

## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

**June 6, 2008, 9:15 a.m.  
160 North LaSalle Street, Room C-500  
Chicago, Illinois**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

State's Attorney Devine as Vice-Chair appointed Mr. Murphy to chair the meeting until the arrival of Chairman Sorosky, who had been delayed. Mr. Murphy convened the regular meeting of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and asked Jack Cutrone, the Authority's General Counsel, to call the roll.

In addition to Mr. Murphy, other Authority Members in attendance were:

Chairman Sheldon Sorosky  
Sheriff Jerry Dawson  
Mr. Brad Demuzio  
State's Attorney Richard A. Devine  
Ms. Barbara Engel  
Director Norbert Goetten  
Ms. Ellen Mandeltort  
State's Attorney William Mudge  
Director Michael J. Pelletier  
Ms. Mariyana Spyropoulos  
Mr. Larry G. Trent

#### **Approval of Minutes of the March 7, 2008 Regular Meeting**

Mr. Murphy welcomed Board members and, with a quorum in place, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the last Authority Meeting.

{Ms. Spyropoulos moved that the minutes of the March 7, 2008 Authority Meeting be approved. State's Attorney Mudge seconded the motion and it was adopted by unanimous voice vote.}

#### **Chairman's Remarks**

On behalf of Chairman Sorosky, Mr. Murphy welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He then called upon Director Levin for her remarks.

## **Executive Director's Remarks**

Director Levin reported that the Authority received a \$178,000 earmark from the Byrne's discretionary grant from Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr., to establish an elder abuse multidisciplinary team on Chicago's south side. She said that ICJIA assembled a collaborative group representing the Illinois Department on Aging, the City Department on Aging, the Chicago Police Department, and Metropolitan Family Services to develop a proposal and that she notified the supervisor of the Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Division of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office regarding the grant.

She then stated that the Authority received its Biennial Audit from the Auditor General, indicating no new material findings. She said that the primary finding, which many agencies have had, is a lack of disaster recovery for the Authority's computer systems, resulting from when ICJIA ran ALERTS and PIMS. The Director added that the Authority is doing an assessment of its current IT systems to assure that the agency is in compliance.

She noted that the only other material finding dealt with some late performance evaluations. She explained that the situation is being rectified under the auspices of Associate Director for Human Resources Brian Brosnan. He will call attention to evaluations that need to be done and provide reminders so that they are completed on time.

The Director then discussed visits from representatives of the Department of Justice for the National Forensic Science Improvement Act, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics for the Authority's National Criminal History Improvement Project. She reported that both meetings were positive, with the NFSIA representatives highly complimentary about the Authority's grant monitor Marilyn Mazewski and the Authority. She added that ICJIA is applying for other research grants from the Bureau of Justice Statistics State Justice Statistics Program and is optimistic about receiving them.

She continued to say that the Authority is participating in several initiatives of the Governor such as the Safety Net Works anti-violence program and is spearheading its evaluation under the direction of Associate Director of Research and Analysis Mark Myrent. She reiterated that the Authority, through the Budget Committee gave a \$250,000 JAIBG grant to support this effort which was created by the Governor as a multidisciplinary and multiagency team to help stem violence by having different communities assemble coalitions working toward that goal. She added that in addition to the Authority, Safety Net Works includes DHS, the Violence Prevention Authority, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Director added that the Authority provided juvenile justice research to a number of different users including Alderman Robert Fioretti who has been interested and very active in dealing with the issue of school shootings. She then announced that Trends and Issues 2008 had been released presenting data up to 2005, some of which were highlighted by Mark Myrent at the last Authority Board meeting. She added that the Authority has gone through the Institutional Review Board for approval for the next step of ICJIA's female offender victimization study. The Director said that under the direction of Jessica Ashley, interviews of a sampling of women offenders would take place at Dwight, Lincoln, and Decatur to determine the extent to which the offenders had been previously victimized and whether they ever received services. She stated that hopefully the study will direct some future funding to the Authority and help to keep some of these women out of the criminal justice system as well as help DOC direct some of the programming to help stem recidivism.

