



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

Meeting of the Justice Advisory Council
8:30 am-10:00 am
Virtual

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Justice Advisory Council met on September 10, 2021 virtually. Justice Advisory Council Board Chair, 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	
Marlon Everett	X	
Professor Samuel Jones	X	
County Staff Present	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	
Denise Brown, JAC	X	
Laura Grossman, JAC	X	

Members of the Public: Yesenia Lopez (from Commissioner Anaya's Office – 7th District), Annie McGowan (from the Civic Federation), Lori Probasco

- I. Call to Order:** Justice Advisory Council Board Member, Honorable Justice P. Scott Neville called the meeting to order at 8:35am.
- II. Remarks:** Justice Neville shared reflections on the guiding principles of the JAC: Bringing about justice and equality, building "*A more perfect union*" as described by former President Barak Obama. "*The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice.*" - Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Council members and attendees were asked to reflect on an area of need or change they envision for Cook County. Themes discussed were establishing a minimum age of prosecution/criminal responsibility, providing adequate and accessible healthcare and mental health services, systemic racism and violence as a public health issues, providing holistic support services and focusing on prevention.
- III. Review and approval of Minutes:** 8:40am Justice Neville, asks for any corrections or amendments.
- a. Avik Das identifies error on page 2. The grant that is referenced is \$500,000 rather than 5,000.
 - b. The amendment will be made.
 - c. Professor S. Jones motions to approve minutes, Justice Hyman seconds the motion to approve.
- IV. Council Discussion:**
- a. **Public Information Officer:** Cook County Justice Advisory Council has a Public Information Officer (Laura Grossman) who will focus on internal and external communication with other agencies and stakeholders, the press and the public. This is a new role for the organization.
 - b. **Safety and Justice Challenge:**
 - a. Avik Das: since 2015, the SJC, a McArthur Foundation initiative focused on decreasing the jail population & has increased collaboration between government agencies and stakeholders.
 - b. Project will be moving into a new phase focused on sustainability. A final grant will be awarded to incorporate learning and best practices from previous years. JAC will apply.
 - c. An additional MacArthur "Equity Cohort" grant (\$500,000 over 2 years) is available to address the racial and ethnic disparities in communities. JAC has begun RFP process.
 - d. Kim Ambrose Davis : **Second Annual Action Summit** on October 2, 2021 *(rescheduled to October 9th) from 11am - 2pm. Planning to hold it outdoors at Chicago State University. Over 50 dialogue sessions took place within targeted communities. At the summit, these participants are brought together to share across community lines. Officials and community representatives were invited to speak at the summit. Info and education on the pretrial fairness act will also be provided to the community. Invitations will be provided to JAC council members and we will invite the Chief Justice Burke of the IL Supreme Court.
 - e. Avik Das – The community engagement apparatus developed by Kim Ambrose Davis under the SJC will inform the JAC's ongoing policy and grant work. We

would also like to bring JAC advisory board members directly into these community conversations.

- f. Kim Ambrose Davis: We can utilize the SJC ‘dialogue to change’ framework internally.
- g. Savannah Felix: **SEED Program** (Deferred Prosecution Program implemented in January 2020.)
 - i. Focus moving toward sustainability. Moving forward, will run with JAC funds and ARPA funding.
 - ii. Applied for an Adult Redeploy Illinois planning grant in August that would allow the SEED group to do analysis on and develop a strategy for reducing young adult admissions from Cook County to Illinois Department of Corrections.

b. Grants:

- a. Avik Das: In planning for influx of federal funding, JAC is planning to curate a diverse portfolio of grants that address criminal justice issues.
- b. JAC is recruiting a grants coordinator (previous left in July 2021). This will be vital as JAC currently has over 100 grants to manage and the administration of these is a significant amount of work. We anticipate additional grants being administered and managed as funding expands.
- c. Wynetta Scales: 2 year grants are concluding in November 2021. Grants team will be preparing for the renewal period.
- d. Denise Brown: Emerging Adults grants ending are concluding in Sept. 2021. Exceptional work is happening, hoping to renew these.
- e. Ali Abid: A new grant management system will be in place this year which will provide more info on our outcomes and impacts to us and community at large, promoting transparency and ensuring alignment in JAC work.

c. Service Coordination:

- a. Ali Abid: Housing Referrals –The JAC worked with Cook Co Health and Public Defender to identify those in jail only staying for lack of housing. It is the first time the JAC is managing direct services. University of Chicago Fellow Dayna Behrens has transitioned from the JAC so we are recruiting a service coordinator to manage housing referrals. Ali is managing in the interim.
- b. Funding transitioned from CAREs Act Coronavirus Relief Funding to JAC funded.

