

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Advisory Board Meeting
Friday, June 24, 2022
9:00am-11:00am

I. Call to Order + Introductions

- a. Members in attendance: Meade Palidofsky, Garien Gatewood, Marjorie Moss, Dr. Amanda Klonsky, Juandalynn Johnson, Lisa Daniels, Dr. Dakeda Horton, Savannah Felix

II. Minutes Review

- a. The minutes from the JTDC Advisory Board's May 19 meeting were distributed to members for review. No corrections or additions were provided. Motion to approve the minutes made by Co-Chair Garien Gatewood, seconded.
 - i. Dr. Dakeda Horton and Savannah Horton absent for voting.

III. Update on Annual Report

- a. As established by Cook County Ordinance, the JTDC Advisory Board is to provide public recommendations to the Executive Director of the JTDC, the Chief Judge, the County Board, and the President on matters relating to policies and operations necessary in carrying out the mission, purpose and intent of the JTDC.
- b. The JTDC Advisory Board submitted their 2021 Annual Report to the Cook County Board of Commissioners who received and filed it at the February Board Meeting.
- c. The Advisory Board intends to hold a hearing before the Cook County Criminal Justice Committee to present their findings, alongside subject matter experts and individuals with lived experience.
- d. Co-Chair Palidofsky and Secretary Payton outlined the contents of their report.

IV. COVID-19 Updates

- a. Co-Chair Gatewood facilitated a conversation with Superintendent Dixon about the materials provided to the Advisory Board on rates COVID-19 in the JTDC, the impact on programming, and current status of resuming programming and visitation.
 - i. A presentation was provided by Kenneth Soyemi on COVID-19, the slides have been shared with Advisory Board members and will be posted on Legistar.

- ii. Visitors are required to have at least two vaccines
- iii. Recreation has resumed, but there is no intermixing between residential pods
- iv. Deputy Superintendent McGhee reported that the JTDC is attempting to incentivize vaccinations through strategies including requiring vaccinations for detained youth to play basketball or requiring vaccination of family to visit
- v. Barber and ambassador programming has resumed
- vi. Testing is mandated for staff when hospitalization rates in the community are 50:100,000
- vii. The JTDC shares their COVID-19 data with the Chicago Department of Public Health
 - 1. Superintendent Dixon indicated that the JTDC would prefer not to share this data with the Advisory Board directly, and that the Board should obtain the data through the Office of the Chief Judge
- viii. Superintendent Dixon expressed that the JTDC does not utilize solitary confinement and has not used solitary confinement. However, youth were placed in their rooms during testing periods to avoid spread of the virus.
- ix. Jeanette Scroggins reported that the JTDC has contracted with mental health providers for staff to provide support to staff members who have had challenges due to COVID-19

V. Programming Update

- a. The following is a rough transcription of the Advisory Board's conversation on JTDC programming

JTDC Staff Rhonda Ramos: There is programming brought by outside volunteers and those conducted by staff (center-based programming). Volunteer-led programs have been able to resume. 7/50 programs were not able to continue. 43 of the 50 programs continue. The plan is to go back to programming as it was offered before COVID, but only after being given clearance to do so.

Board Member Marjorie Moss: Is there a way to make sure that the programming is equitably distributed amongst the different pods. It seems certain pods receive considerably more programming than others.

Ramos: Some centers just create more programming than others. One pod has two center-based programs and outside programs as well. There is no rhyme or reason as to why some centers have more desire and creativity to create more programs for their youth.

Superintendent Dixon: Important to note the distinction between programming and programs. Programming runs from the start to the end of the day. School is included in programming.

Moss: What determines which youth get access to zoom programming?

Ramos: All residents receive the same programming.

JTDC Staff Diane McGhee: There are some programs all residents get. There are some that are only available by level. It may appear that three or four units are getting a lot of programming, but some programs (especially from the outside) rotate throughout the entire centers.

Moss: At one time, only level 3 and 4 youth got access to the programming

McGhee: All youth get the same programming.

Moss: Is there preparation for reopening?

Superintendent Dixon: Waiting for medical guidance first.

Moss: Superintendent Dixon, do we see promising programs that can connect with youth inside and then connect them to those same programs outside in the community?

Superintendent Dixon: I see detention centers as the emergency room of the juvenile justice system. 41% are there for only 72 hours. The question becomes, what kind of sequences do you want to have for that? It can be hard to get structure in place when you don't know how long a youth will be there. Treatment and detention are two different things. If someone is there for a longer period of time, you can plan reentry more in advance. What resources exist in the community that you can point them to via a pamphlet? We need to go into the community more and engage the community. The kids say they want jobs, safe spaces, and programs in their communities This is not taking place. 7/10 of a set of cases Dixon reviewed were for weapons cases. We have to look at what's happening in the community. We also need to look at the racial component of the issue. There is a need for Black psychologists that the kids can identify with. We need help from the community. Would be glad to see the facility closed, or smaller community-based centers established. We haven't looked at the sequence of events in the juvenile justice system and how things happen from the beginning of the system to the end. The system is very fragmented in Illinois.

Moss: How many programs from outside the JTDC are based in the neighborhoods where youth are from?

Superintendent Dixon: Nobody is coming in from where the kids are coming from. This is also due to the kids' communities not having the resources to run the programs.

Moss: Do you have data on which neighborhoods the youth in the JTDC are coming from?

Superintendent Dixon: This is easy data to access.

Moss: Perhaps we could collaborate to help connect community-based programs to the center.

McGhee: Pre-pandemic, they have connected youth to police chiefs from their local communities as well as former gang members through the “In My Shoes” program.

Advisory Board Member Dakeda Horton: Is there any community engagement from the JTDC in terms of building relationships and finding resources for youth to access upon release.

Superintendent Dixon: There is not much follow up. You need people to do that. The focus of the JTDC is care in custody. There has never been reentry programming at the detention center. They do a transfer of information back to the school or other institutions where youth return after exiting.

McGhee: They have the FreeWrite program and Father Kelly’s (Precious Blood) program that people can still get involved in when they return to the community. But most of the residents aren’t there long enough for them to know what the need is.

Superintendent Dixon: A structured re-entry plan is more common in a commitment facility than a detention facility. More difficult when you don’t know how long kids will be there.

McGhee: The JTDC hesitates to open up wounds and trauma youth have experienced because they may not be able to follow through on seeing that process through with them.

Horton: Are there supportive resources provided to the parents? Is there anything in place for the parents receiving youth home? For example, they used to have parent night to provide legal resources, info, etc for parents to advocate for their children.

McGhee: Parent night has been suspended due to COVID. Prior to COVID, the program was being enhanced to get more parents involved.

Superintendent Dixon: If the Advisory Board has programming ideas, JTDC would be happy to connect with the advisory board.

Secretary Payton: Is resuming programming, such as parent night, via Zoom, an option?

Ramos: Typically, Zoom programming is only made available to the residents. Residents have a rotating schedule for zoom and in-person visits for their families. Working toward solutions for seeing infants in person.

- VI. New Items
 - a. No new items
- VII. Public Comment

- a. No requests for public comment were made.

The agenda having been exhausted Chair Palidofsky requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motioned and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.