

# Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

June 3, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

WEBEX Video Conference Call

## Meeting Minutes

### Board Members

Present by WebEx: Heidi Mueller, David Olson, Julie Biehl, Walter Brandon, David Kelly, Jennifer North, Rick Velasquez, Jennifer Vollen-Katz, Annetta Wilson

Absent: Jerry Butler

### Attendees:

DJJ Staff Deloris Smith, NeAngela Dixon, Brittany Groot, Eva Moore, Robert Vickery, Andrew Munemoto, Omar Jamil, Marna Satlak, Erin Johnson

General public: Cynthia Guzman, Leti Monreal, Isabella Munro

### I. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting began at approximately 12:05 p.m. with quorum present.

### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION moved by Walter Brandon to approve March 4, 2020 meeting minutes; motion SECONDED; motion PASSED.

### III. Director's Report

Director Mueller presented the following material to the Board Members and provided a brief overview of each subject. DJJ Executive staff were present to elaborate on the subject matters.

- March 2020 Monthly Report
- RJ Filed Joint Status Report (11/2019)
- DJJ Mitigation Activities Report (updated May 20)
- DJJ Returning to the Workplace Plan

#### **A. Impact of COVID on IDJJ**

##### **• Deputy Director Robert Vickery presented on DJJ Juvenile Releases:**

Our existing policy calls for us to review youth admitted as delinquents and allows for early release on an expedited basis. We implemented a structured process that includes setting a targeted release date (TRD) for each youth and reviewing them prior to this date. We conduct release reviews based on other milestone achievements (e.g. graduating high school, finishing a treatment program, etc.) We are reviewing release dates at least 30 to 60 days prior to TRD and after the any milestones. The release review considers a holistic set of factors (overall behavior, program completions, nature of offense, length of time in custody) to determine if youth are ready to be released.

**COVID impact:** During COVID, we have moved the review dates up 60-90 review prior to the Targeted Release Date instead of 30-60 days ranges. We created linkages so that if released earlier than expected, youth would be able to complete their substance abuse programs.

Governor Pritzker issued an Executive Order that eliminated the 30-day waiting period following our Notice of Eligibility for Release to the State's Attorney Office through the State's emergency. This Executive Order eliminated the holdup we had with the early reviews and made it simpler for us to provide the Notice and proceed with release of youth per the Director's decision.

In the Medical Review Screening exit, we started temperature and symptom checks on all youth twice daily, and another at point of release. A hold was put on intakes from County and detention centers to prevent transmission. With these steps, our population dropped from 220 (on 3/1) to 112 youth in custody (on 5/12), a 50% decline. As of today, population has dropped to 101 youth.

Youth committed on adult convictions or other determinant sentences (violence offender commitment) make-up a greater portion of our remaining population. One of the benefits is now there is more space. Housing units are available should we need to quarantine youth. It is easier to do programming for smaller groups. This is a great benefit to the agency, employee/youth safety and our ability to continue to provide services during this emergency.

**Director:** Our facility and our staff across the board have recognized how easier it is with the smaller population to establish better relationships with youth and their families.

- **Deputy Director Moore – reported on Aftercare Juvenile Release:** The Aftercare Specialist (ACS) completes a host site investigation and approve a plan which outlines where the youth will stay. Aftercare uses the same screening tool guidelines developed for the facilities. ACS screens youth based on symptoms of COVID virus. If positive response, we work with community vendors that have agree to take youth and keep for the quarantine period as outlined in the guidelines. The home is reassessed to determine if youth can return. Later during the crisis, two of the youth had family members that acquired COVID, but at this time youth would quarantine at home. If a member of the household had at the time of release, the youth would not be release to the home.

Aftercare Specialists were present virtually for the release review and monthly staffing. Community vendors, Mental Health providers Substance Abuse providers and behavior health providers conducted the services virtually and by phone initially, then moved to in-person appts.

Case management data system provider is a subsidiary company of the GEO Group. They developed an app that is loaded onto the ACS's cellphone, who then assists youth with downloading the app. With this app, visits can be conducted via video conference with youth and the family. It allows youth to access agency-approved services (e.g. housing, clothing, food and other services) and has all the contact information loaded in the system.

Revocations. We tweaked our criteria to assessment the youth instead of obtaining a warrant. We assigned a 6-point evaluation plan to various behaviors and a total of 20 points would determine if they go back or not. During this period, we were able to divert all but two youth as of May 20. This tool over time has reduced our return rate. In 2016, it was 33% of new admissions and as of 2019, 19% of new admissions

**Rick Velasquez asked has the revocation rate changed in 2020.** RESPONSE: As of May 20, of the 96 youth we have released this year, two youth were returned.) This is not to say the youth were without incidents. Rewards and sanctions were implemented to bring their behavior back in compliance.

