



Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

March 4, 2025

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Webex Video Conference and 60 E Van Buren, Suite 1374, Chicago

Meeting Minutes

I. Roll Call & Introduction

Members present: David Olson, Robert Vickery, Meghan Olson, Emily Buss, Alison Flaum, Zach Wahl-Alexander, Devon Van Houten-Maldonado

Absent members: Jenny Vollen-Katz, Sabrina Davis

IDJJ Staff: Omar Jamil-Senior Policy Advisor, Jeremy Burtis-Deputy Director of Operations, Noah Boudreau-Career & Technical Education Director, Marna Satlak-Chief of Staff, Dominique Newman-Chief of Communications, Luis Klein-Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Jullian Brevard-Chief Legal Counsel

Guest(s)/Members of the Public: Michelle Chen-IDJJ intern, Christina Logan-Parent Advisory committee

II. Approval of Last minutes

Minutes from last meeting were not approval; will approve on the next meeting.

III. DJJ Reports

Departmental Updates: Robert Vickery - Acting Director of Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

Director Vickery gave an update on the Governor's budget address which announced the budget request for the new fiscal year. The state's fiscal year runs from July 1 – June 30 and we are in Fiscal year '25. Effective July 1, 2025, we will enter fiscal year '26. The Governor's projected budget request from the for DJJ for FY26 is \$153 million, which is an increase of \$15 million from last fiscal year and a large percentage of the increase is for the cost related to operational and staffing needs of our new facility in central Illinois. The new facility, **Monarch Youth Center**, is located in Lincoln, Illinois. Construction for the Lincoln facility is almost done, with job offers to the Superintendent and one of the Assistant Superintendents underway. The juvenile justice specialists have been screened and in background and the teacher positions have been put on the career website. The projected open date is July 23, 2025. Th

Updated on Warrenville's fire remediation and renovation: This process is going well with a projected to move the youth and staff back in the fall of 2025.



Lastly are the five values of DJJ. This was done with the help of the agency with discussions on how to identify specific values for the department. A committee came together and took all the suggestions and finalized these values late last year and the five are (1) DIGNITY – recognizing the inherent value and worth of every human, (2) INTEGRITY- recognizing we are in a business of helping people, (3) TEAMWORK – DJJ working with young people is definitely a team sport, and (4) SAFETY – recognizing that physical safety and emotional safety are important from the perspective of building a trauma informed environment, and (5) CHANGE – we, organizationally, need to grow and change.

Contraband in IDJJ facilities report – Omar Jamil, Senior Policy Advisor and Jeremy Burtis, Deputy Director of Operations

Omar presented data that he and Brittany Groot gathered from the PbS (performance-based standard), a national organization that states provide their data on a variety of different safety and security issues. The data is collected every April and October of each year and goes back to October 2020 to October 2024. The data presented represents drugs where there were evaluations at three of the facilities in October 2024. Those facilities being Warrenville (male), PEACE and Chicago. The data showed weapon contraband also has elevated findings with between 1-4 incidents.

Deputy Director Burtis shared that contraband (drug or drug paraphernalia) has been on the increase at two facilities: PEACE Center and Chicago. Harrisburg, historically, has had an increase in weapons or fashioned into a weapon and that it is from the structural design of the facility. Pere Marquette sees more of the electronic contraband.

Discussion of Post-Secondary Opportunities for IDJJ Graduates – Noah Boudreau, CTE Director

Mr. Boudreau presented a list of programming at the PEACE center for 2025-2026. Programming includes but not limited to Financial Literacy, Career Exploration, Construction I & II, Google Classroom pilot and Tri City boxing. One program not operating at PEACE is Larry's Barber shop. This is a pending inspection, which should be in the final stages. Another program not listed is the Elgin Community Center, which is starting March 17, 2025. Students will begin taking college 101 courses. Mr. Boudreau further discussed the programming at other facilities where they too have career exploration, financial literacy, Larry's Barber College (Chicago) and three programs starting soon: US Vocational (solar program at Harrisburg), Google classrooms and Greater West Town Project.

Legislative Updates – Luis Klein, Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs

IDJJ is working with a couple of legislators on a bill that would allow youth sentenced as adults who must transfer to IDOC as they approach their 21st birthday to be eligible for parole board hearings. This bill is House Bill 2348.



Discussion of Paperwork/Trainings for the Board – Omar Jamil, Senior Policy Advisor

If you are experiencing any issues with filling out paperwork (Governor's Appointment Paperwork) for new board members, email Omar Jamil. Also, the board are required to complete the yearly OneNet trainings that all DJJ employees must complete. Contact Omar if you have not received those emails with password and link.

New Business

Any new topics please reach out to David Olson or Omar Jamil

Adjournment: 3:42 pm