

MINUTES

**RE-SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING
ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY
Friday, October 10, 2014 at 8:45 a.m.
300 West Adams Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Chicago, Illinois**

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Peter Ellis welcomed Board Members and guests to the October 10th quarterly Board Meeting of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, re-scheduled from September 5, 2014. 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 Anita Alvarez
Public Defender Abishi Cunningham
Sheriff Thomas J. Dart
Director Patrick Delfino
Mr. Felix M. Gonzalez (Arrived after Roll Call)
Ms. Cynthia Hora
Director Michael Pelletier
Public Defender Randall B. Rosenbaum
Ms. Angela R. Rudolph (Arrived after Roll Call)

Because it was announced there was not a quorum and thus votes could not be taken on substantive matters, no motion was called for the approval of the July 18th Authority Board Meeting minutes, which would be carried over to the next scheduled Authority Board Meeting, December 5, 2014. At that point, Executive Director Cutrone clarified that there was a quorum for the Budget Committee Meeting that would be taking place and votes would be taken on budget matters.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Ellis then welcomed all in attendance again and asked Mr. Cutrone for a report on Authority business.

Executive Director's Remarks

Mr. Cutrone began by reporting that considerable time has been devoted to the audit of the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative (NRI) that formerly had been at the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority. He said that the hearings being conducted apparently closed, at least as far as the calling of witnesses. But he noted that additional documentation was going to be sought, with House Resolution 888 calling for an audit of the Authority's handling of the successor funding used for its Community Violence Prevention Program (CVPP). That audit he said probably will not be completed until next summer.

Mr. Cutrone continued to say that a series of meetings are being held internally trying to identify potential issues with the Authority's administering that money and staff are working very diligently looking at adjustments where necessary. He said that some will result in more expedited grant processing and hopefully will provide much more information from potential grantees for possible grant designations in advance of Budget Committee Meetings.

Next, Mr. Cutrone reported that ICJIA received a grant in the amount of \$250,000 from the FFY14 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program referred to as the Vision 21: Building State Technology Capacity Project to redesign and upgrade ICJIA's InfoNet database. He explained that it is administered by ICJIA to allow victim service programs throughout the state to report on the services provided to the individuals they have served and is overseen by Research Analyst Jennifer Hiselman. He added that Ms. Hiselman has been advocating for improvements for a long time with which he agreed, but were not possible because of the state budget and other constraints, so this was a very welcome development.

Mr. Cutrone then mentioned another project as part of the revision of the grant process, ICJIA's grant monitoring system. He said that it originally was obtained from the State of Pennsylvania, developed using federal funds and therefore was made available to ICJIA without cost. He went on to say that the system has been used for a long time, with some adjustments and changes but that now the Authority was about to enter an inter-governmental agreement to receive the updated version of the system from Pennsylvania. He noted that it will be web-based and will allow for much more flexibility. He explained that reports will be received from grantees electronically, speeding up the process and creating greater accountability and transparency, which he thought was very positive. He then concluded his remarks.

Chairman Ellis thanked him and reported that Board Members Ms. Angela Rudolph and Mr. Felix Gonzalez had arrived. He then announced that the Budget Committee Meeting portion of the Board Meeting would be taking place and appointed all Board Members present, Members of the Budget Committee as a whole.

Budget Committee Meeting

(Please See Attached Minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting)

Upon adjournment of the Budget Committee Meeting, Chairman Ellis called upon D. Lorenzo Padron, Chief Financial Officer.

Fiscal Report by D. Lorenzo Padron, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Padron announced he would be reporting the Office of Fiscal Management's (OFM) performance for the first quarter of FY15 and called attention to handouts including the quarterly federal financial status reports for 30 federal grants, the cost center reports for agency operations and federal and state grants cost centers, along with the Business Enterprise Program Annual Plan for FY15.

He went on to say that OFM conducted preliminary budget reviews for approximately 250 interagency agreements, and processed 72 contract obligation documents for a value exceeding \$23 million and 252 vouchers for a value of \$11,725,000. Noting other fiscal activities, Mr. Padron indicated that OFM wrote and implemented the Authority's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133 Single Audit Report Policy and Procedures, which, in a field visit by outside auditors from the U. S. Department of Justice, were found to be in full compliance with OMB's requirements. He added that a letter from the U.S Department of Justice also was received approving all previous past audits. He then announced the hiring of an internal auditor and an accounting manager and outlined other completed OFM activities.

