



**Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Advisory Board
June 3, 2025**

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

I. Roll Call & Introduction

Members present: David Olsen, Robert Vickery, Meghan Olsen, Emily Buss, Jenny Vollen-Katz, Sabrina Davis, Devon Van Holten-Maldonado, and Adolfo Davis

Absent members: Alison Flaum and Zach Wahl-Alexander

IDJJ Staff: Omar Jamil, Senior Policy Advisor; Marna Satlak, Chief of Staff; Dominique Newman, Chief of Communications; Thomas DeBetta, Deputy Director of Community Services; Luis Klein, Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs; and Brittany Groot, Quality Assurance Research Manager

Guest(s)/Members of the Public: Christina Logan and Luis Saucedo

II. Approval of Last minutes

Minutes from September 2024, December 2024 and March 2025 were all presented and approved meeting.

III. DJJ Reports

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

Director Vickery spoke about the 2026 fiscal year budget which was passed by the General Assembly in Springfield. The budget was what the Governor introduced in February, plus IDJJ is getting appropriation from the current fiscal year 25 budget that was deposited into of the IDJJ state funds to give a little bit of a cushion contractually for FY 26. While the budget for IDJJ in terms of a general revenue fund was increased by 10%, the budget will be tight with the opening of Monarch Youth Center in central (Lincoln) Illinois.

Monarch Youth Center is substantially complete. All the Juvenile Justice Specialist and Supervisors will be onboarded by July 16th. They will have eight weeks of new staff training, academy training and space for dry runs and team building. All non-Juvenile Justice Specialist titles will be onboarded August into early September, with a tentative grand opening of September 4 and a start date to serve youth on September 16. Monarch will be staffed like the other facilities; however, the youth disciplinary process is one of the areas will be slightly different.

Update on Harrisburg Emerging Adult Program: Once Monarch is open, the next goal is moving all the youth out of Harrisburg and begin work on the Emerging Adult facility where young adults who are currently in Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) and still need to get their high school diplomas will be able to go to school there. It will be a medium security or lower IDJJ facility serving young adults who

Healthy kids, strong families, safe communities

are currently in DOC. This transition tentatively will be late winter or early spring. Classrooms are also being or have been built in DOC facilities like Illinois River, Shawnee, and Lincoln. There is one opening in Pinckneyville and one is on track to open in Lawrence as well.

DJJ Data Report: Brittany Groot

Data was presented on juvenile justice felons which are individuals that are transformed from juvenile court into criminal court and what their impacts have been on IDJJ populations. Data showed how the population has changed over the years with approximately 2200 youth in 1999 and 2000 to now, averaging about 175 in the facilities at any given time. Some reasons for the deduction are the success of Redeploy Illinois, change in eligible offenses, DJJ release authority, and a nationwide decrease in juvenile rates of commitments.

The data shows that there has been an increase in the youth being sentenced as adults. These numbers peaked in the 1990s and later began to decline. However, in the last few years the numbers are starting to increase again with DJJ seeing their highest number with 35 admissions this fiscal year which represents 10% of the 333 admissions experienced since tracking the information. Additional data showed the holding offense such as weapons, armed violence, and homicide, and how many are charged as adults and how many are still charged as juveniles. The geography slide, which looks at fiscal year 2024 as the last full year of information shows where youth are coming from, and the most admissions are coming from Central Illinois or Cook County.

There is a higher disproportionate number of adult admissions coming from Central Illinois, and Metro East, Champagne, Winnebago, St. Claire, and Madison are among the top 5 counties sending adult court admissions. The final graph showed the age of projected release and the pattern where most of the discretionary transfers were not held very long. All of them to be released at 25 or younger. Whereas automatic transfers, they are going to be held for a longer period and be released by their thirties because of the more serious offense—Class M or Class X.

Discussion of Connecting Youth with Community Based Resources: Thomas DeBetta

Tabled for next meeting.

Litigation and Legislatives Updates - Robert Vickery, Acting Director

DJJ is still in a federal consent decree. **RJ case.** DJJ continues to make really good progress. The only remaining elements that are being monitored are high school programs at IYC Chicago and IYC Warrenville where there hasn't been consistent full day instruction provided. There has been over 90% attendance at both schools over the last month by adding substitutes and focusing on it operationally, DJJ is seeing positive movement.

Regarding the court of claims lawsuits that have been filed alleging sexual abuse in DJJ facilities dating back to 1996. There are eleven cases pending in the court of claims with over 500 allegations, with the vast majority dating back before 2006 when Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Corrections split. That is 60% of the allegations and another 30% are from before 2016.



New Business

Potential for next advisory board meeting to be at Monarch. (Next advisory meeting is September 2nd).
No other new business

Adjournment: 11:40 am

DRAFT