d. Policy:

- a. Avik Das: Savannah Felix is moving from Legislative Coordinator to Program Coordinator to help steer the JAC’s policy and legislative efforts.
- b. Sav Felix: Annual Legislative proposal is due at the end of Sept. (for the 2022 legislative season). Priorities are:
 - i. HB 3591 - Expands probation-eligible offenses for young adults under the age of 26.
 - ii. HB 3447 - Drug possession classified as misdemeanors rather than felonies (ACLU is a partner)
 - iii. Currently meeting with partners to generate additional ideas. Up for consideration are:
 - 1. 1st time gun offender (under 21 eligible for probation) law is sunseting, > extend or expand

2. Establish a minimum age of prosecution
 3. Limit automatic transfer
 4. Eliminate juvenile fines & fees (collaboration with Berkley)
- c. JTDC Advisory board is looking at juvenile re-entry and drafting a report
 - d. Mikva Challenge Juvenile Justice Council (made up of young people)– provided a report with Criminal Justice recommendations *attachment will be provided.
 - e. Facilitating a group of stakeholders and advocates focused on the justice-involved young adult population to explore alternative interventions for illegal gun possession.
 - f. Ali Abid: Electronic Monitoring (EM)
 - i. Consultant (Chicago Appleseed) was contracted to provide a report and recommendations on Cook Co’s EM.
 - ii. We have a draft from Appleseed that has been shared with stakeholder agencies for their feedback. Final report will be shared with the public.
 - iii. Recommendations: – Move to 1 system of EM to reduce bureaucracy (currently have 2 systems - Chief Judge & Sheriff’s Office). Pre trial services opps be taken over by the Supreme Court’s AOIC.

Question: Annie McGowan: Do we know the time frame of the release of the report?

Ali Abid – Not clear at this time due to feedback from offices Goal was this Fall but there was a delay.

Question: Yesenia Lopez: Will any events or presentations be scheduled?

JAC plans to facilitate an open presentation to the board with the consultants.

- g. Pretrial Fairness Act – eliminates monetary bond and changes to bond court processes and electronic monitoring (EM).
 - i. Working Group participation:
 1. EM group (managed by JAC) working on a minimum movement requirement (individuals on EM not confined to their home).
 2. Pretrial fairness Act Implementation group - consultants and agencies, involving community input. Goal is reducing racial disparities & recommendations resulting in the most equity.

Question: Annie McGowan – Who is managing these groups? How can Cook County connect with other counties for this work?

Justice system partners & civic consulting alliance are managing. State and county levels are keeping communication open.

- h. Ali Abid: Equity Fund –\$100 million will be invested to reduce racial disparities in health and justice systems and to promote economic development in Cook County.
 - i. EF Taskforce – 70 advocates who meet bi-weekly (over last 5 months) to hear proposals and provide recommendations for how equity fund spending. County Board of Commissioners will be approving.
 - ii. JAC will likely be the recipient and pass through agency for significant amount of of funding (along-side CCH and economic development).
- I. Avik Das: American Rescue Plan Act -Cook County will receive approx. \$1 billion of federal ARPA funding to use over the next 3 year (spent by Jan 2026).
 - a. Opportunities for collaboration with state and city

- b. Cook county solicited spending proposals and received \$2 billion worth of proposals. Offices Under the President, Eq fund Taskforce and other stakeholders will curate proposals for ARPA funds.
- c. JAC will advocate for justice system innovation and support services for impacted communities throughout ARPA decision making process.

Avik Das yielded back to the chair 9:55am.

V. New Business: none

VI. Public Comment:

Annie McGowan - What are the JAC's thoughts on violence prevention efforts of the county and the city? How are they working, and are they working together?

Avik Das– ARPA funds have spurred coordination between county and city. Stakeholders including Civic Consulting Alliance, ICJIA, Office for VP (city) are coming together to identify redundancy and to foster a level of consensus around models used and create a shared glossary of services. County wants to identify gaps between city and state funding.

- a. Annie McGowan and Justice Neville emphasized the importance of keeping the public informed.
- b. New funding is a real opportunity to effect change and meet goals. Justice Neville expressed his gratitude for the work of the JAC.

VII. Adjournment

Ed Tivador moves to adjourn, Lisa Stephens seconds, Justice P. Scott Neville ended meeting at 10:02am.