Moving on, he called attention to the activities representing utilization of grant funds, explaining that Exhibit 1 represents the General Revenue Operations Fund and is a correlation between the budget appropriation and the expenditures up to September, 30. He stated that during that period 20 percent of the \$1.7 million that had been appropriated has been spent or obligated. He also noted that two lines – Personal Services and FICA – are equivalent to 73 and 74 percent of the total appropriation for FY15. Next he explained that Exhibit 2 represented the Awards and Grants and established the same correlation: all the funds appropriated in relationship to the expenditures up to September 30.

Turning to the first graph, he mentioned that it covers the Criminal Justice Trust Fund of which \$9.6 million or 15 percent of the total appropriation of \$65 million has been expended and or obligated. Next Mr. Padron pointed out that the second graph represented the General Revenue Matching Funds and Other Funds with a total budget appropriation of \$14.6 million of which 20 percent or \$2.8 million has been expended or obligated.

He said that the last graph is an aggregate of all the funds appropriated which shows the total budget appropriations of \$116 million with about \$23.9 million or 21 percent already spent or obligated during the first quarter. He then reviewed the last page reflecting activity of the federal funds that the Authority has received and the remaining

awards of the federal grants to be managed for the fiscal year. In closing, Mr. Padron noted that the average expenditure or obligated amount for the first quarter of FY15 was around 20 percent of the total appropriated amounts. He then asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Chairman Ellis thanked Mr. Padron and announced a presentation by Susannah Huber, Crime Analyst of the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, regarding Lake County criminal analysis of gangs.

Presentation on Lake County Criminal Analysis of Gangs by Susannah Huber, Crime Analyst, Lake County State's Attorney's Office

At that point, in addition to Ms. Huber, Mr. Cutrone introduced Michael Nerheim, Lake County State's Attorney, who thanked the Authority Board for supporting Ms. Huber's position. Ms. Huber began with an overview of Lake County, stating that the County Seat is Waukegan where her position is housed as part of the Gang and Narcotics Unit of the State's Attorney's office.

She noted that she uses resources funded by the Authority as well as those that are free in order to collate data and described the steps of criminal analysis through intelligence, referred to as "The Intelligence Cycle." She pointed out that intelligence is used in law enforcement at the federal, state and local levels as well as through the military explaining that there are 72 fusion centers in the United States, with analysts covering entire states. She said that Illinois has two, with one in Springfield through the Illinois State Police that is a call center operating 24/7 as well as one through the Chicago Police Department.

She described the kinds of information they make available, explaining that her role is different in terms of being able to provide more close-up views of gang activities and actionable intelligence. She said this was because of her access to the kind of local data and contacts within the 40 local police departments in the State's Attorney's jurisdiction. She then discussed the importance of having her position and this information in the State's Attorney's office. She explained that it provided a neutral place that did not interfere with the autonomy that police chiefs must have within their jurisdictional boundaries and has helped build trust that the data can be properly managed and kept sensitive.

Ms. Huber next moved on to describe how her position complements state, federal and other data. She gave a brief synopsis of how the project began in 2008 with the intention to reduce gang activities. She reviewed prior funding through Project Safe Neighborhoods. Noting a funding gap in 2009, she said that the Lake County police chiefs and the State's Attorney felt that because this activity did have positive results, they wanted to have the position back and through an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant in 2011, it was restarted. Ms. Huber then detailed the project's accomplishments and goals, and called on State's Attorney Nerheim to talk about its future.

Among other plans, he discussed work to utilize the state RICO statute and cited an upcoming case, noting excellent cooperation from State's Attorney Alvarez and her office in helping prepare for it. He also referred to the formation of a county-wide law enforcement gang division with which Ms. Huber would share her intelligence. He then complimented Ms. Huber on her efforts, thanked the Authority for supporting them, and called attention to letters from police departments throughout Lake County, Kenosha and Zion as well as from federal agencies recognizing Ms. Huber for her services and their impact.

