



OFFICE OF THE
JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
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MINUTES

Meeting of the Justice Advisory Council

May 14, 2021

8:30 am-10:00 am

Virtual

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Justice Advisory Council met on May 14, 2021 virtually.

Justice Advisory Council Board Member P. Scott Neville called the meeting to order at 8:36am

JAC Council Board Member Attendance	Present	Absent
Honorable Justice P. Scott Neville	X	
Honorable Justice Michael Hyman	X	
Dia S. Weil	X	
Edith Crigler	X	
Lisa S. Stephens	X	
Ed Tivador	X	
Marlon Everett	X	
Professor Samuel Jones		X
County Staff Present	Present	Absent
President Toni Preckwinkle		X
Ali Abid, JAC		X
Wynetta Scales, JAC		X
Savannah Felix, JAC	X	
Kim Ambrose Davis, JAC	X	
Christopher Hawkins-Long, JAC	X	
Dayna Behrens	X	
Denise Brown	X	

Members of the Public:

Annie McGowan (Civic Federation), Victoria Moreno (Board of Commissioners)

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:36am by Board Member Justice Neville.

II. Remarks:

III. Review and approval of Minutes:

Dia Weil motions to approve, Edith Crigler seconds

IV. Council Discussion:

a. **Safety and Justice Challenge**

a. Kim Davis-Ambrose reports we have completed our dialogue sessions, have completed most of our theming of the dialogue sessions, and are planning our action summit where community and elected will see the themes that came out of the dialogues to brainstorm new strategies to address them. We are applying for a new grant through MacArthur that will allow us to dig even deeper with the Safety and Justice Challenge. If anyone knows of people who are willing to join the Community Engagement Committee, please refer them to us.

b. Need a location for the action summit – would need a space for 200-300 people, around July

i. Council members are more than welcome to attend – perhaps someone could even speak at the summit

c. Ed Tivador notes an individual with lived experience who may be interested in joining the CEC or otherwise being involved

d. Edith Crigler notes an individual in the community who is starting a restorative justice program where violent offenders write apology letters to their victims, who may be interested in joining the CEC or otherwise being involved

b. **Grants:**

a. Chris Hawkins-Long reports movement on the large externally-funded grant supporting Robbins, Harvey, and Ford Heights providers. Likely to be extended for three more years.

b. After two years of planning, next week we are finally implementing our online grants management system. Will allow for better transparency and outcome tracking. Will allow for more frequent reporting on our grants and ease of applying for grants

c. Finalized a list of 20 housing service providers from an RFQ from which we can create contracts with on an as-needed basis, particularly when the moratorium on evictions will be lifted in the coming months

d. Lisa Stephens asks about ARP/federal dollars coming into the county, Chris responds that we have task force meetings in place to steer where these funds go. Lisa wants the council members to be involved to help, since this is a heavy lift – Ali and the President’s Office will be alerted to this offer and follow up with how they can fit in

c. **Policy:**

a. Savannah Felix reports that one bill did not pass the house, sponsor rep Slaughter may work on a trailer bill that includes our language, but right now the bill is not moving. Another bill that the ACLU is leading which would increase threshold for some drug charges to only be misdemeanors instead of felonies, has passed the

house, still needs to pass the senate. A few other juvenile justice bills we support have also passed the house – getting things to the senate has been slow going.

- b. JTDC advisory board now open to collaboration.
- c. Ed asks why the bill was opposed in the house, Savannah responds that they are concerned about raising the age in other categories and our bill would give leverage to do so
- d. Rebecca Janowitz reports a study is being done on Electronic Monitoring, as the budget is increasing. CGLA has already said our EM is haphazard, we need to step back and formalize how EM will work. EM is still very restrictive in what people on EM can do re: employment, etc.
- e. John Howard Association has offered to monitor conditions of people serving their prison sentence in the jail as they do with IDOC
- f. Rebecca Janowitz reports on the NPTS program we inherited from the sheriff's office, now working more closely with the new mental health unit in the public defender's office. We have reduced the list to under 50 individuals, which require more effort in placing due to their specific charges or mental health needs that our current providers are unable to provide. We have placed over 200 individuals at our contracted providers in 4 months of this program.

V. New Business: We are in the process of looking for a public information officer so that work we are doing is shared with the public

VI. Public Comment: Annie McGowan from Civic Federation notes EM use in other jurisdictions is so low compared to Cook County, and underscores the effort we should make in reducing the use of EM

VII. Adjournment

Justice P. Scott Neville ends meeting at 9:37am