



OFFICE OF THE  
 JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
 69 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 1110  
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
 TELEPHONE 312-603-1133  
 FACSIMILE 312-603-9974

**MINUTES**

Meeting of the Justice Advisory Council

**March 10, 2023**

8:30 am-10:00 am

**Virtual**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Justice Advisory Council met on 3/10/23 virtually.

Justice Advisory Council Board Chair, Honorable Justice Hyman called the meeting to order at 8:33am.

<b>JAC Council Board Member Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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	
<b>County Staff Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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, JAC	X	
Faith Hong, JAC	X	
Aeria Charles, JAC	X	
Andrew Tonachel, JAC	X	
Shuaverta Miles, JAC	X	
Ryan Gougis, JAC		X

Whitney Key Towey, JAC	<b>X</b>	
Michelle Gan, JAC		<b>X</b>

**Members of the Public:** Annie McGowan (Civic Federation), Patrick Covington (JAC & SJC Community Liaison), Ray Robinson (JAC & SJC Community Liaison), John Horahan (OCJ), Julia Epplin-Zaph (Dept of Human Right and Ethics) Pam Hay (League of Woman Voters Cook County), Anna Carvlin (City Bureau Documenters), Ayanna Watkins (City Bureau Documenters), Anne Budin (League of Woman Voters), Laura Davis, Kathleen Hughs (Commissioner Daley’s office, District 11)

**II. Remarks – Board Chair, Honorable Justice Hyman**

Three years ago, the WHO declared a global pandemic. The world as we know it has been changed forever. The way we administer justice has also changed. The JAC is a think tank but also a ‘do tank’ for improving the justice system. We possess the potential to change lives for the better and therefore must do so. The JAC Advisory Board is asked to reflect on the following three questions to be discussed at the next meeting, in May.

1. What should be the priorities and goals of the JAC Advisory Board and why?
2. How best should the JAC’s resources be spent? (Time, energy and limited funds)
3. What needs to change now in our post pandemic criminal and juvenile justice spaces?

**III. Review and approval of minutes – Board Chair, Honorable Justice Hyman**

Board chair asks for comments/corrections on 1/13/23 meeting minutes and calls for a motion to approve. Edith Crigler motions to approve the minutes, Lisa Stephen seconds the motion. The board votes to approve.

**IV. New Business**

- a. 2023 Meeting structure and goals - *Avik Das, Executive Director, JAC*

Meeting format has been adjusted to consolidate JAC operational updated to make space for a presentation from a community based service provider or subject matter expert allow for discussion that can help inform our work.

**IV. Justice Advisory Council Operational and Program Updates – *Laura Grossman, Public Information Officer, JAC***

**Operations**

- Staffing update: Welcome Michelle Gan, Assistant Grants Management Director to the Grants team. Michelle, will work alongside the Grants Management Director to continue to expand our grants management operations.
- JAC Staff now at 14 which represents significant growth. Still recruiting for grant monitors and other positions with expended investment made possible by ARPA.

## Policy

- Domestic Violence Intervention and Services Initiative (ARPA NT514)
  - The qualified list of providers is established
  - Working with the Office of the Chief Judge and stakeholders who advocated for the initiative to determine providers best situated to provide advocacy and legal supports, counseling, supervised visitation, hotline support, and more
- Rental Assistance and Services for Returning Residents (ARPA NT764)
  - The applications (RFQ responses) are being reviewed
  - Program design continues with JAC and Housing Authority of CC
  - Program is expected to launch this summer
- Cook County Electronic Monitoring Review
  - Report on the two EM Systems, commissioned by the JAC, and carried out by CGL Companies and Chicago Appleseed
  - Planning to present to County Board Finance Committee on April 26, 2023

## Legislative

The JAC is actively involved in the Illinois General Assembly's Legislative Session this year and working with criminal justices advocates and stakeholders to help support criminal justice reform legislative initiatives. The legislative initiatives the JAC is advocating for during this current Legislative Session are:

