

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY Friday, March 1, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. 300 West Adams Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room Chicago, Illinois

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Peter M. Ellis welcomed Board Members and guests to the first 2013 quarterly Board Meeting of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. He called the meeting to order and asked General Counsel Lisa Stephens to call the roll.

In addition to Chairman Ellis, Authority Board Members in attendance were:

State's Attorney and Vice-Chairman Anita Alvarez
Clerk Dorothy Brown
Richard H. Calica
Public Defender Abishi Cunningham
Sheriff Thomas J. Dart
Mr. Felix M. Gonzalez
Director Hiram Grau
Mr. John Harvey
Ms. Cynthia Hora
Ms. Lisa S. Jacobs
Mr. John Maki
Superintendent Garry F. McCarthy
Director Michael J. Pelletier
Sheriff Patrick Perez
Public Defender Randall B. Rosenbaum
Ms. Angela Rudolph

Approval of Minutes of the December 7, 2012 Regular Meeting

With a quorum in place, Chairman Peter M. Ellis asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the December 7, 2012 Authority Board Meeting.

{Ms. Cynthia Hora so moved. Mr. Felix Gonzales seconded the motion, which was adopted by majority voice vote with Director Richard H. Calica abstaining because he had not been appointed to the Board at that time.}

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Ellis then thanked everyone for attending and announced the appointment of two new Board Members: Richard Calica, Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, who was present; and Dr. Lamar Hasbrouck, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, who was unable to attend. Chairman Ellis next asked Director Calica to introduce himself. Director Calica said he was from New York, has been living in Chicago for 40 years with a background in social work, and, before becoming the Director of the Illinois Department of Family Services, for most of his professional life, worked with families who were abused and neglected. He added that he was pleased to be on the Authority Board.

Chairman Ellis thanked Director Calica and said that Dr. Hasbrouck would be introduced at the next Board Meeting. Moving on, he asked Executive Director Jack Cutrone for an update on Authority activities.

Executive Director's Remarks

Mr. Cutrone thanked Chairman Ellis. He began by reviewing the legislation that was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor on January 25, 2013, becoming effective on that date to terminate the existence of the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (IVPA). He explained that this action transferred all rights, powers, duties, resources and staff from IVPA to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. He further explained that it addressed some issues created by an appropriation from last year that would have been problematical by making funds available only for grants without the necessary funding for staff to administer them. He noted IVPA staff officially would become Authority employees on March 22, administering the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative (NRI) grants in addition to all other IVPA grants.

Mr. Cutrone also noted that the legislation added two new members to the Authority Board, who had served on the IVPA Board; and that an Ad Hoc Violence Prevention Subcommittee or Committee would be created so that other former members of the IVPA Board, in addition to Authority Board Members, could provide their expertise.

Mr. Cutrone then moved on to discuss a meeting he attended at the White House organized by the National Criminal Justice Association concerning the negative impact the sequestering of funds would have on criminal justice throughout the country, not just on federal agencies. He reported that the meeting was comprised of the Deputy Director of the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and other OMB staff members, high-ranking members of the White House staff, and the Acting Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Office of Justice Programs. Mr. Cutrone said that they seemed receptive to the concerns expressed and that he would report back on subsequent developments.

In closing, Mr. Cutrone noted that in response to interest expressed by the Authority Board and Budget Committee Members concerning the effectiveness of the Metropolitan

Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and Drug Task Forces that the Authority supports, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit did an assessment with findings he thought showed it is a very worthwhile investment. He announced that R&A Associate Director Mark Myrent would be presenting the findings later in the meeting.

Budget Committee Meeting

With no further discussion, Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Cutrone and announced that the Budget Committee Meeting portion of the Board Meeting would be taking place.

(Please See Attached Minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting)

Upon adjournment of the Budget Committee Meeting, Chairman Ellis called upon Ronald Litwin, Acting Chief Fiscal Officer for a Fiscal Report.

Fiscal Report by Ronald Litwin, Acting Chief Fiscal Officer

Mr. Litwin thanked Chairman Ellis and said that he would be presenting variances to budget comments on the FY2013 results for the period July 1, 2012 through February 11, 2013 for Agency Operations and also Awards and Grants activities. He directed attention to Exhibit #1 in the handout materials and explained it presented a comparison of the fiscal year to date expenditures and obligations through February 11, 2013 to the total FY 13 budget for the General Revenue Fund.

He stated that total expenditures and obligations for the period were at a 47 percent level in the amount of \$859,129 for the fiscal year.

Mr. Litwin turned to Exhibit #2 which also presented a comparison of the fiscal year to date expenditures and obligations through February 11, 2013 to the total fiscal year budget for Awards and Grants. He noted that total expenditures and obligations in the Federal Criminal Justice Trust Fund were at a 44 percent level in the amount of \$43,019,250

He reported that total expenditures and obligations in the General Revenue Matching and Other General Revenue Funds were at a 54 percent level in the amount of \$11,985,527 including three new appropriations for FY13: the Adult Redeploy Illinois grants and administration, Violence Prevention Programs, and the Chicago Area Project.

Mr. Litwin then explained that the Criminal Justice Information Projects Fund has a \$400,000 appropriation level to allow for funding obtained from non-federal government entities, private sources, and not-for-profit organizations and that total expenditures and obligations were at a 22 percent level in the amount of \$89,016. He added that the expenditures and obligations in the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Fund were at a 49 percent level in the amount of \$2,194,663.