Turning to budget matters, the Director pointed out that there had been some apprehension because the budget that passed the General Assembly was divided on the House side into three separate budgets. Originally there were problems determining the amount that was to be granted. Later, the three merged and the budget that passed the General Assembly was what the Authority requested. She said that it included the match money that was vetoed last year as well as additional monies for the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee, the Downstate Innocence Project, and for the South Suburban Crimes Task Force.

She stated that the budget once again is not balanced. It is unknown what will happen with respect to any budget vetoes. At this point the Authority's budget prospects are satisfactory and that she will keep the Board advised. She then described the status of federal funding as still grim. She said that there has been constant contact with various members and staff of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, especially with Senator Durbin who is leading the charge to improve the situation. She reiterated that Senator Durbin has had a number of meetings with the Justice Department attempting to obtain additional money for Cook County and Chicago to try to help stem the violence in these locations.

She also said that Senator Durbin has been in steady contact with the Authority for briefings on Byrne. He is working to get emergency supplemental appropriations to raise the threshold of Byrne back to the amount the Authority received last year. She recalled that e-mails were sent to the Board asking them to call Congressional Members to appropriate more monies for Byrne grants. She said that the Governor's Office through Chief Operating Officer John Filan as well as staff from the Governor's Washington office met with some House members regarding the supplemental bill and that Byrne was still included. She said therefore there was time to make additional calls to members of the delegation especially on the House side.

She stated that it was crucial to keep the Byrne funding in the emergency supplemental for the war funding in order to support core criminal justice programs. She reviewed the substantial reductions from \$20 million a few years to a little over \$4 million for FFY08.

She concluded her report by asking that Board Members review the NCJA Newsletter detailing how under the FFY08 budget as well as through the President's budget more money is being sent to the Iraqi Police and also to fight drug crime in Mexico than to fund law enforcement in the United States under Byrne.

Mr. Murphy thanked Director Levin for her remarks and asked if there were any questions or comments. Receiving none and upon Chairman Sorosky's arrival, he moved onto the Budget Committee Report.

### **Budget Committee Report by Eugene E. Murphy, Jr., Chair**

Mr. Murphy said that the Budget Committee meets frequently to deal with issues on a timely basis. By doing so, the committee has been able to address issues with respect to lapsing funds and head off potential problems. Given the uncertainty of state budgets and federal funds, frequent meetings have proven to be the best way to deal with crises before they become crises.

For the purposes of conducting a Budget Committee meeting, Chairman Murphy appointed all Authority members present as Budget Committee members for the purposes of the recommended adjustments. Chairman Murphy said that in order that the board can consider these recommendations pursuant to the Authority rules, he asked that this portion of the meeting immediately following his statements be treated as a Budget Committee meeting.

### **Approval of the FFY04 Anti-Drug Abuse Act (ADAA) and FFY05 Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) Plan Adjustments**

Chairman Murphy called attention to Tab 3 in the meeting materials containing memos regarding recommendations for ADAA and JAG plan adjustments.

#### **ADAA FFY04**

Program Supervisor Mike Carter said that the staff recommends \$228,196 in FFY04 lapsed and unallocated funds be added to existing funds set aside for vehicle and equipment purchases by local units of government. Lapsed funds in the amount of \$187,956 were returned to the Authority by Cook County's Community-Based Transitional Housing Services for Female Offenders program. Those funds were added to \$36,069 in available unallocated funds originally set aside for Criminal History Records Improvement-related purchases and another \$4,171 remaining in the existing equipment set-aside.

{Director Trent moved to approve the FFY04 ADAA Plan Adjustments. Director Goetten seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous voice vote.}

In response to a question by Ms. Engel, Director Levin said that the large sum of money that had been returned to the Authority was from the Cook County Jail's women's program. She said that Cook County could not use those funds for their intended

purposes so they returned the funds in an effort to expedite their reallocation. She said that Cook County's program is receiving other funds via the Authority.

Ms. Engel said that the Cook County transitional services program is important for women being released from jail and it is important that the program remains up and running. Director Levin said that the returned funds were from an old grant and the transitional services program is being supported by other grants.

