



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

Meeting of the Justice Advisory Council

May 13, 2022

8:30 am-10:00 am

Virtual

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Justice Advisory Council met on 5/13/22 virtually.

Justice Advisory Council Board Member Honorable Justice Hyman called the meeting to order at 8:34am.

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 Abid, JAC	X	
Wynetta Scales, JAC	X	
Kim Ambrose Davis, JAC	X	
Laura Grossman, JAC	X	
Juandalynn Johnson,	X	
Faith Hong, JAC	X	
Katherine Fuchs	X	
Katherine Tomcik		X
Andrew Tonachel	X	
Shuaverta Miles	X	

**Members of the Public:** Annie McGowan (Civic Federation) Joanna Lawry (interest in Justice Reform)  
Laurence Msall (Civic Federation)

- I. Remarks:** Justice P Scott Neville, we have a full agenda. Meeting will proceed.
- II. Review and approval of Minutes:** No amendments or corrections to minutes from 3/11/22 meeting. Motion to approve by Dia Weil seconded by Lisa Stephens.
- III. Council Discussion:**

**Operations Update - Avik Das**

- i. Staffing - New staff**
  - a. Welcome to Shuaverta Miles – Grant monitor
  - b. JAC started the year at 5 staff, has grown to 12 including 4 grant monitors.
- ii. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funded Initiatives**
  - a. Intergovernmental coordination efforts are ongoing, focused on Violence Prevention/ community safety.
  - b. Future Initiatives – Avik Das
    - i.** Programs and Services for Victims of Domestic Violence
    - ii.** Housing services & support for returning residents
    - iii.** Alternatives to policing in crisis response - Behavioral health initiative
  - c. Current Initiative – Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction Grants – Juandalynn Johnson & Ali Abid
    - i. All application deadlines have now passed
    - ii. Cook County employees from different departments and members in the public are participating in application review panels. Assignment has been selective
    - iii. Up to \$65 Million in grant funding will be awarded. We are seeing over \$400 million in requested funding from applications/proposals.
    - iv. JAC staff has grown but not in direct proportion to the amount of grant funding that will be awarded. Looking at options for additional staff
  - d. Equity Fund Taskforce
    - i. County funded initiative to address structural inequality
    - ii. Report was distributed publicly which details policy recommendations for this funding
    - iii. JAC involved in the Equity Fund Taskforce and guiding the initiative
- Dia Weil – Grant application review – commendable how JAC has developed a logical scoring process and how the team has worked through technical issues with new online grants management system.
- Rebecca Janowitz – impressed with the quality of applications, and the process of publicizing the applications and promoting the opportunity to organizations. However, hope to see significant improvements in software used for review.

## **Legislative & Policy Update – Kristina Kaupa & Ali Abid**

- a. Alternative Health Intervention Taskforce – JAC Co Charing taskforce with CCDPH. Group is working to develop recommendations for a pilot programs for alternative crisis response. Focusing on unincorporated cook county due to the existence of other pilots in Chicago. Looking at the landscape to understand other programs under development. Report with recommendations is expected Aug 1.
- b. Supporting planning for implementation of the Pretrial Fairness Act (January 1, 2023 implementation).
  - i. Planning is underway focuses on the logistics for a new hearing in place of the bond hearing for detainable offenses – called a detention hearing. Plan is to pilot logistical changes in the Fall
- c. Electronic Monitoring
  - i. U Chicago Crime Lab has analyzed EM in Cook County and prepared a report. Their data debunks narratives that have been circulating that EM has been driving crime. Waiting for release of the entire report.
- Justice Neville – this information is very important for the public to be aware of.
- Lisa Stephens – Is Appleseed Report on EM commissioned by the JAC going to be released? Yes. Some updates to the report need to be made to reflect changes to EM policy made the PFA. Report will be released, planned for Fall.
- Annie McGowan – information on the report would be helpful to the public.
  - d. Legislative Update
    - i. Spring leg session concluded and SAFE-T Act and PFA were defended
    - ii. Bill was signed creating new felony offense of ‘organized retail theft.’ Bill was driven by retail association. The ACLU did have the opportunity to help refine bill.
    - iii. Carjacking is still a major focus for lawmakers.
    - iv. Next legislative effort will focus on preparing for veto session
- Rebecca Janowitz – Robert Vargas (U Chicago Justice Project) study on carjacking – unpacks actual data and counters claims that youth are driving crimes including carjacking.

## **JAC Communications - Laura Grossman**

- a. Communication has focused on publicizing the JAC’s Gun Violence Prevention & Reduction grant opportunity to ensure organizations are aware of the opportunity and the eligibility/application requirements. JAC leveraged intergovernmental working group and Cook County social media.
- b. Upcoming areas of focus are technical communication related to VP grant opportunity and strategic communication related to the Pretrial Fairness Act.

## **Safety and Justice Challenge & Community Engagement – Kim Davis Ambrose**

- a. Equity Cohort Grant from MacArthur Foundation - Fellows – directly impacted individuals will be connected directly with reps from each of the criminal justice agencies. CROAR – Chicago regional organizing for anti-racism is providing training to fellows and internal system representatives. The Equity Cohort project implementation plan was recently completed.
- b. Participation in regional Cook County Townhalls with President and Commissioners – We have seen continued interest in JAC’s Gun Violence Prevention Grants.
- c. Judge Dialogue sessions – plan to integrate into Equity Cohort work in the future (courts are in recess during the summer).

**Opportunities for Advisory Board Members – Open discussion**

- a. Gun Violence Prevention & Reduction Grant Application Review
- b. Greater Englewood Unity Day & Tour of JAC grantee Growing Home – 5/14/22

**IV. New Business: none**

**V. Public Comment:**

- a. Annie McGowan (Civic Federation) appreciates JAC meetings are open to public.
- b. Justice Neville notes transparency is important

**VI. Adjournment** - Justice P Scott Neville called for a motion to adjourn. Dia Weil motioned to adjourn and Justice Hyman seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:37am.