



Justice Advisory Council Newsletter

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The Justice Advisory Council newsletter is a communication platform to disseminate information to Cook County stakeholders on efforts being made to reduce the overreliance on incarceration for adolescents and adults.



A Message from President Toni Preckwinkle

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage our partners, in government, in the private sector and in the community, to read about the Cook County Justice Advisory Council's initiatives. At my direction, the JAC leads our criminal justice reform efforts. Justice requires greater fairness and equal treatment for all.

Cook County government has traditionally focused on criminal justice and health care. County Care, our medical expansion program, is bringing new federal dollars into Cook County Health and Hospitals. In turn, our revitalized healthcare system is gearing up to serve county residents with mental health and substance abuse treatment needs as they are diverted from our overburdened criminal justice system.

Cook County is a powerful economic engine. Yet, county government has long neglected the vital work of regional economic development. The Bureau of Economic Development, created at the beginning of my administration, is drastically expanding our agenda, so that we may reach a new level of prosperity, benefitting all of our residents.

I am delighted to see the JAC and the Bureau of Economic Development partner with our Department of Homeland Security to tackle the intersection of public safety and economic development in our South Suburbs. I attended the recent Thriving Communities forum in Midlothian and was encouraged by the excellent attendance and level of engagement.

Prosperity, if it is shared, is a powerful weapon against violence in our communities.

RFP Releases

Request for Proposals for Justice Advisory Council grant opportunities have recently been posted. See the Bid Numbers indicated below at:

<http://legacy.cookcounty.gov/purchasing/bids/listAllBids.php>

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

BID NUMBER: 1653-15486

VIOLENCE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND REDUCTION DEMONSTRATION GRANTS (\$100,000) JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

BID NUMBER: 1653-15493

VIOLENCE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND REDUCTION DEMONSTRATION GRANTS (\$40,000) JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

BID NUMBER: 1653-15478

VIOLENCE PREVENTION, RECIDIVISM REDUCTION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS (\$10,000) JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Starting: 4/27/2016
Ending: 5/25/2016

Grant Highlights

UMOJA Student Development Corporation

Umoja Student Development Corporation utilizes JAC Restorative Justice funding to deliver a unique restorative justice model in selected Chicago Public Schools. Specifically, JAC grant funds have enabled Umoja to pilot and grow their Resilience & Voice (R&V) partnership with Mikva Challenge and Lurie Children's Hospital. This collaboration is unique in its focus on linking clinical supports, restorative justice, and youth voice to support individual students and to build a positive, peaceful culture and climate within participating schools. Umoja has implemented this program at Hope High School in Englewood, Collins Academy High School in North Lawndale, Tilden Career Academy High School in Fuller Park and Sullivan High School in Rogers Park.

Umoja's restorative justice model incorporates four key elements: 1) **Peace Rooms** (critical spaces where students can resolve their conflicts in peaceful ways before the conflicts escalate); 2) **Discipline and Behavior Systems Support** (collaborative development of school systems and policies with school administration that incorporate restorative justice and emphasize the importance of keeping students in the school building rather than enacting suspensions); 3) **Teacher and Staff Professional Development** (training and professional development for teachers and other school staff to provide them with the necessary skills to lead behavior interventions with a restorative justice mindset); and 4) **In-School Suspension Curriculum and Seminar**



Curriculum (customizable curricula and lesson plans that focus on concepts to prevent violence). Umoja's R&V collaboration also incorporates Lurie Children's Hospital's CARE team model. CARE teams consist of school administrators and community partners that focus on student's wellbeing by providing them with services to address trauma and behavioral issues.

Upcoming Events

JAC Lunch and Learn

Current grantees can meet, share and learn at the upcoming JAC Lunch and Learn. The event will take place June 28, 2016.

JAC Grant Capacity Workshop

The JAC will be hosting a Grant Capacity Workshop in July of 2016. Details for this event will be provided in the near future.

For more information on these JAC-sponsored events, please contact us at: JAC.info@cookcountyil.gov

Trauma and Posttraumatic Stress in Criminal Justice Populations

Co-sponsored by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and Loyola University Chicago's Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy, and Practice in collaboration with Adler University

Tuesday, May 24, 2016
9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at
Loyola University
Chicago Water Tower
Campus:

25 E. Pearson St.
Philip H. Corboy Law
Center, Power Rogers &
Smith Ceremonial
Courtroom, 10th floor
Chicago, IL 60611

Collectively, Umoja's interventions help to identify and interrupt patterns of violence, deescalate conflict, foster resolution over punishment, and provide the essential supports to help students stay in school. Nielsen Deubel Film and Design visited Umoja's partnership schools and designed a video highlighting the impact of Umoja's Restorative Justice and Seminar programs. The video can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imdNDfaFKEU>

Mikva Challenge

Mikva Challenge supports Justice Teams at several alternative school sites throughout Chicago. Mini-grants and technical support is allocated to Teams of young people at each site who research and take action on issues they face in their schools and communities.



Mikva Challenge has successfully launched the Justice Team initiative this year at three school sites and one alternative to detention site. Educators and youth workers are effectively implementing the action civics curricula with students at each of the school sites.