#### JAG FFY06

Associate Director John Chojnacki said that two JAG grants, one supporting the Authority's audit plan and one supporting the Authority's drug strategy impact evaluations, have now become basically the same program. In the interests of easing administrative burdens the two grants have been combined into a single grant. Funding levels will not change. Staff is providing this information for informational purposes only.

{Ms. Mandeltort moved to approve the FFY04 ADAA Plan Adjustments. Director Goetten seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous voice vote.}

There was no further discussion of budgetary items. At this time, Chairman Murphy directed the regular meeting proceedings to non-budgetary items.

#### **Fiscal Report by Acting Chief Financial Officer, Ron Litwin**

Mr. Murphy called upon Ron Litwin, Acting Chief Financial Officer, for a fiscal report. Mr. Litwin directed attention to Exhibit I in the handout materials, comparing the expenditures and obligations for the first ten months of FY08 to the total year budget for the General Revenue Fund. He pointed out that expenses for the Personal Services, Retirement, and FICA lines are in keeping with the budgeted amounts.

Moving to the Contractual expenditures, he said those are lower than budgeted because of timing differences for the cost of the Authority's move. He explained that \$30,000 of moving expenses were paid in May, therefore they will appear in the next period, and the remaining variance is a portion of the budgeted rent expenses that was assumed by CMS due to the Governor's line item veto.

He said that travel expenditures are under budget by \$5,000 and will be fully spent by year end, and commodity expenditures, which primarily cover office supplies, will be close to the budgeted amount also by year end. He stated that he anticipated printing will be fully spent by year end, as well. There would be minimal purchases by year end for the entire equipment budget of \$5,500, which covers office furniture.

Moving to the EDP line, Mr. Litwin remarked that the expenditures are favorable primarily due to less spending for equipment, supplies, contractual, and audit fees. He also noted that the Authority has recently completed a three-year replacement of outdated

personal computers and is leasing 17 new computers. He stated that telecommunication expenditures are lower than budgeted due to timing differences but that they should be at budgeted levels for the total fiscal year. Moving to the last item under General Revenue, Operation of Auto, he pointed out that those expenses are below budget due to less travel and less needed repairs on the agency vehicles.

Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Litwin for his report and introduced Jessica Ashley for a presentation on domestic sex trafficking of Chicago women and girls.

### **Presentation by Jessica Ashley on Domestic Sex Trafficking of Chicago Women and Girls**

Ms. Ashley stated that the topic has received a great deal of media attention, interest and resources at the federal, state, and local levels and that considerable research is underway, with this just being one study. She said that the Authority worked in collaboration with the Schiller DuCanto & Fleck Family Law Center at DePaul University College of Law with the project supported by grants from the Chicago Foundation for Women and the Nathan Cummings Community Foundation and that she and Jody Raphael, Senior Research Fellow at DePaul University College Law, were the authors. She said that last year there was another Authority study that she worked on addressing the commercial exploitation of children that was supported by an Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant.

She pointed out that the current study focused on how young girls are recruited into the sex trade in Chicago with the research goals to learn the strategies used; the level of coercion, control, and violence to hold women and girls in prostitution, and how dishonest recruitment tactics and coercion are employed. She said that the research showed that the strategies were not unlike those used in international human trafficking.

In addition, Ms. Ashley said the study examined where girls were active in the sex trade, and where and how far they were transported to different locations for prostitution. She said the sample was comprised of 100 young women between 16 and 25, all currently in the sex trade and all with a pimp. She explained that the interviews were conducted by two prostitution survivors and took place on the streets as well as at the Unhooked Program. She added that the program is part of the Footprint Division of the Christian Community Health Centers for first-time offenders who are charged with prostitution and sent there for one day as a diversion initiative.

Ms. Ashley directed attention to a copy of the full report that was distributed and also stated that it is on the Authority's website for complete details. She then continued to highlight some of the findings ranging from age of entry into regular involvement in the sex trade -- 33 percent entered between the ages of 12 and 15, and 56 percent entered at ages 16 or younger -- to topics such as circumstances during recruitment, early prostitution involvement, violence and coercion during recruitment.