- [HB 2128 \(Rep. B. Hernandez\)](#): End Automatic Transfers for Juveniles
- [HB 2223 \(Rep. Cassidy\)/SB 1669 \(Sen. Peters\)](#): Limits Illinois Juvenile Court Act to Violations of Illinois Law
- [HB 2328 \(Rep. Gabel\)](#): Raises the Age of Detention to 14
- [HB 2347 \(Rep. Mayfield\)](#): Raises the Age for Commitment to IDJJ Facilities to 14
- [HB 2543 \(Rep. Olickal\)](#): Removes the Age Restriction and Sunset Date for the First Time Weapon Offense Probation Program
- [HB 2885 \(Rep. Slaughter\)](#): Raises the Efforts DCFS Must Make to Maintain and Reunite Families
- [HB 2889 \(Rep. Slaughter\)](#): Clarifies the Juvenile Court's Act Speedy Trial Rights for Children
- [HB 2890 \(Rep. Slaughter\)](#): Ends Mandated Submission of DNA for Juveniles
- [SB 1830 \(Sen. Sims\)](#): Reclassify Possession of Low-Level Amounts of Controlled Substances to a Class A Misdemeanor
- [SB 1886 \(Sen. Peters\)](#): Removes Fees and Limits Testing for Alcohol and Cannabis to Appropriate Cases

For more information, please contact the JAC's Legislative Coordinator Ryan Gougis [Ryan.Gougis@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:Ryan.Gougis@cookcountyil.gov).

## Grants & Investments

- The JAC has awarded a second cycle of Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction Grants
  - For this second grant award cycle, Cook County received \$25 Million for additional awards through the IL Dept. of Human Services Office of Firearm Violence Prevention
  - 39 lead organizations awarded with 34 additional subgrantees for a total 73 organizations funded
  - 17 month awards (February 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

- The organizations will focus on Victim Services, Case Management, and Street Outreach services, as well as, Prevention and Support Services and Hospital Based Services
- Cycles 1 and 2 of Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction grant awards represents a total \$100 million investment in reducing gun violence in Cook County
- We anticipate a third cycle of ARPA funded Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction grants

**Communications**

- PFA: Preparing to pivot and collaborate with Cook County criminal justice offices to quickly disseminate information following IL Supreme Court ruling
- Will focus on announcements pertaining to our ARPA initiatives being developed and finalized including the Rental Assistance Wraparound Services for Returning Residents
- Preparing for the Spring/Summer when we see increased interest in violence prevention work and impact.
  - Gun Violence Awareness Month (June) – will likely include a press conference and snapshots of our community based service providers
  - Looking to the data and metrics we receive via grant reports to understand and discuss impact (ongoing)

**VI. Enrichment and Discussion**

Effective Community Engagement Models – *Aaron Smith, Ray Robinson and Patrick Covington – Safety and Justice Challenge Community Liaisons*

- a. Cook County and the JAC have been involved in the MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge since 2015. The challenge is centered on reducing jail populations and building a more equitable criminal justice system. Community Engagement has been a central part of the challenge. Through structured dialogue sessions in our target communities we have heard from communities most impacted by crime and the justice system.
- b. *Questions/ Discussion:*  
 What do you hear from community?  
 Concerns about treatment from law enforcement.  
 What do you suggest the stakeholders and the JAC Advisory Board should do to support?  
 Come out and participate in dialogue, community asks “where are they at?” Bring the human element back into the equation to see people as people not numbers or caseloads.  
 Community was not aware of SJC or JAC. County is synonymous with Cook County Jail.
- c. The JAC is now participating in the MacArthur Racial Equity Cohort. This initiative is designed around a paid fellowship program for individuals who have been directly impacted by the justice system. The fellows are receiving training and support and will be working with representatives from the justice system offices. The goal is to deepen community engagement efforts and decrease inequities across the justice system.
- d. *Questions/Discussion:*  
 Individuals are mistreated by the system (delays lack of respect) and then punished for being frustrated or struggling.  
 Families need to be educated on how to support justice involved family members. How do we better get the message to the community about all the resources available to them?

Smaller organizations not getting funded/getting support or recognition impacts community engagement efforts and the credibility of community liaisons.

The JAC Advisory Board wants to support and be more visible.

**VII. Public Comment** – *Board Chair*

None.

**VIII. Adjournment** – *Board Chair*

Motion to adjourn at 9:39am