The goal of each of these four work-sessions would be to provide Commissioners with the information necessary to make tentative decisions about recommendations for change in Maine's juvenile justice system and to achieve a consensus among Commissioners about preliminary recommendations in the four areas.

After these sessions have been completed, staff will prepare a preliminary report. This report will include preliminary recommendations in the four goal areas on which the Commission has worked. These recommendations will be supported by an analysis of the functioning of Maine's juvenile courts¹ and of the social service alternatives available for children under the supervision of the juvenile court.² Issues about "children's rights" will also be considered³ in this preliminary report when they are relevant to recommendations which the report outlines, as will a cost benefit analysis of alternative recommendations.

1

"Task 2", RFP

2

"Task 6", RFP

3

"Task 5", RFP

A summary of this preliminary report will also be prepared. Staff recommends that the summary be circulated to everyone on the Commission's mailing list and to all other identified, interested parties.

Then, staff recommends that the Commission hold a final round of public hearings based on the findings of this preliminary report.

Based on the preliminary report and the input received during the public hearings, the Commission will meet to make final decisions about its analysis and recommendations. Staff will then prepare a draft of proposed statutory amendments which reflect the final recommendations of the Commission. This draft will be the basis for the final Commission meeting.

After receiving Commissioner's comments on the draft legislation, staff will prepare a final draft of statutory amendments⁴ and a report on a methodology for measuring the effectiveness of Commission recommendations.⁵

This will complete the staff's work for the Commission under the present contract.

The schedule that we propose for the implementation of this agenda is as follows:

Thursday, July 1

The meeting will include an introduction to the philosophy of juvenile justice systems and an introduction to Maine's statutes relating to juveniles. Other activities would include meetings with the Commissioners of Education, Mental Health and Corrections and Human Services.

Thursday, August 5

Augusta

Subjects to be covered: A complete discussion of one goal area - most likely the goal area related to juvenile crime.⁶ Other activities would include meeting with some judges who hear juvenile matters.

4

"Task 8", RFP

5

"Task 7", RFP

6

The sequence in which the goal areas are discussed will depend on what data has been analyzed by the date of the meeting.

Friday, September 10

Subjects to be covered: A thorough discussion of a second goal area. Other activities would include meeting with some more judges who hear juvenile matters.

Friday, September 24

Subjects to be covered: A thorough discussion of a third goal area. Other activities would include a meeting with any remaining judges interested in juvenile matters.

Saturday, September 25

Subjects to be covered: A thorough discussion of the fourth and final goal area.

Friday, October 15

~~Commission~~
~~Executive Committee~~ reviews drafts of Preliminary Report of Analysis and recommendations in a meeting with staff.

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Saturday, October 16

Preliminary report of analysis and recommendations is issued to all Commission members, and an executive summary is mailed to everyone on the Commission mailing list.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, November 4, 5, and 6

Final round of public hearings.

Friday, November 12

Commission meets to make final decisions on its analysis and recommendations.

Friday, November 26

Complete draft of proposed statutory amendments mailed to Commission members.

Thursday, December 9

Commission meets for final review of draft of statutory amendments.

Wednesday, December 15

Final draft of statutory amendments and staff report on methodology for measuring the effectiveness of Commission recommendations mailed to all Commission members.