



OFFICE OF THE  
JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
69 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 1110  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
TELEPHONE 312-603-1133  
FACSIMILE 312-603-9974

## MINUTES

Meeting of the Justice Advisory Council  
November 13, 2020  
8:30 am-10:00 am  
**Virtual**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Justice Advisory Council met on Friday, November 13, 2020 virtually.  
Justice Advisory Council Board Member Justice Hyman called the meeting to order at 8:37am

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	
Delrice Adams, JAC	X	
Ali Abid, JAC	X	
Wynetta Scales, JAC	X	
Kim Ambrose Davis, JAC	X	
Savannah Felix, JAC	X	
Christopher Hawkins-Long, JAC	X	
Dayna Behrens	X	
Dixon Romeo		X

**Members of the Public:** Annie McGowan, Jazmine Valadez, Jeylu Gutierrez, Megan Horstead, Irene Lopez-Santoyo,

- I. **Call to Order:** JAC Council Board Member Justice Hyman called the meeting to order at 8:37am.
- II. **Remarks:** Attendees were asked about the challenges the justice system has faced this past year, particularly in regard to the pandemic, and what we can take away from them to improve next year. Many members mentioned the healthcare system and the disparities seen with access to healthcare in different minority communities. Increased resources are needed for things like healthcare and diversion. With COVID cases nation-wide increasing, particularly in Chicago, we need the coordinated effort we saw early on to reduce the jail population again. We were down to 4,000 in the jail, but have gotten back up to 6,000 recently. We need to keep and maintain the low jail count, and not lose our appetite for working towards this goal – a perspective change for continuous public health, not just reacting to highs and lows. CountyCare is a plus in our system, since inmates get the same care as those in the surrounding community. Our infection rate is lower in the jail compared to the county. Better food in the jail is also needed, as part of this public health response. Jail population disparities have increased in our reduction response, and needs to be addressed. The system has returned to the status quo after the initial response to COVID.

Early on, the jail was a COVID hot spot, but now the only cases are incoming from the community – no internal spread. The past week has doubled from 30 to 60 cases, echoing the nationwide increase in cases.

- III. **Review and approval of Minutes:** Justice Hyman presented the minutes from September 11, 2020 for approval and JAC Council Members motioned and approved.

- IV. **Council Discussion:**

- a. **Safety and Justice Challenge:** Kim Davis-Ambrose (Community Engagement Coordinator) spoke about the 5-week dialogues occurring in our three new communities, the South Suburbs, Englewood, and Garfield Park. These dialogues started with small in-person groups, socially distanced, but with the new COVID spike we are making them virtual now. The 2019 community engagement report is live and available.

Savanah Felix (Legislative Coordinator) spoke about the F3D (Felony Drug Distribution Diversion) program. We now have a contract with Heartland Alliance, and were going to start the program on November 17, but since a stay-at-home order for only essential employees to be present in the courts will come into effect soon, the screeners we will rely on will not be in the courts. We are still figuring out how to move forward.

- b. **Grants:** Delrice Adams (Executive Director) addressed the equity fund, with which JAC was awarded \$20 million that will be used to reimagine public safety. We will work with BED and CCH, and respond to the public demonstrations to reallocate public safety funds.

Chris Hawkins-Long (Grant Coordinator) spoke about the 56 grants we've rolled out, totaling \$7.5 million total, in the past 8 weeks. We have simplified the RFQ/RFP process in response to feedback. In the next two weeks, we will hold debriefings with those who did not get selected. A report from DePaul University on how we measure impact gave us feedback to help simplify the process for grantees to report impact and will not be in the courts. We are still figuring how to move forward.

- b. **Policy:** Rebecca Janowitz (Special Assistant Legal Affairs) spoke about the no place to stay program. When NPTS was led by the Sheriff, there were two housing providers. Since the JAC has started running the program we now have 4 providers, and a 5<sup>th</sup> recently signed on, St. Leonard's. Cermak reviews everyone's health before they leave the jail to go to the providers, and can continue any medically assisted treatments or other treatments.

Ali Abid (Program Coordinator) spoke about the demolition of old jail buildings. We had our first community forum recently, since we want to do a better community engagement/public health process than Hilco when they have been demolishing an old coal plant. We are not exploding or imploding, we're taking the building apart for less environmental impact. This is still in the pre-work phase before the demolition. There will be a public site with updates. Springfield updates: veto session is cancelled. We had been working with the Black Caucus about police reform bills, so these bills have been pushed off to January sessions.

Rebecca Janowitz gave an anecdote about a NPTS participant who was sent to prison even though his sentence is eligible for reduction and is working as an essential worker. We have a system in which we can identify those who are eligible for release, we just need to use it.

**V. New Business:** none

**VI. Public Comment:** none

Dia Weil (JAC Council Member) thanks the JAC for the work that's been done this year

**VII. Adjournment:** Justice Advisory Council Board Member Justice Hyman adjourned the meeting at 9:49am.