



Justice Advisory Council Newsletter

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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.

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to share the first issue of the Justice Advisory Council's (JAC) newsletter with you. As the lead agency charged with spearheading Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle's juvenile and criminal justice reform agenda, the JAC works with all of the county stakeholders to shape a fair and effective criminal justice system. So many of our partners in both the public and the private sectors have expressed interest in our programs that we decided to send all of you regular updates. We hope you find this newsletter informative and an easy way to introduce others to our work. Please share this issue and those that follow, with your circle of partners, allies and affiliates. The time to address the need for criminal justice reform in Cook County is now. We have paired advocacy with programming and an increased grant making capacity. Our agenda requires your collaboration, advice and support. We are always glad to hear from you.

Sincerely,
Lanetta Haynes Turner
Executive Director

Grant Highlights

Keep your eyes on this section of the newsletter going forward. The Justice Advisory Council awards grants to partner agencies that are providing programs and services designed to prevent violence, reduce recidivism and expand restorative justice practices in Cook County. Throughout 2016, the JAC will highlight some of our grant partners and the work they do. Our grant partners employ a wide range of approaches and serve a very diverse group of program participants. Collectively, their reach encompasses all of the 17 County Commissioner districts. We are looking forward to sharing highlights with you, beginning with the next issue.



Current and prospective grantees are learning about the components to a grant proposal at our Grant Capacity Building Workshop to foster collaboration.

RFP Releases

Request for Proposals for Justice Advisory Council grant opportunities have recently been posted. See the Bid Numbers indicated below at: <http://legacy.cookcountygov.com/purchasing/bids/listAllBids.php>

(Note: Registration on the site is required to download RFPs)

BID NUMBER: **1653-15264**
VIOLENCE PREVENTION,
INTERVENTION, AND
REDUCTION
DEMONSTRATION GRANTS
(\$200,000)
JUSTICE ADVISORY
COUNCIL

BID NUMBER: **1653-15275**
RECIDIVISM REDUCTION
DEMONSTRATION GRANTS
(\$40,000 AND \$100,000)
JUSTICE ADVISORY
COUNCIL

BID NUMBER: **1653-15268**
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
DEMONSTRATION GRANTS
(\$40,000 AND \$100,000)
JUSTICE ADVISORY
COUNCIL

Starting: 2/1/2016
Ending: 3/4/2016
Opening: 3/4/2016

Criminal Justice Reform

The Justice Advisory Council is working with Cook County Health and Hospital Systems (CCHHS) to help design and launch a Community Triage Center (CTC). Community Triage Centers are a new resource for people with mental health and substance abuse issues. The CTC offers immediate access to detoxification services in a neighborhood without requiring patients to be processed through either the jail or an emergency room. The CTC will have 24-hour coverage by clinical staff and specially trained paraprofessionals will help engage patients in on-going services. Recently Rebecca Janowitz and Floyd Stafford of the JAC met with CCHHS and the Chicago Police Department to lay out next steps for this project. We will provide you with further updates as they become available.

Restoring education services to the Formally Incarcerated

A major unmet need for justice involved men and women is the opportunity to continue their education. Often they are out of school for long periods of time and have very limited or no opportunity to reenroll. The JAC has been working with an existing collaborative composed of representatives from Deer Rehabilitation Services, St. Leonard's Ministries, Ford Heights Community Services Center, and the Alumni Association to address these issues. These organizations are committed to and experienced in this work. They are currently deployed in communities with large numbers of justice involved residents. The organizations serve very different populations, including suburban and urban residents, different age cohorts, and a wide range of court and/or system involvement, including prison in some cases. Despite these differences, the representatives were able to agree on a set of principles including that a high school diploma is preferable to a GED if that option is available. Moreover a diploma is important because of what it conveys both to family members and to potential employers. Floyd Stafford and Rebecca Janowitz of the JAC are looking at ways to support the work each partner is doing while strengthening the collaboration.

Legislative Reform

The JAC serves as the lead agency on President Preckwinkle's public safety legislative agenda and advocates for the passage of criminal and juvenile justice reform bills. The guiding principles behind our legislative efforts includes reducing the harmful over-reliance on detention and incarceration, restoring judicial discretion, ensuring that as many people as possible are kept from going deeper into the system at each decision point, and eliminating mandatory minimums and other harsh sentencing structures.

Automatic Transfer Reform:

In the last legislative session we were successful in significantly limiting the circumstances in which juveniles are automatically transferred to adult court in partnership with Representative Elaine Nekritz and Senator Kwame Raoul.

Upcoming Grant Recipient Events



A Winter Musical by
Firewriters Ensemble

Playing to Lose?
Story Catchers Theatre
and
Illinois Youth Center

Sunday February 21, 2016
5:30 p.m.

Admission is free
Reservation is required.
Click the Link Below for Further
Details
[http://www.storycatcher
stheatre.org/](http://www.storycatcherstheatre.org/)
Illinois Youth Center -Chicago
136 N. Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612

*Annual Benefit Brunch and
Performance*

Saturday, March 19, 2016
11AM-1:30 p.m.

The Casino
195 E Delaware Place
Chicago, Illinois 60611



Cocktails for the Community

Center for Conflict Resolution
15th Annual Gala
Thursday April 21, 2016 5:30
p.m.

Purchase tickets here:
[http://www.ccrchicago.org/
vent-tickets-and-
donations.html](http://www.ccrchicago.org/vent-tickets-and-donations.html)

Kirkland & Ellis LP
300 N. LaSalle
Chicago, Illinois 60654

The bill, which took effect January 1, 2016, did the following:

- Raised the minimum age for Automatic Transfer from 15 to 16 years old.
- Eliminated three of the six offenses for which a juvenile is automatically transferred to adult court.
- Required data tracking of all cases involving transfer to adult court or motions to transfer to adult court.

As a result of this dramatic change, approximately 70% of youth who would have been automatically transferred will now begin their cases in juvenile court, which research shows produces better results for the individuals and public safety. All petitions filed to transfer a youth will require a full and fair hearing in front of a juvenile court judge who will determine whether transfer is appropriate for the particular youth and crime.

The JAC has also been actively engaged in working with state partners to determine the appropriate protocols for the data gathering component of the bill.

2016 Legislative Agenda:

President Preckwinkle has identified an ambitious public safety legislative agenda for the 2016 Legislative Session. The President and the JAC will be leading the call for reform with multiple bills. The bills will be focused on the following issues:

- Ending mandatory minimum sentences for certain offenses for juveniles and adults.
- Treating substance abuse as a public health issue by prohibiting prison sentences for certain drug related offenses.
- Changing laws to more appropriately consider the age of an individual charged in adult court at sentencing or post sentencing.

The President and the JAC have engaged a broad coalition of government, advocate, and community partners in support of this year's legislative efforts and look forward to working with them to help improve the lives of residents across Cook County. **We encourage all of you to contact the JAC if you are interested in joining our legislative coalition.**



During a recent visit to Westside Health Authority, President Preckwinkle was impressed by the opportunity to hear job seekers describe their personal experiences.