



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

Meeting of the Justice Advisory Council

July 9, 2021

8:30 am-10:00 am

Virtual

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Justice Advisory Council met on July 9, 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
Avik Das, JAC	X	
Ali Abid, JAC	X	
Wynetta Scales, JAC	X	
Savannah Felix, JAC	X	
Kim Ambrose Davis, JAC	X	
Dayna Behrens, JAC	X	
Denise Brown, JAC	X	

Members of the Public:

Annie McGowan (Civic Federation), Yesenia Lopez (Board of Commissioners), Alana Warren, Laurence Msall

- 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:**
Quorum is not present to approve.
8:46am more join and we have a quorum, Lisa Stephens motions to approve the minutes, Justice Hyman seconds the motion to approve
- IV. Council Discussion:**
- a. **New Executive Director:** Avik Das previously was head of juvenile probation department, now JAC ED
- b. **Safety and Justice Challenge:**
- a. Kim Davis-Ambrose remarks there have been more resource fairs with the warmer weather and adding people to the coalition and email lists. Currently in communication with Chicago State to host the Action Summit which will be held either September 18 or October 2 so that elected officials will be likely to attend. We are also working on an additional RFP for MacArthur which will be \$500,000 over two years to dig deeper with community organizations. \$1.4 million grant possible to show we will sustain our efforts with the SJC.
- i. Edith Crigler asks about the community partners grant, as she is connected with several restorative justice hubs that may be interested. Kim responds that we are still deciding on what type of partners we want to work with – do we want technical support or on-the-ground partners? Would likely want on-the-ground such as these hubs who are already connected to people who are impacted.
- b. Savannah Felix updates us on the SEED program which is the diversion program with Heartland Alliance for drug charges. ICJIA is going to do an external evaluation of the program, no timeline as of right now. Also working on sustainability for this program and diversifying the funding so we do not just rely on the SJC. The MacArthur sustainability grant is to show how we will continue our existing efforts rather than expanding to other initiatives at the moment.
- i. Annie McGowan from Civic Federation asks how many program participants there have been. Sav responds there are 50 participants and 75 waiting, our first graduates will not be until December. We are also looking to expand who would be allowed to participate in the program.
- c. **Grants:** Continuing conversation from January re: investing in health resources. We have had a few discussions with Dr. Everret and Ed Tivador, and CCH would likely be best to present on this information and we are hoping to have a representative at our next council meeting.
- a. Wynetta Scale reports we received \$1.5 million from President’s office, awarded 9 more contracts with this and extended 2 existing contracts.
- b. Denise Brown reports on getting word out to community and surveying to determine where funding can go for the most impact.
- d. **Policy:**

- a. Ali Abid reports on equity fund task force. Addressing disparities and harm done to Black communities by the justice system. We have had 4 meetings now alongside other county agencies for broad coordination and mutual advice-seeking.
- b. Savannah Felix reports holding out for November legislation session to revive bills that were put on hold last session. 2019 JTDC report was internal/not public, so hoping for more transparency in a new report.
- c. Ali Abid reports on EM consultant draft proposal for strategic plan to move forward. All agencies involved will be putting forth edits. Since we have 2 separate EM programs we know we need changes. Goal is by fall to have a publicly available strategic plan sent to the board of commissioners.
 - i. Also addresses group that claims the rise in EM releases is connected to rise in crime, but Loyola evaluation shows there is no rise in crime related to EM releases. Chief Judge's office also has a report on the very few people who were released on EM that went on to be rearrested for new crimes.

V. New Business: None

VI. Public Comment: Yesenia Lopez (Commissioner Anaya) requests a list of grants we sent out and where they are located, particularly these 9 new grants. We will send an email.

- a. Annie McGowan (Civic Federation) notes that different criminal justice stakeholders do not seem to be working off the same data, and one stakeholder said he had never seen the Loyola report. It is important for all to be working off the same set of facts.

VII. Adjournment

Edith Crigler moves to adjourn, Lisa Stephens seconds. Justice P. Scott Neville ends meeting at 9:37am.