Other areas she covered included current involvement in the sex trade as to relationships with pimps, number of customers per day, transportation to various locations to trade sex, and the viability of statements made about prostitution being a victimless crime and an attractive lifestyle

At that point, Ms. Engel asked what was meant by transportation to various locations in terms of how far away. Ms. Ashley responded that the movement could be to areas throughout the city, the Chicago suburbs or to another state. She added that there was an increase in the number of women currently trading sex in more than one geographical area from the time they were recruited.

Ms. Ashley then summarized recommendations that she and her co-author Jody Raphael developed based on the study, including the following:

Assist young women -- regard young women in the sex trade who are controlled by a pimp not as prostitutes but as domestic violence victims needing assistance, such as safe housing, treatment for drug addition and posttraumatic stress disorder, and education and job training; create alternatives to charging, sentencing and incarceration such as the Unhooked Program because a criminal justice approach that responds by arresting and punishing young women is counter-productive and inhumane.

Hold pimps and recruiters accountable – increase law enforcement efforts to prosecute the pimps who recruit and hold young girls in the sex trade industry through violence and coercion and who transport them throughout the Chicago metropolitan area and across state lines; involve community members to take responsibility to rid their neighborhoods of recruiters, traffickers, and customers; increase research to learn more about the pimps and the traffickers as well as the customers who buy sex in Chicago; seek technical assistance and resources from federal law enforcement agencies since girls are transported from Chicago to other states.

Prevention – urge communities to intervene earlier to assist young women who are sexually assaulted or otherwise abused by providing them a safe haven and a future away from coercive and violent boyfriends who are actually their pimps.

Ms. Ashley then asked for questions, with a member of the audience inquiring if there are any jurisdictions that treat prostitutes as domestic violence victims. Ms. Ashley responded that based on the other study she did on the commercial sexual exploitation of children, the law enforcement officers she interviewed indicated that they were not interested in arresting young girls, wanting to help them as best they could, so there are not that many arrests for juveniles. But she added that she did not know the situation for adults.

Ms. Engel asked if the interviewees for the current study on Domestic Sex Trafficking of Chicago Women and Girls were former prostitutes, with Ms. Ashley responding

affirmatively. Ms. Ashley continued to say that they were able to go to locations where they knew they could find women to interview, which can be dangerous because pimps are around. She related how in one case, a pimp waited all day in front of the Unhooked Program and harassed the interviewer by calling her about a hundred times.

Ms. Engel then thanked and complimented the Authority and Ms. Ashley for undertaking the study. She remarked how important it was, particularly since she thought that there is a great deal of interest in international trafficking with women being brought in from places all over the world such as Thailand and the Philippines, but not as much attention given to the women from nearby neighborhoods and communities who are coerced into the sex trade, and deserve the same compassion.

Chairman Sorosky then asked if there were any places where women or young girls could go to get rehabilitated analogous to drug rehabilitation programs or safe havens. Ms. Ashley said that there were none to her knowledge. She remarked that the Salvation Army is looking into buying a facility slightly outside the city for that purpose. She said that there is a real need for such a facility.

Ms. Engel agreed stating that safe houses in other cities of which she is aware have been highly utilized. She added that she thought to be successful, the facilities should be run by former sex workers and be nonjudgmental, which has not always been the case in some outreach efforts. She also said that such safe houses need to be kept from public exposure because there are pimps who will go to great lengths to keep their women and young girls in the sex trade. Ms. Engel stated that there are a number of incidents reported of prostitutes murdered because they want to leave. She said that it is a very dangerous occupation and urged more resources for rehabilitation programs and safe houses because they are insufficient at least in Cook County.

Mr. Murphy thanked Ms. Ashley for a wonderful presentation. In conclusion, Ms. Ashley thanked the Board and announced that members would be receiving hard copies of the new Trends and Issues 2008 and that she had the publication on CD roms with her if anyone wanted one.

Mr. Murphy then asked if there were any comments or questions concerning old or new business. With no response, he called for a motion to adjourn.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

{State's Attorney Mudge's motion to adjourn was seconded by Ms. Ellen Mandeltort and passed by unanimous voice vote.}