



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

Meeting of the Justice Advisory Council

January 14, 2021

8:30 am-10:00 am

Virtual

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Justice Advisory Council met on 1/14/22 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	
Rebecca Janowitz	X	
County Staff Attendance	Present	Absent
President Toni Preckwinkle		X
Avik Das, JAC	X	
Ali Abib, JAC	X	
Wynetta Scales, JAC	X	
Kim Ambrose Davis, JAC	X	
Laura Grossman, JAC	X	
Juandalynn Johnson,	X	
Faith Hong, JAC	X	

Members of the Public: Alana Warren, Annie McGowan (Civic Federation), Savannah Felix (Law Office of the Public Defender)

I. Remarks:

Justice Neville states that we are at a crossroads in this new year. Will we be an autocracy, or remain a democracy? We must work together to uphold our constitution, maintain a representative and orderly government, eliminate poverty, provide opportunity, maintain health and safety, ensure domestic tranquility, and secure freedom and liberty... the JAC's mission supports this work.

II. Review and approval of Minutes: No amendments or corrections to minutes from 11/12/21 meeting. Motion to approve by Dia Weil, seconded by Lisa Stephens.

III. Council Discussion:

Operations Update - Avik Das

i. Staffing - New staff have joined the JAC – welcome!

- a. Service Coordinator – Faith Hong
 - i. Position developed to coordinate housing for residents released from incarceration
- b. Grants Coordinator – Juandalynn Johnson
 - i. Management of the JAC's grants portfolio
- c. Before our next meeting we hope to be able to add additional staff (grant monitors are being interviewed)
- d. Savannah Felix has moved from the JAC to be the Director of Policy and External Affairs at the Public Defender's office. JAC's policy role will be filled soon. Sav will continue to collaborate with the JAC in their new role.
- e. Rebecca Janowitz joined as a new board member. Rebecca was previously on the JAC staff; we welcome her continued guidance and expertise.

ii. Budget

ii. ARPA & Equity Funds

- a. \$300 million was approved by the CC Board yesterday for FY 22. \$60 million is allocated for 'safe and thriving communities' (which includes Violence Prevention & Equity investments) The JAC will steward much of this funding.
- b. APRA funded initiative are: Expanded Violence Prevention grants (holistic services that support address the root causes of violence), Behavior Health Expansion (working with CC Dept. of Public Health), Deferred Prosecution work (working with Office of the Chief Judge), Healing Hurt People (Hospital Based VP program), and expansion of reentry housing vouchers for returning residents.

Q – Is this exclusively new funding, will the JAC will manage? What is the timeline?

New funding, managed by JAC or partner agency. Needs to be budgeted over the next 3 years and spent by 2026.

Q – *Will the JAC grant solicitations be single or multi-year grants? How is the solicitation being coordinated with other agencies?*

Multi-year grants. Allocation is coordinated with city and state – unprecedented level of coordination. Geographic areas, amount of solicitations, timing is being discussed in collaborative meetings. (Intergovernmental VP working group)

Q – *How can we make sure this collaborative energy continues?*

Cook County is planning to continue regular interaction with partners.

Q – *We are seeing a great deal of false info and narratives in the news on Criminal Justice and Electronic Monitoring.*

JAC is working with other Criminal Justice agencies to share accurate messaging and data. JAC engaged with a consultant to look into the County’s EM practices, get accurate data and explore best practices/ recommendations.

Safety and Justice Challenge

i. Community Engagement – Kim Davis Ambrose

- a. The newly completed Community Engagement Narrative Report summarizes our work over the last 2 years. Challenges were utilizing technology due to pandemic and building relationships and trust with impacted communities.
- b. Some common themes from dialogue sessions, detailed in the report are: systemic racism, need for resources, focus on education, system is punitive. Report contains community recommendations for change
- c. 2021 Action Summit was the culminating event following community dialogue sessions, honoring the community’s desire to talk with leaders about what’s happening in their neighborhoods.
- d. Community Engagement Committee will work with JAC to create a space for judges to meet with community.

JAC Highlights from Public Information Officer - Laura Grossman

- a. Recent areas of focus in communications: Convened a collaborative working group of communications and policy reps from Cook County Criminal Justice stakeholder agencies, collaborated with the Public Defender's Office to develop messaging about Electronic Monitoring reforms and data (Tribune story was a success in that it factually broke down EM data that has been misrepresented), Pretrial Fairness Act - internal awareness campaign, established a media tracking procedure to monitor discussion of crime and criminal justice in local news, developed a set of organizational values for the JAC that will help inspire and align our work.
- b. On Jan 19th, 2022 at 10am, the JAC is presenting at a Joint Committee Meeting on Violence Prevention including Health and Hospitals & Criminal Justice stakeholders

Opportunities for Advisory Board Members – Open discussion

- a. Rebecca Janowitz – A board Orientation with expectations and clarification of roles would be useful.
- b. Board members participate in site visits and to visit service providers
- c. Members echo support for these ideas. Meeting grantee service provider orgs opens doors for collaboration.
- d. Justice Neville to meet with JAC leadership to plan for orientation.

Legislative & Policy Update - Ali Abid

a. Bills JAC is advocating for in Springfield:

Expansion of probational offenses for those 26 and under (aligned with research around Emerging Adult population), Ending Automatic transfer of juveniles to adult court, (discretion to not transfer rather than discretion to transfer resulted in racial disparities), Reducing Barriers to Recovery Bill, Misdemeanor amount (personal use) for possession of controlled substances (opens possibility of expungement)

Q - *Is there an appetite to change age of juvenile?*

This is an option we have discussed, but not for this leg season

IV. New Business: none

V. Public Comment: none

VII. Adjournment

Justice P Scott Neville called for a motion to adjourn.

Edith Crigler motioned to adjourn and Lisa Stephens seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15am.