

Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

June 1, 2015

James R. Thompson Center, 4th Floor Conference Room, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

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

Present by phone: Julie Biehl, Walter Brandon, Randolph Stone, and Rick Velasquez

Others present: Jessica McMiller Baptiste, Beth Compton, Gloria Davis, Marron Mahoney, Heidi Mueller, and Mary Reynolds (by phone)

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. by Chairperson Jenny Vollen-Katz.

Approval of Minutes

Walter Brandon made a motion to approve the January 29, 2015 minutes. Director Jones seconded. Motion carried.

Director Jones made a motion to amend the agenda by adding "D. Second Chance Grant." David Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Director's Report

Director Jones provided a brief update about the status of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget process, noting that although the General Assembly has passed a budget, it is likely not the final appropriation.

Director Jones reported that both legislative initiatives proposed by the Department passed the General Assembly and will be sent to the Governor for consideration. Senate Bill 1560 includes provisions that prohibits youth with misdemeanors from commitment to DJJ, addresses those who have pending adult criminal charges, and adjusts the length of post-release supervision. House Bill 3141 addresses reporting requirements. Director Jones noted that both bills passed with no registered opposition.

Director Jones shared recent developments with the *RJ v. Jones* consent decree. Monitors are scheduled to conduct site visits this summer. She summarized developments in areas such as issuance of new policies, revisions to confinement policies, efforts to meet hiring goals, implementing a risk assessment tool, and expanding programming.

Last spring, the Department was awarded a federal OJJDP Second Chance Act grant. Deputy Director Heidi Mueller reported that the Department is finishing the planning phase of the grant and is preparing to enter the implementation phase. This phase requires the establishment of an advisory body. In the interest of efficient use of resources and expertise, she suggested that the Advisory Board consider serving in that capacity. Discussion was held over the interest and responsibilities of the members. Jerry Butler made a motion for the DJJ Advisory Board to incorporate in its duties the role of advisory board for the Second Chance Act grant. Walter Brandon seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Jerry Butler, David Olson, Randolph Stone, Julie Biehl, Walter Brandon, and Jenny Vollen-Katz. Director Jones and Rick Velasquez abstained. Motion carried.

New Business

Jenny Vollen-Katz emphasized the need for members of the Advisory Board to become more engaged with issues facing the Department. She noted that the consent decree compliance and implementation of the strategic plan create big opportunities for focused efforts. Director Jones shared an interest in exploring how to increase volunteerism and develop more programming and services for youth. Jerry Butler reinforced the need to utilize members with different experience and an interest in being more actively involved. David Olson expressed an interest to work more collaboratively, especially in areas such as assessing the impact of increasing the juvenile

court age, changes to transfer laws, performance measures, and recidivism discussions. Director Jones welcomed the opportunity to establish a work group on the next Department Annual Report. Walter Brandon expressed an interest in assisting.

Director Jones shared with the members the next scheduled community dialogue on June 26, 2015 at the Youth Center in Chicago. Members are welcome to join the discussion. Jenny Vollen-Katz agreed to circulate to the Board information from DJJ when received by email, including 1.) Information on the 6/26 community event at IYC- Chicago, and 2.) Second Chance Act grant documents for board members to review and become familiar with.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Walther Brandon to adjourn, seconded by Director Jones. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.