He pointed out that a new category – Other State Funds – had expenditures and obligations that were at a less than 1 percent level in the amount of \$2,151 and explained that this category had three new State of Illinois appropriations: the Death Penalty Abolition Fund, the Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Fund, and the Illinois Crime Stoppers Association Fund. He noted that the total expenditures and obligations for the Awards and Grants activity was at a 40 percent level for the period represented by the dollar amount of \$57,290,607.

Mr. Litwin next turned to Exhibit #3 – Federal Funding Sources FY2013 -- and explained that it detailed the activity for grants that were active during the state fiscal year 2013 including: grand total funding by grant, expenditures on a grant inception to date basis, and remaining grant balance through June 30, 2013. He also presented the revenue received in FY13 associated with the grant, noting that the grand total funding was \$209,249,496 with inception to date expenditures as of February 11, 2013 of \$146,327,092, leaving a remaining balance of \$62,966,518.

In conclusion, Mr. Litwin discussed Exhibit #4 – Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Federal Grant Programs FY2013. He noted that the pie chart depiction covered the percentage relationships of the \$208,152,366 in federal awards for the Justice Assistance Grants (JAG), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs. He stated that combined they represent approximately 92 percent of the FY2013 active grants. He then asked if there were any questions. With no response, Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Litwin for his report. He announced a presentation to follow by Mark Myrent, Associate Director for Research and Analysis (R&A), on an R&A Impact Assessment of Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and Drug Task Forces.

R&A Assessment of MEGs and Drug Task Forces by Mark Myrent, R&A Associate Director

Mr. Myrent reiterated that the Authority’s Research and Analysis Unit undertook an assessment of the MEGs and Drug Task Forces about a year ago in response to a request from Board and Budget Committee Members for more information to help better understand the impact of these entities.

He thanked staff of the Research and Analysis Unit and the Federal and State Grants Unit for their assistance with the assessment and announced that Lt. Mark Peyton of the Illinois State Police who oversees the MEGS and Task Forces was in attendance to help answer questions. Mr. Myrent noted there are 22 MEGs and Task Forces in Illinois with 19 funded by the Authority through Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds, explaining that the assessment was derived from two focus groups held last year with MEG and Task Force officers and support staff, from their quarterly reports, and from Criminal History Record Information (CHRI). That information, he noted, was used to produce 19 individual MEG profiles and one aggregate report.

In addressing how MEGs and Task Forces operate and their priorities, Mr. Myrent stated that their priorities are not static, tend to evolve over time, and differ across sites and within jurisdictions. He also noted that the difference in drug enforcement activity by these agencies as opposed to other law enforcement agencies or police departments is that they do more intelligence gathering, which enables an understanding of how the drug problem tends to shift, citing the meth problem downstate as an example of such a priority shift.

He explained that the MEGs and Task Forces undertake more functions than solely making arrests, including being out in the community, conducting drug education, and focusing on areas related to drugs such as guns and gangs. Mr. Myrent stated that across the country MEGs and Task Forces represent the primary spending area of JAG funds, yet to his knowledge, Illinois, through the Authority, was only the second or third state that has devoted any research into exploring their impact. He added that from the Focus Group discussions, it was learned that the importance of their work was not so much on the number of arrests, but the nature of those arrests and their impact on the community versus those of other law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Myrent continued explaining that the assessment was designed to determine whether the efforts of MEGs and Task Forces were focused on a more serious level of drug crime, on controlled substances versus cannabis, on delivery more than on possession, and on the more serious statutory classes of crime. He then summarized the methodology used, with findings, noting the contributions of the positive working relationship with the Illinois State Police and the use of the ad hoc data base for criminal history information.

Mr. Myrent next discussed the topics covered in his power-point presentation. He first outlined percentages of MEG and Task Force arrests by drug type in 2011 versus these breakdowns for other arresting agencies. He highlighted the percentage of arrests for controlled substances versus cannabis for the MEG and Task Force Central, Northern and Southern Regions in 2011, and a five-year total of drug seizures by drug type for the regions from 2007 to 2011.

Continuing, he compared percentages of arrests in 2011 for delivery versus possession for MEGs and Task Forces compared to other arresting agencies. He moved on to discuss these same analyses separately for cannabis and controlled substance arrests, once again comparing statistics for MEGs and Task Forces versus other arresting agencies.

A wide-ranging discussion then ensued covering topics from the definition of delivery used in the impact assessment to the effect on the Department of Corrections of drug convictions by MEGs and Task Forces. Also, in response to a comment concerning MEG's and Task Forces' conviction rate versus other law enforcement agencies, Mr. Myrent noted that this data currently is provided by the MEGs and Task Forces via a Drug Prosecution Unit that the Authority funds. He added that it was not reported at this time because improvements are being made to assure that court disposition information is uniformly included. He reported that work is now underway with the Circuit Court Clerk and when completed, this information will be made available to the Board.

Mr. Myrent added that in calculating the return on investment in funding MEGs and Task Forces, their work in getting drugs off the streets should be noted, citing cash and property forfeitures. He referred to their making about \$3.4 million in cash forfeitures each year and non-cash forfeitures around \$860,000. Mr. Myrent also stated that on average, they are seizing about 900 weapons per year, with approximately half being handguns. In addition, he said that some of the return on investment goes beyond the cash and property seizures such as prevention of more drug crime, which is difficult to translate into numbers. Mr. Cutrone added that their work also helps reduce violent crime.

At that point, Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Myrent for his presentation and asked if there were any questions, or old or new business. With no response, he thanked everyone for attending and called for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

{Mr. John Maki so moved. Sheriff Patrick Perez seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous voice vote.}