Ms. Huber thanked State's Attorney Nerheim and continued to outline future directions. A discussion then ensued addressing various issues including whether disproportionate minority contact can result from the information gathered, what types of crimes are reported and the process for purging information collected. In conclusion, Ms. Huber asked if there were other questions. Hearing none, she and State's Attorney Nerheim thanked the Board for inviting them.

Chairman Ellis then asked if there were any old or new business. At that point, the attendee identifying herself as Queen Sister who commented during the Budget Committee Meeting started speaking about the high rate of killings in her community, referring to the situation as "a flood of black blood." She said she came to the meeting "...to see and put some names with some faces so we can cast names and cast blames because you all who are sitting here as authority figures in the city have to take responsibility for what's taking place in this city, and I need to see who's responsible for this flood of black blood, people."

Queen Sister went on to cite statistics about the greater loss of black life in the city compared to Hispanics and whites and said to the Board, "If for some reason you feel that you can no longer play the part and occupy the title you hold, then maybe you need to get out and go someplace else and find something else to occupy your time."

After she made other comments, Chairman Ellis thanked her. She continued to speak and said, "Don't be an insult to your ancestors because you play a great part in what takes place in this room, brother. And you represent the thugs, the thugs in these streets. Every brother in the hood is not a gangster, you understand? But we know that this flood of blood, whether I sugarcoat it or honey dip it, a turd is still a turd, and this big pile of manure is creating one turd at a time. And what I'm saying to you, brother, is don't continue to be a turd on this pile of manure and don't be an insult to your ancestors."

The other attendee who was with Queen Sister and also commented during the Budget Committee Meeting indicated he wanted to speak and Chairman Ellis asked him to identify himself since this was a different meeting. He said he was George Blakemore. He referred to a variety of issues including the previous presentation on criminal analysis of gangs saying, "Somebody said something about gangbangers and crime. That young lady made a presentation and data about information on these so called gang members and the federal government. We all know the history of the federal government when it comes to people of color; from slavery, before slavery, to the present..." He continued

to speak, mentioning the relationship that immigration has with drug related crime saying that "...they're just not local gangbangers from the south side, west side, or even our white community. They're coming in Asian also, and they're all not coming in these borders. Some of them are flying in on these airplanes on visas." He then cautioned, "If you really want to do something about crime, drugs, and what's going on ...go back to that federal government giving you that grant. They can help you by enforcing their immigration laws."

Addressing other subjects, Mr. Blakemore said, "... I'm looking around in this room. I'm embarrassed with these colored folks, African-Americans, Negroes, or whatever name they go by. They should be here. They should be here because look at the statistics. Who do you have and you target, what is the race?"

Turning to the subject of who received grants, he questioned how many blacks, and stated, "Well, blacks seem like they should get the lion's share because most of them they say doing most of the crime and are in these concentration camps and jails and prisons. They're being hood winked. Hood winked by the system."

He went on to say, "The federal, state, county, and local, all of them are in it together. And I'm asking you, Sir, do we have a quorum here? You call names of the police chief and all of that. Is this a legal meeting now that I'm talking to you?" After questioning the legality of the meeting, saying that some Board Members left, Mr. Blakemore then mentioned other issues saying that the leadership is silent on the subject of naturalization and the negative effect that it has on the black community.

He said, "When it comes to crime, drugs, they bring them in. These illegals are undocumented or whatever name they go by, and then it's horrible what has happened to us and what is still happening."

After mentioning some related issues, Mr. Blakemore remarked, "I'm saddened by these colored folks not being here, African-American, Negro, black or whatever name they go by. They sit in the community and talk about all the illegals coming over here. Get up and come to these meetings and let them know. We want this stopped."

He then thanked Chairman Ellis, who said he appreciated some of the points raised especially with respect to the complexity of the issues and the need to collaborate. Mr. Blakemore then returned to questioning whether the meeting was legal not having a quorum and said, "...So this is really not a legal meeting. This is just a study group. Thank you so much, Sir, for allowing us to have this study group."

Chairman Ellis then asked if there were any other new business. Hearing only from Queen Sister saying that she would be back, Chairman Ellis thanked all for their participation. He said he looked forward to seeing everyone at the next Board Meeting, December 5, 2014 and called for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

{Mr. Felix Gonzalez moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Cynthia Hora seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous voice vote.}