Justice Advisory Council

August 2017 Newsletter | Vol. 2, No. 3

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A Message from the Justice Advisory Council

Dear Friends,

As many of our readers may be aware, there have been some recent staff changes at the JAC. First of all, please join us in extending our congratulations to former Executive Director Lanetta Haynes Turner. We are proud to inform you that Lanetta has taken her wealth of experience to a new role where she will serve as President Preckwinkle's Deputy Chief of Staff. In this role, Lanetta will further expand her work on the President's policy priorities and many other initiatives. As Executive Director, Lanetta spent the past three years working tirelessly on behalf of the JAC. Her leadership, management and insight proved very instrumental in advancing President Preckwinkle's criminal and juvenile justice reform agenda. This included helping pass legislation which eliminated the automatic transfer of juveniles to the adult system for all but the most serious offenses and legislation which expanded the automatic expungement of juvenile court and law enforcement records. Lanetta will be missed by the JAC team and we wish her the greatest success in her new role as Deputy Chief of Staff.

We are also proud to welcome Alejandro Aixala as our new Executive Director. Previously serving as Legislative Coordinator for the Department of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, Alejandro assisted with passing the County's legislative agenda in Springfield. Prior to this, he served in the City's Office of Budget and Management overseeing projects ranging from grants management to reviewing and revising departmental budgets for passage by the City Council. Aside from his time in government, Alejandro has also worked on various local and national political races and has spent time working in litigation at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), and as a transactional attorney at Mayer Brown. Alejandro is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law (JD '08) and Brown University (BA '00, MA '02).

Finally, the JAC would like to say farewell to Legislative Coordinator Floyd Stafford. Floyd's journey with the JAC began two years ago. He

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was a tremendous asset as the JAC worked to advance President Preckwinkle's juvenile and criminal justice reform agenda and his efforts will be missed. We are happy to congratulate Floyd on his new role with Heartland Alliance, where he is now the Community Program Manager for the READI Chicago Project.

On behalf of President Preckwinkle, we are continuing the fight to reduce violence through smart initiatives that help make our residents, families, and communities safer throughout the County. In this issue, you will read about ways that the JAC and its partners have addressed violence through workforce development and youth leadership initiatives.

As always, thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

The Justice Advisory Council

Grant Highlights

The Chicago Urban League

Designed as a "second chance" program for adults re-entering the community, the Chicago Urban Leagues' JAC funded program provides positive motivation and guidance to 35 recently released ex-offenders who are seeking a change in their lives.

The primary factors that contributed to participants' successful completion of the program were constant contact and follow up. Furthermore, the program provided structure, so participants knew what was expected of them from start to finish.

from left to right: Andrew Wells of The Chicago Urban League and JAC participant

Among the program's accomplishments are noticable mindset changes in participants after just four weeks into the program. Participants are thinking more about their future and are willing and able to work towards their personal goals. They are surrounded by caring people at the League. Also, completing training and receiving and Industry Recognized Certification are very meaningful success to the clients. However, becoming gainfully employed is the ultimate accomplishment (83% of program participants are now gainfully employed).

Funding from the JAC allowed the Chicago Urban League to scale up its Second Chance Programming. Without this funding, the League wouldn't have been able to help change the lives of these individuals and ensure them a brighter future..

Mikva Challenge Juvenile Justice Council

President Preckwinkle met with the Mikva Challenge Juvenile Justice Council to hear their recommendations to improve system-involved youths' transition to the community. Each year the Council focuses on a new "framing question" regarding the juvenile justice system. This year's framing question is: What does a juvenile justice system that is responsive to youth look like?

This year the Council's recommendations included tracking and analysis of sentencing decisions made by juvenile court judges, a youth-friendly toolkit of resources and friendly activities, usage of social media as an alternative way of contacting youth, and an increased commitment by juvenile justice stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of youth offenders holistically.

President Preckwinkle and the MIkva Juvenile Justice Council

Criminal Justice Reform

Bond Court Reform

In a recent report on Cook County's Central Bond Court, University of Illinois professor Beth Richie notes "...the tense and unwelcoming atmosphere in the courtroom furthers the distress that family and friends must endure in Bond Court when they sit waiting to hear the troubling details of their loved one's arrest and what it will take to get them out of detention." Dr. Richie's report was commissioned by the Cook County Justice Advisory Council with a specific purpose in mind.

There have been numerous reports on how bond is set in Cook County, especially as criticism of monetary bonds continues to grow. The JAC felt that one important group of people is being left out of the discussion: the family and friends of defendants who come to court to demonstrate their support and to try to secure their loved one's release. What happens to this particular group of Cook County residents in the courthouse?

Dr. Richie and her team interviewed family members and others about their experience of bond setting. The team also talked to the outreach workers who assist the public defenders in bond court. These outreach workers talk to hundreds of people passing through bond court, trying to assist friends and family members accused of crimes. Dr. Richie points out that although these individuals have not been accused of any wrong doing and are often employed, upstanding members of the community who pay taxes, they are not necessarily treated with consideration. Many people find their experience of the criminal

justice system adds to the distress already caused by the underlying facts relating to the charges that have been brought.

