



## Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

February 8, 2023

11:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

WEBEX Video Conference

### Meeting Minutes

#### I. Roll Call & Introduction

Board Members: David Olson (Chair), Heidi Mueller (Director of IDJJ), Walter Brandon, Jenny Vollen-Katz, Annetta Wilson, Julie Biehl.

DJJ Staff: Omar Jamil, Jullian Brevard (new Chief Legal), Brittany Groot, Andrew Munemoto, Michelle Jenkins, Dominique Newman, and Michael Walters.

Special DJJ Guests: Monee Briggs, Tyjuan Watkins, and Denzel Burke. Mr. Briggs and Mr. Watkins are current DJJ facility youth who have been selected to take part in the new internship program that is being piloted in the Chicago admin office. Mr. Briggs and Mr. Watkins are high school graduates who have been involved in college programming at DJJ as well as other programming. Mr. Denzel Burke is a former DJJ youth who has gone on to do remarkable things for his community and beyond participating in the **R**(rising)**E**(evaluating). **A**(and). **L** (Leading) Youth Initiative program that engages with youth in the facilities by building relationships and community re-entry programming.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the last five meetings were approved: Dec 2020, March 2021, Dec 2021, March 2022, and June 2022. Each meeting was approved separately.

#### III. DJJ Reports

##### A. Population Trends/Monthly Data Review. – Brittany Groot

The population trend particularly from exit data for fiscal year 2022. Each graph/slide represented a breakdown into average lengths of stays by a few different factions of data. First mentioned was average length of stay in months at which showed data spanning 30 years beginning FY 1993. The average length of stay is 5.7 but at DJJ's peak was FY 94 with slightly under a year and the lowest point was FY 21 where the stay was 3.9 months. The increase can be explained because a higher number of felons and adult cases as last year was due to covid releases. Sentence type is another factor in length of stay as the specific C (court-eval), D (delinquents), E (extended jurisdiction), F (felons), G (1<sup>st</sup> degree murderers), H (Habitual), J (violent offenders). Length of stay by gender and race were also on the slides as well as crime class with Class X having the higher rate than the others (Class 1, 2, 3 & 4). Last slide discussed with recidivism rate within 3 years with a downward trend happening within the last decade or so.

##### B. Annual Report Review - Dominique Newman

An overview of the Annual Report 2022 was presented, with focus on the mission and transformation. One notable mention is the Career and Technical Education program with the Barber Program reopening at IYC Chicago and IYC Warrenville, IYC STC offers construction and custodial technician. Drivers' education is set to begin in 2023 anchored by NOVA Driving School. Afterschool programming has been happening in the facilities based on youth request and interests and provided by staff members.

**Healthy kids, strong families, safe**



Strengthening families was mentioned next highlighting the family advisory council consisting of family as well as others, who meet virtually quarterly. that are invested in the youth and the policy making, support network for incoming families and family specific activities both in facility and aftercare Family engagement contacts with community and youth centers has increased within the last 8 or 9 months of 2022.

Aftercare, community partnerships, health and physical fitness, restorative justice from New Life Centers were also mentioned in the mission of Positive Youth outcomes. Also, in the annual report was staffing updates. FY 22 and 23 the top priorities have been to onboard personnel and to separate from DOC and Shared Services. The first time IDJJ has an HR Director (Rachel Bolinger). The website now has job postings as well as branching off to other career building websites. CMS is still involved in the hiring process. Looking ahead to 2023 more CTE, family support and family services unit being developed, partnership with Curt's Café and increased social media engagement, staff lunch and learns and staff newsletters.

C. Status of Litigation – Director Heidi Mueller

RJ litigation was brought on 2012 and was settled right away. In 2014, the final remedial plan was executed, and this spring will be 9 years since agreed upon remedial plan. DJJ is in substantial compliance with every component except the following three which are

- (1). Full Day/Full time school at IYC Warrenville site. Three northern facility schools have a few remaining items.
- (2). Blended Learning curriculum - Making sure blended learning is a mixture of online and in person and sufficiently rich and content base.
- (3). Staffing ratios-making sure that at every facility we have the required ratio of special education and general education teachers.

Most recent reports from the monitor are stating satisfaction with the blended learning so it is down to staffing ratios and full day learning. Due to Covid outbreaks Delta and Omicron a lot of disruptions to DJJ's programming happened so Compensatory Education Services is being offered by court order and all youth for the services have been identified. Contracts are in place with providers that can provide tutoring and those services start this month.

**IV. New Board Members**

Seek to increase board membership and hybrid and/or in person meetings to resume with the advisory board agreeing that it can

**V. New Business – Michelle Jenkins**

Highlight of some legislative initiatives that have been proposed. spoke about two new bills: Alternative Formula Designation and a bill that is being called the gap filling service to provide no strings attached for services to youth that have been discharged from IDJJ.

**Public Participation/Comments: None**

**Adjournment: 1:27 pm**

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