



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

Meeting of the Justice Advisory Council
 November 12, 2021
 8:30 am-10:00 am
Virtual

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Justice Advisory Council met on 11/12/21 virtually.
 Justice Advisory Council Board Member Honorable Justice P. Scott Neville called the meeting to order at 8:35am.

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	
Dr. Marlon Everett	X	
Prof. Samuel Jones		X
County Staff Attendance	Present	Absent
President Toni Preckwinkle	X	
Avik Das, JAC	X	
Ali Abib, JAC	X	
Wynetta Scales, JAC	X	
Savannah Felix, JAC	X	
Kim Ambrose Davis, JAC	X	
Laura Grossman, JAC	X	

Members of the Public: Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya (7th District), Yessenia Lopez (7th District), David Marroquin (7th District), Annie McGowan (Civic Federation)

I. Remarks:

8:38am - Justice Neville provides a reminder that our purpose is to bring about equality and justice and to help in the formation of a more perfect union.

II. Review and approval of Minutes: No amendments or corrections to minutes from 9.10.21 meeting. Motion to approve by Dia Weil, seconded by Justice Hyman.

III. Council Discussion:

a. Operations Update - Avik Das

i. Staffing

JAC is budgeted for 14 staff, currently at 6 staff.

Recently bereft of grants team. We are recruiting for these positions for expended grant making in 2022: Grants coordinator, grant monitors, and service coordinator (coordinates housing referrals for returning residents)

ii. Budget

JAC's proposed 2022 budget was approved by the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners. These bodies support the JAC's growth.

Budget reflects JAC's legacy funding of approximately 14 million annually in traditional grants to 100 + grantee organizations.

JAC will continue to steward this body of work.

iii. ARPA & Equity Funds

JAC is participating in the coordination & allocation of federal ARPA funds.

Working collaboratively across the county to solicit and distil proposals for short & long term work. (4.2 billion in funding proposals received for 1 billion of ARPA funding.)

Working to align proposals with Cook County's policy priorities including building safe & thriving communities. This policy priority focuses on meeting needs in the community, alternatives to justice system, supports for system involved youth.

A Public Hearing about ARPA funding plans was held on Oct 28, 21.

ARPA and Equity Fund signal expanded funding in our areas of work, will be transformative for Cook County over the next 5 years.

b. Safety and Justice Challenge

i. 2nd Annual Action Summit and Community Engagement – Kim Davis Ambrose

The event came together well despite challenges with over 65 attendees. It was empowering for residents to connect with officials and each other. This shows a high level of transparency for the county (talking to those in power, understanding the criminal justice system).

Data from the Action Summit (surveys) and narrative report will be finalized.

Information will be shared - we have to make sure people are aware and informed of the work we are doing.

Justice Neville – Action Summit was a great well-run event, the only negative was that not everyone could attend - exceptional job!

Laura Grossman– community engagement work will be featured in the JAC's communication strategy.

Edith Crigler– how were the south suburbs engaged? – those communities need to come together in synergy.

Kim Ambrose Davis - Action Summit was the culminating event for 3 target areas (West side, South side and South Suburbs). We agree that the suburbs could use their own efforts and events. We suggest joining the community engagement committee to discuss. Justice Neville – We have a goal of connecting the community to the judiciary to the community and should plan opportunities for this engagement.

ii. SEED Adult Redeploy Illinois Grant – Savannah Felix

We received the grant and are currently working with ICEJA to develop the contract. SEED originally focused on reducing the jail pop and reducing ethnic and racial disparities. Program is a diversion strategy to reduce young adult admissions to IDOC. Adult redeploy grant will expand the work.

Loyola will be a partner (vision planning & data)

c. JAC Highlights from Public Information Officer

Laura Grossman – An overview of recent communication efforts and successes will be circulated. Related press releases from Cook County’s press website will be linked.

d. Opportunities for Advisory Board Members

i. SJC Equity Cohort Grant

A 2 year, \$500,000 Macarthur Foundation grant for Racial Justice Training and Strategic Planning (for 4 jurisdictions)

JAC applied and we are eagerly awaiting news

A great deal of success has been made in reducing prison populations, but racial inequities persist. Grant provides technical assistance to develop an equity cohort that identifies racial inequity.

We will be asking advisory board members to participate in this equity cohort.

ii. Grantee Site Visits and Convenings

Advisory board members meeting with our neighborhood level service providers to learn about their work, discuss successes and challenges, brainstorm ideas for support.

Ed Tivador – Early in my tenure I made site visits to grantees to explore services & help with strategic planning. Led to involvement in their work. A formal version of this process is positive as it is inspiring and leads to deeper understanding of the current environment.

Justice Neville- looking into opportunities for judges to appear in community settings. Courts are losing legitimacy because there is a disconnect between them and community. People need to have confidence in the judiciary. We should encourage pro bono work- a commitment that should be shared by all members of the judiciary.

iii. Connect with Community Engagement Committee and Coalition

Avik Das – We plan to promote working in partnership with these groups. You will receive invitations from Kim Davis-Ambrose into these spaces.

e. Legislative & Policy Update

Ali Abid- Update on Pretrial Fairness Act implementation: In January 2023 most of the PFA which gets rid of monetary bond and revamps the pretrial system in Illinois.

5 working groups have been meeting to tackle the different aspects of this massive legislation. JAC helping to facilitate and lead Electronic Monitoring group.

Worked with consultants to develop a report, being circulated amongst agencies for review and have data added. Final report will be circulated to the board of commissioners.

This evaluation is much needed. Cook County has high use of EM compared to other large urban jurisdictions (stared using it early and practices developed in an ad-hoc way.)

In January 2022, some provisions in EM take effect (ex. All EM must allow movement on 2 out of 7 days - currently some individuals have no movement.)

Admin offices of IL courts (AIOC) will be taking over pretrial services for a unified pretrial system. Phase 1 - counties that do not have pretrial service agencies, Phase 2 – counties that have partial services, Phase 3 – Counties that have services. (Cook County is phase 3, 2023/2024 timeline).

Justice Neville – the IL supreme court is engaged in PFA implementation and committee is meeting weekly. Happy to have strong partnerships with Cook & and other counties.

Dia Weil – impressed with the collaboration she is seeing around implementation.

Savannah Felix – 2022 Legislation Proposed plan was submitted to Cook County IGA

- HB 3951 expands probation eligible offenses for those under 26. Last year, amendment was not made but groundwork was laid.
- Pilot of expanded opportunities for probation for 1st time weapon offenders. Statute sunsets in 2023, needs to be extended this legislative season. Statute helps the states attorney's office use diversion programs. Loyola research has shown reduced admissions of young adults into IDOC.
- Limit offenses where young people are automatically tried as adults. (More frequently used down states) Limit contact of young people with adult CJ system. This is likely a multi-year project, we will be developing plans with partner orgs.

IV. New Business: none

V. Public Comment:

VI. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle – Thank you to the staff for their work on the Action Summit. Thank you to council members for comments and willingness to participate in JAC initiatives.

VII. Adjournment

Justice P Scott Neville motioned to adjourn and Edith Crigler seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36am.