As the movement for bond reform gains momentum, it is important to remember that what happens to defendants in bond court affects their families and their communities. We thank Dr. Richie for focusing some attention on this neglected aspect of the system.

Career Launch

In 2017, JAC initiated the Career Launch program by issuing a Request for Qualifications for providers of Job Readiness, Job Placement and Retention, Sector Specific Training and wraparound services. The program aimed to serve youth aged 16 to 24 who are out of school and work.

We chose four organizations located both in the South and West side. These organizations include Center for Companies that Care, Vision of Restoration, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council and Community Assistance Programs. Center for Companies that Care provided Job Readiness in the form of Career Exploration to 60 young adults: one for Manufacturing and one for Law. Vision of Restoration, in the Austin Community, provided services to 35 youth with a 6 week program. Brighton Park Neighborhood Council in Back of the Yards (pictured) offered six weeks of Job Readiness. In South Shore and the South Suburbs, we funded programs run by Community Assistance Programs with 35 participants at each site. All of the participants received a one hundred dollar stipend per week. In addition, the youth could apply for the program via their cell phones and we received nearly 600 applications. The program is being evaluated by the University of Chicago's Urban Labs without charge to the County.

Young adults attending Career Launch at Back of the Yards High School.

Legislative Reform

2017 Legislative Update

We are pleased to announce that the Youth Opportunity and Fairness Act (HB 3817) sponsored by Rep. Elaine Nekritz in the House and Sen. Michael Hastings in the Senate has been signed into law, greatly strengthening confidentiality protections for juvenile court and law enforcement records and expanding automatic expungement.

JAC Trivia

The JAC would like to thank all who took part in the JAC Trivia game in the May edition of the newsletter. We would like to announce that Leslie Rice of Alternatives Inc. is the winner! Leslie responded first and answered all questions correctly. Way to go Leslie!!! Please look for other fun games and activities in future editions of the JAC newsletter.

Helpful Links

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Targeted Violence Prevention Program

ICJIA brings together key leaders from the justice system and the public to identify critical issues facing the criminal justice system in Illinois, and to propose and evaluate policies, programs, and legislation that address those issues. The agency also works to ensure the criminal justice system in Illinois is efficient and effective. ICJIA's Targeted Violence Prevention Program (TVPP) uses a public health approach to prevent ideologically inspired targeted violence. TVPP works with interested communities in building and sustaining community-level programs that can prevent individuals from being recruited to commit ideologically inspired targeted violence, and to help off-ramp individuals who have started down the path to ideologically inspired targeted violence but have not yet committed a crime.

Learn more here:
http://www.icjia.state.il.us/tvpp

Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council

The Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC) was created to collect, analyze and present data from all relevant sources to more accurately determine the consequences of sentencing policy decisions and to review the effectiveness and efficiency of current sentencing policies and practices.

Learn more here:
http://www.icjia.state.il.us/spac/index.cfm

Community Violence Prevention, Intervention and Suppression

Addressing street-level violence such as murders and aggravated assaults and batteries that occur on the public way and often involve firearms requires a multi-pronged approach. One effective model for addressing street violence, and, in particular, gang-related or group-involved street violence, is the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression Model. The model involves implementing complementary and coordinated prevention, intervention, and suppression activities in a single community.

Learn more here:
http://www.icjia.state.il.us/articles/community-violence-prevention-intervention-and-suppression

ICJIA Announces Upcoming Community Violence Prevention Program Funding Opportunity

The Illinois' FY18 State budget includes $8,000,000 for Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention (CBVIP) grants and administration. ICJIA anticipates that approximately $6,700,000 to $7,200,000 will be available under the CBVPI Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), with individual grants ranging from $100,000 to $1,000,000 to support programming for an initial 9-month period. The anticipated grant period is October 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018. The target population is youth and young adults, including, but not limited to, those who are identified as being at heightened risk or those who engage in high risk behavior or violence throughout Illinois.

Upcoming Events

August 29 — 31
3 p.m — 6 p.m.

September 6 & 7
4 p.m — 6 p.m.

Auditions for "Once on This Island, JR"
The Miracle Center
To book your audition slot, email Jose Sanchez (**jsanchez@themiraclecenter.org**) or **visit www.themiraclecenter.org** for more information. Chicago high school teens ages 14 to 18 are eligible.

Friday, September 22
8:30 a.m. — 10 a.m.

Justice Advisory Council Meeting
69 W. Washington, 22nd Floor, Chicago
For more information, visit
www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/justice-advisory-council-0

Staff Directory

Alejandro Aixala: Executive Director

Ali Abid: Program Coordinator

LaToscha Hoover: Grant Monitor

Rebecca Janowitz: Special Assistant for Legal Affairs

Patrick McPhilimy: Grant Coordinator

Wynetta Scales: Executive Assistant

The Justice Advisory Council's newsletter is a platform to communicate and disseminate information to Cook County residents demonstrating the efforts being made to reduce the overreliance on incarceration for adolescents and adults.