**Rick Velasquez asked are there any plans to implement some of the new practices used during this crisis.** RESPONSE: The app. It a very useful and convenient tool and provides the ACS and youth direct assess, and ACS can track appointments and follow up with youth.

- **Director Mueller –** Reopening plan to restore full operation is align with Governor Pritzker 5-phase plan which uses benchmarks to determine when it is safe to more to the next phase. May 18 – June 30, we are gradually phasing back into full operation in the southern regions, which had the least spread of the virus. Intake will result in the northern region next week. We will resume visits in the southern region for family and modest volunteer activities and safe outdoor activities. The week of June 22, visitation will resume in the northern region and modest volunteer visitation. We will monitor how things are going and our operation procedures around

screening, cleaning, masking will continue throughout this transition. If we start to see signs of a resurgence, we will modify and pull back from some of the resumed operations.

**B. Population trends/monthly data review – March 2020 data report provided**

Currently, we have 105 youth in custody; 500 plus on Aftercare. The data does not include the COVID population change. Over the past five fiscal years, the population reduction has been significant. During COVID, we have release between 25- 50 youth monthly from DJJ. And when you combine that with no new intakes since the beginning of March. Part of our reduction is not just youth being release under normal process. In spite of the current situation, Youth are still graduating and completing their GED. The rate of incidents has gone down due to the smaller population:

**C. Status of Litigation – RJ Update**

**Chief NeAngela Dixon:** Responses from the ACLU and motions were filed by the ACLU regarding rate of progress at STC facility and overall staffing. We have responded to both motion and prepared to go to court on those motions, but things have halted due to the pandemic. We continue to have had ongoing discussions and have had progress overall of the remedial plans. Monitors will do virtual visits throughout the summer and will conduct interviews with the administration of each facility and speak with youth and individual employees via WebEx or Zoom.

**D. Budget for SFY 2021**

**Chief Andy Munemoto:** We have a flat budget from FY20 to FY21. DJJ budget passed both houses and we believe it will be signed. The total \$124 million appropriation authority, \$111 million is general revenue and \$13 million for grants. It differs from what we proposal early this year by about \$6 million less. The reduction were line items such as contractual services, technology and telecom. Main change was in our personnel services line. We should be okay with the reduction because of what has been going on with the COVID response. Hiring has been delayed throughout the response and we have a smaller population. We should be able to absorb the reduction due to delayed hiring.

**Jennifer Vollen-Katz** asked if the \$1M is earmarked to one facility. **RESPONSE:** It is open to all facility—this is for operational repairs and maintenance. This is not the same as the Capital Budget, which has \$60 Million earmarked for statewide repairs.

**E. Training through COVID**

**Chief Marna Satlak:** Training was halted at the beginning of COVID. Three trainings were affected (1) annual trainings, (2) pre-service training for our non-security staff and (3) trauma and health care training. We have resumed our trauma and health care training via webinar and Zoom. I am working with Chief Dixon on the annual trainings and we are currently designing our pre-service trainings to be conducted via Webinar and WebEx. Additional training includes a three-part trauma-informed webinar training on COVID-related trauma. Staff have completed the State required annual online trainings via OneNet Training. We are looking to doing more hybrid trainings going forward.

**F. Grant Updates: Second Chance and MST – Deputy Director Vickery**

**Second Chance Grant:** Last year we received a Federal Second chance grant to develop a program to provide comprehensive, unified substance abuse treatment for youth co-occurring extreme health disorders. In December 2019, we started with an extensive treatment program at IYC Chicago. We have three providers in the community covering the west and south of Chicago and far south suburbs of Cook county: West Care Foundation, Youth Outreach Services and Aunt Martha's. These providers, along with staff, are being trained in the 7-challenges curriculum which is an evidence-based program which is about engaging youth where they are at and less about a serial of lessons or group worksheets.

**Multisystemic Therapy (MST) services:** We had hope to have DJJ staff delivery the services, but in working with MST we have determine that our staff would not do all of the mandatory MST emerging tasks. An RFP was submitted to award a contract to a provider who can provide the MST services to our youth. Our goal is to serve twenty-four youth each year for the next three years with the emerging adult model. The services will be range from 12 months with in-home to three-point contact in the community and MST coaches who are college student to provide auxiliary support for their success.

**G. Legislation Agenda – HB 5632 Omnibus Bill**

**Director Mueller:** The bill centered on the clean-up to the Juvenile Court Act in the Unified Code of Corrections. As we move forward, we continue to find phrases and words in the JCA and UCC related to juveniles. Each year we try to clean up the language and further establish the separation of DJJ from the Department of Corrections.

Also, we created a Fund 523 to put our grant funds and any reimbursements we may receive. Previous grant funds were put in DOC Fund 523 and any reimbursement DJJ received from the ISBE were steered to the DOC Fund 523.

**IV: New Business**

No new business

**V: Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion moved by J. Vollen-Katz; seconded by R. Velasquez  
The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:51 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

Date: **To be determined**