**Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Advisory Board**

December 13, 2017

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

1112 South Wabash Avenue, Suite 2-200, Chicago, IL 60605

**Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members**

Present in Person: Heidi Mueller, Jennifer Vollen-Katz, David Olson, Randolph Stone, Rick Velasquez, Julie Biehl

Present by Phone: Jerry Butler, Jennifer North,

Absent: Annetta Wilson, David Kelly, Walter Brandon,

**Other Attendees** Deloris Smith

Karima Douglas (Ombudsman office)

1. **Roll Call and Introductions**

The meeting began at approximately 9:45 a.m. with quorum present. Meeting was conducted by Chairperson David Olson.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the June 29, 2017 are unavailable due to mandatory fire drill at 1112 South Wabash Ave. that interrupted board meeting.

1. **Director’s Report** – Director Heidi Mueller provided the following report to the Board:
   1. **General update**

The agency’s Human Resources Manager started on December 1, 2017. Currently, she is being trained by IDOC’s Human Resources staff on the departmental processes and procedures. We have not been able to send anyone to Workman’s Comp hearings until now.

DJJ attended the National PREA in Ohio on December 11 and 12, 2017. The agency has been meeting criteria and is in compliance. However, under the new guidance, it suggests that our staffing will be out of compliance. The new guidance indicates that staffing must be measured by location. Example, if you are trying to protect youth from victimization, you will need to count the number of staff where the youth are located. The facilities at Harrisburg, Pere Marquette and Warrenville will not be affected, and Chicago may be in shape. But we will not be in compliance at St. Charles. The agency went to GOMB to request an increase in headcount to meet the new ratio and was given a tentative approval. For states working towards staffing, it will not affect OJJDP penalty.

* 1. **Impact on Budge on IDJJ Operations, Contracts/Contractual Providers**

The agency saw an impact on operations due to the budget impasse; trying to keep operations afloat. A lot of vendors have terminated contracts or have threatened to terminate contracts. We have had to work diligently to keep them on board. The statewide provider Wells Center was shuttered and a new vendor had to be found; a new payment structure had to be developed with the health care providers for them to stay on board. Contracts were extended for a year while bidding it out. Contingency plans had to be developed in the event we lost a provider. Some community vendors still have not been paid for a year. For this coming year, approved budget request is just over $107 million (less than last year), plus an additional $13M in other funds but this still does not address capital development board projects that have not been funded. There are $200M in outstanding capital development deferred maintenance requests for IDJJ sitting with the capital development board.

* 1. **Population Trends and Patterns** (number of youth in custody, any noticeable changes due to the raise in age, prohibition of misdemeanors, etc.)

The population has been holding steadily between 385-415 youth in the past eighteen months; hovering around 400 youth. We try to send youth home for the holidays. There had been an uptick this summer with youth that would have been transferred to adult court (as a result of changes to AT law and the fact that 17 year olds are now considered juveniles). Eighty-85% of youth coming into IDJJ are high-risk.

* 1. **Compliance with Consent Decree in specific areas** (Education (particularly St. Charles), Mental Health (update on transition of acute and chronic mental health youth to St. Charles), Safety and Welfare (culture change)

The remedial plan is being filed, but is not yet public. Once it becomes public, a copy will be forwarded to the board members and posted.

Education and condition of confinement: substantial compliance in 8 out of 17 areas; partial or substantial compliance in all areas in all cases but St. Charles. Monitors have seen significant gains (St. Charles issue is education—staffing is problematic). In the spring of 2013, we were out of compliance, now we are in partial or substantial compliance.

The issue of prosecutions at Harrisburg (ACLU) during 2016 to early 2017: the rate of prosecutions has dropped off; two “walk-ins” since March 2017. The issues that led to the prosecutions have been added to the remedial plan: the issues within Harrisburg related to “assaults” and the State’s Attorney’s office taking the cases. We are investing a lot of time in training. Although reported assaults by staff have gone up, injuries have decreased. A lot of these infractions are for spitting and throwing liquids on staff are from youth in the confinement units. St. Charles’ rate of staff on medical leaves and workman’s comp is 5 times higher than other facilities.

Dr. Krisberg (monitor) has medical issues. We brought in someone else who was recommended by Shay Bilcheck. We are looking to bring on an additional mental health expert that is more global.

* 1. **Updates on IDJJ’s increased ability and capacity to place youth in the Dept.’s custody in non-IDJJ specialized residential facilities**

Two authorized leaves/placements: specific populations that cannot deal with milieu of IDJJ facility (mental illness, developmental delay and DCFS involved youth—cannot find anyone who will take these youth. “The youth we have are the ones that nobody wants.” States that have done well have had resources to develop the partnerships needed. These states do a good job for those youth, but they keep them a longer period of time. Some youth need a 1:1 staffing ratio.

Karima Douglas (Deputy Juvenile Ombudsman) asked how hospitals can refuse youth. **Director**: The issue is often with DCFS youth and non-payment; or hospitals will refer to the violent behavior and as a result they would not be able to protect everyone in the unit from the DJJ youth.

There has been talk of releasing 13 year-olds out of IDJJ. IDJJ is the last intervention until they end up in IDOC.

* 1. **Update IDJJ Ombudsman**

Kathleen Bankhead has been ombudsman for 2 years and needed additional staff (Karima Douglas started in August), and is looking to hire one additional staff. They visit each facility once per month to get familiar with youth. A lot of youth feel like their response to grievances are not occurring quickly; encouraging youth that if they see something to report it; staff report appreciating their role in supporting the overall goal;

Director: PBS: Youth reporting of fear for safety is decreasing. Reporting has increased that they feel that someone is listening to them; that they trust some staff in the facility and they are being treated with respect and care.

We have a Youth Advisory Board and are working to make it more robust and supported (a grant from VERA/Casey Foundation enables the youth to get a stipend); looking to create a fellowship with Vera/business interests (BPI) and that person would help manage the Youth Advisory Board: get youth involved in policy-related matters; will invite YAB to an Advisory Board meeting.

.

1. **Goals for next this SFY** (operations and legislation)

Education: skill building and all forms of education; prison to college pipeline; graduate rate exceeds state average; ensuring high-quality and getting post-secondary opportunity into every facility; youth go to Lewis and Clark during the day and come back to the facility in the evening.

We continue to look to improve safety of the highest need youth; improving relationships and trust between youth and staff.

Jennifer: It would be useful for the Advisory Board to capture the examples of youth that cannot get placements (examples of case that re the problems/burdens.

Director Mueller presented (with DCFS Director) at Judicial conference to develop a model for the youth that IDJJ have a difficult time addressing the needs for. A task force was created to address this issue. Also, there are not enough foster parents.

1. **New Business**

None

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:35 a.m.

**Next Meeting**

Date: TBD

Location: IDJJ — 1112 South Wabash Avenue, 2nd floor, Chicago, IL 60605