Through youth-led action projects, students are developing critical leadership skills including critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and a sense of agency they can make a difference on the issues they care about. In partnership with teachers, meaningful activities are brought to young people at alternative school sites fostering opportunities to create positive change in their communities. Peace and Education Coalition High School is one of the Mikva Challenge Justice Team sites where students orchestrated a basketball game with police officers to build trust and goodwill (see <http://abc7chicago.com/1281626/> for a media story on the basketball game). Mikva Challenge also runs the Juvenile Justice Council (JJC). The JJC is a group of young people who study a new issue related to juvenile justice each year and provide recommendations to the President on how to improve the system in that specific area. This year the council focused on making the Juvenile Court experience more youth friendly.

Upcoming Events (continued)

Chicago Hip Hop Theater Fest

Kuumba Lynx has announced a series of events in connection with the *Chicago Hip Hop Theater Fest* starting June 15 and running through June 19 at Clarendon Park. For more information, visit Kuumba Lynx's website at:

<http://www.kuumbalynx.org>

Facing the Unexpected

Storycatchers Theatre and the Illinois Youth Center-Warrenville have announced "Facing the Unexpected," a staged reading of works-in-progress. The event will take place May 22 at 12:30 pm in the Shelia Kalish Memorial Theatre at the Illinois Youth Center-Warrenville. The Center is located at:

30W200 Ferry Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

For more information, visit Storycatchers' website at:

www.storycatchertheatre.org

Criminal Justice Reform

Stepping Up Summit



There is currently a major nationwide effort to reduce the prevalence of individuals with mental illnesses in jails. At any given time, approximately one-fourth of the inmates at Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC) suffer from some form of mental illness. To address this important issue, a *Stepping Up Summit* was sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association, the National Association of Counties, and the Council on State Governments. The Stepping Up Summit was held on April 17-19 in Washington D.C. Cook County was selected as one of 50 counties to participate in this effort. Our delegates consisted of: Cook County Commissioners Gregg Goslin and Robert Steele; Dr. John Jay Shannon, CEO of Cook County Health and Hospitals Systems (CCHHS); Dr. Nneka Tapia Jones, Executive Director of the CCDOC; and Pam Rodriguez, President and CEO of Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC). We look forward to learning from them, and planning next steps on how the County can reduce the number of mentally ill individuals in the CCDOC, while increasing public safety.

Thriving Communities in the South Suburbs

The Cook County Justice Advisory Council partnered with the Bureau of Economic Development and the Department of Homeland Security to host a series of three community forums in the South Suburbs on the



theme of how to build thriving communities. The forums were held in Ford Heights, Midlothian and South Holland with attendees coming from all over the south suburbs. County staff were delighted with the level of participation. We received valuable feedback about county residents' concerns and where they want to see tax dollars invested. Next steps include reporting out on recommendations and working with community members on at least two action items over the course of the next year.

Mental Health Awareness Month

Did You Know ...?

At Cook County Jail, an estimated one in four inmates has some form of mental illness. At least 400,000 inmates currently behind bars in the United States suffer from some type of mental illness—a population larger than the cities of Cleveland, New Orleans, or St. Louis—according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI estimates that between 25 and 40 percent of all mentally ill Americans will be jailed or incarcerated at some point in their lives.

Cook County Website Updates

As part of an overall effort to revamp Cook County's website, the JAC will be revising and adding content to our webpage. The new website is scheduled to go live on June 11, 2016 at:

<http://www.cookcountyil.gov/>

Legislative Reform

The budget stalemate and upcoming general election have made this a unique session for the Illinois General Assembly. While there are certainly things to be hopeful about in terms of criminal and juvenile justice reform in Illinois, there are also many elected officials from around the state who remain hesitant to vote on bills that can be seen as “soft on crime.”

Even so, the JAC has been working closely with President Preckwinkle's legislative team and our allies to push the President's priorities forward. We have seen great progress on two bills in particular. HB 6290 and 6291, sponsored by Representative Elaine Nekritz (D), are two important parts of President Preckwinkle's public safety legislative agenda. These two bills in their original form sought to ban the commitment of juveniles to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) for any offenses under the Illinois Controlled Substances Act and to end mandatory 5-year probation for juvenile's adjudicated delinquent for Class X or Forcible Felonies. Together these bills would save the state and county money, begin to treat substance use issues as a public health issue rather than a criminal justice issue, and allow judges to consider the individual circumstances of a crime and an individual at sentencing.

Each bill passed out of the House Judiciary – Criminal Committee with agreements to negotiate with the State's Attorneys' Association. After multiple negotiations over the course of a month, the JAC and Representative Nekritz reached an agreement with the Association that will have major systems impact while considering the concerns of State's Attorneys across the state. House Amendment to HB 6291 represents the compromise. It bans initial commitments of juveniles to IDJJ for minor drug offenses and significantly drops the minimum probation sentences for Class X and most Forcible Felonies, while eliminating mandatory terms for some Forcible Felonies.

This amendment will reduce the number of youth committed to juvenile prison and, based on past data, could reduce the juvenile probation caseload in Cook County by as many as 600 youth once complete impact is realized. The amended bill passed committee easily and will be called for a vote on the House floor soon. Please contact your legislators and tell them to support House Amendment 1 to House Bill 6291. It will lead to better outcomes for juveniles, save scarce resources, and will focus programmatic resources on high risk youth.
