

Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

January 29, 2015

DJJ Aftercare Office, 100 North Western Avenue, Chicago, IL

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Present in person: Jerry Butler, Director Candice Jones, David Olson, and Jennifer Vollen-Katz,

Present by phone: Julie Biehl, Jennifer North, Randolph Stone, and Rick Velasquez

Others present: Beth Compton, Jessica McMiller-Baptiste, and Mary Reynolds

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. Meeting conducted by Chairperson Jenny Vollen-Katz.

Approval of Minutes

Randolph Stone made a motion to approve the April 17, 2014 minutes. David Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rick Velasquez made a motion to approve the July 17, 2014 minutes. Randolph Stone seconded the motion. Motion carried. Candice Jones made a motion to approve the October 16, 2014 minutes. Jerry Butler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director's Report

Director Jones outlined an overview of the Department of Juvenile Justice budget process. While there is a bleak financial forecast for the State, she noted that the new Administration is very supportive of DJJ. A discussion was held over the need to plan for the best ways to serve youth and right-size the system, including the need for non-secure options. The goal is to consider what needs to be done for long-term successful outcomes for youth.

Director Jones outlined the legislative initiatives that she proposed to the Joint Criminal Justice Reform Committee in October 2014 which have been shared with the new Administration. The initiatives include: prohibiting youth with misdemeanors from commitment to DJJ, addressing those who have pending adult criminal charges, and adjusting the length of post-release supervision. It was also noted that legislation to end automatic transfers to adult court has been introduced in the General Assembly.

Director Jones shared recent developments with the *RJ v. Jones* and *MH v. Monreal* consent decrees. She summarized developments in areas such as confinement, mental health, and hiring challenges. Attorneys have been hired to represent youth by the Prisoner Review Board.

The Department is currently in the process of creating a strategic plan with BPI and Vera Institute. The initiative is funded by the MacArthur Foundation. The team has conducted facility visits, and met with youth, staff, legislators, and advocates. The operational plan is intended to articulate steps that need to be taken over the next year. A draft is being finalized.

New Business

Jenny Vollen-Katz stressed the interest of the Advisory Board to help frame the need to right-size the system. Director Jones expressed appreciation, and suggested that work groups being available could help with next steps. Julie Biehl volunteered to help address the length of time on aftercare and transfer research. David Olson and Director Jones will review misdemeanor data. And, Julie Biehl and Randolph Stone will help evaluate transfer and adult court issues, as needed.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Director Jones to adjourn, seconded by Randolph Stone. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.