

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH A BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE

December 8, 2006
120 S. Riverside Plaza, 21st Floor
Chicago, Illinois

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Sorosky 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 the Chairman, other Authority members in attendance were:

Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court
Phillip Cline, Superintendent Chicago Police Department
Mr. Brad Demuzio
Hon. Richard Devine, Cook County State's Attorney
Ms. Barbara Engel
Norbert Goetten, State Appellate Prosecutor
Theodore Gottfried, State Appellate Defender
Mr. John Toscas
Larry Trent, Director, Illinois State Police
Roger Walker, Director

Approval of the Minutes of the June 2, 2006 Authority Meeting

{Mr. Toscas made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 2006 with a correction to indicate accurately those Board members who were present at the meeting. Director Gottfried seconded the motion which was passed by unanimous voice vote.}

Executive Director's Remarks

Chairman Sorosky called upon Executive Director Levin to present her report.

Director Levin discussed the rebuilding process at the Authority and informed the Board that a candidate had been identified to become Associate Director of the Research and Analysis Unit. Director Levin complimented the R&A staff for their fine efforts in operating without supervisors in the R&A Unit. The Director noted that John Chojnacki had been serving as acting supervisor, but when he went on medical leave, the Director assumed that function. The Director also noted that Tracy Hahn, a former supervisor,

and Becky Block were providing supervision within the unit.

The Director highlighted some of the work done by R&A and specifically mentioned Kim Burke who had an idea to revamp the Trends & Issues, an occasional publication of the Authority.

The Director discussed some on-going Authority projects. In continuing the Authority evaluation and research efforts, the Authority is working in collaboration with DePaul University in studying re-integration of gang offenders into the community. The Authority continues to work on the Going-Home Program evaluation. Among Authority datasets that are being studied by outside researchers are the victim survey data, the probation outcome study, sexual abuse data and Infonet data. Other studies in progress are the nature of victimization and utilization resources, violent crimes and victim gender, the correlation between methamphetamine use and domestic violence, victim characteristics and incidence of reporting of crimes of violence to the police, an evaluation of the Safe Havens Domestic Violence program. The Safe Havens program was the result of a Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange grant and the Violence Against Women Act of 2000.

The Director had been hopeful of being able to present some data from the Needs Assessment Survey, but that is still being worked on, although some of the data was used in the Violence Against Women Plan which was part of the materials for the meeting. The Director hoped that a presentation of the results of the survey might be made at the next Authority Board meeting.

The Director advised that the Authority is continuing with the evaluation of the Sheridan Prison, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Corrections and Loyola University. Other efforts include work in our CHRI Audit Center, an update of the Chicago Homicide dataset and the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study.

The Director also lauded Authority staff member Becky Block for her co-authorship of "Intimate Partner Older Women Homicide" submitted to the Women's Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect and her authorship of an article accepted for publication for the May, 2007 issue of the Journal of Women's Health and Urban Life.

Director Levin also complimented the efforts of staff members Jessica Ashley and Kim Burke on Balanced and Restorative Justice. The Authority has published seven BARJ guides for various elements of the justice community, has sponsored training workshops and provided materials for a recent Illinois State Bar Association BARJ seminar.

The Authority also is working on an assessment of prior victimization among adult female inmates of the Illinois Department of Corrections. All women entering the Department of Corrections through Dwight Correctional Center answer questions about prior victimization. A second aspect of the study will be a survey to determine whether women who had been victims accessed services. The Director noted that current data indicates that while a small percentage of female victims become offenders, a very high

percentage of female inmates had been victimized themselves.

Director Levin announced that staff member Ernst Melchior would be presenting regarding the Authority's methamphetamine database project.

The Director also stated that although the police information systems have been spun off to the Illinois Public Safety Agency Network, the Authority will continue to maintain Infonet and CLARIS, the methamphetamine database. Director Levin announced that Chris Scweda, who had been the Authority's webmaster, is heading up the revamped Information Systems Unit.

With respect to IIJIS, efforts continue of the IIJIS Summit, including those of Clerk Brown, vice-chair of the Outreach Committee and Public Defender Ed Burnett, chair of the funding committee. The IIJIS Board is expected to meet after the first of the year and be presented with some of the work on privacy policy done by Wil Nagel and Bob Boehmer.

The Director reported that the handout on Victim of Crime Act priorities is the result of three meetings of an ad hoc group of various elements of the criminal justice and victim services systems. The group was chaired by Clerk Jansen and vice-chaired by Ellen Mandeltort. The first two days of meetings dealt with the Violence Against Women Act plan and reexamined priorities and revised priorities where necessary. Under the Violence Against Women Act, Illinois was required to produce a plan in order to maintain VAWA funding. If the Board approves the two plans, the Budget Committee and staff will have guidance as to how VAWA and VOCA grant funds should be spent. The Director also noted that VAWA and VOCA funding have stayed at about the same levels while JAG, BYRNE, JAIBAG, RSAT and VOI/TIS have been cut or are ending.

Among priorities that were set or maintained were training, accountability, data collection, services. The committee also researched the original goals and objectives and revised those as necessary.

Ms. Engel spoke to emphasize that with respect to the goal of increasing salaries, none of the programs have received salary increases for a number of years.

Director Levin directed everyone's attention to the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Plan, compiled by staff member Maureen Brennan from notes of the meetings. Although there may be some editing of the plan, it sets out the recommendations of the ad hoc committee. The plan denotes four objectives for the next three federal fiscal years: expansion of services and the opening of satellite service provider offices in one or more counties; development and implementation of a plan to train police, prosecutors, judges, clerks, probation officers, victim service providers and health care providers; to assess and document the ways in which criminal justice practitioners respond to sexual assault and domestic violence to promote communication amongst criminal justice providers; and to enable the implementation of multidisciplinary teams including the adoption of state and national protocols.

In that context, Director Levin noted that the Authority has revised its domestic violence protocol and is in the process of sending it out for statewide comment.

{Ms. Engel made a motion to adopt the recommendations with respect to the Victims of Crime Act. The motion was seconded by Director Walker. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Engel also made a motion to adopt the Illinois multi-year S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Toscas and passed by unanimous voice vote.}

Director Levin advised the Board that a grantee would be making a presentation at a Board meeting for the first time and that it was hoped that a grantee presentation would be a regular part of the Board's quarterly meetings.

Chairman Sorosky introduced Leslie Landis, the Director of the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence for the City of Chicago.

Ms. Landis opened by explaining the CJIA has supported the city's Domestic Help Line for a number of years. The Help Line is an essential part of the network of service providers in the metropolitan area. The Help Line was evaluated pursuant to a grant by the National Institute of Justice in 2004 and was found to be a highly successful model for coordinating services to victims of domestic violence. The Help Line began in 1998 as a result of Authority funding and has continued with Authority grants and City of Chicago corporate funds. This toll-free, multilingual Help Line operates 24 hours per day and 365 days per year. The Help Line receives an average of 2,000 call per month.

The purpose of the Help Line is to inform victims of the options available to them and to move them and connect them with service providers, many of which, as Ms. Landis noted, are funded by the Authority. In addition to the valuable service of connecting victims with service providers, the Help Line also allows for the tracking of a great deal of statistical information. Ms. Landis explained that the Chicago Police Department is the single greatest referral source for the Help Line. The domestic violence service community, other health care workers and prosecutors also use the Help Line to link victims with other needed services.

At Ms. Engel's suggestion, Ms. Landis also explained how the Help Line links victims with service providers. The Help Line does more than just provide a number or other information to victims. The Help Line staff helps determine the individuals's needs and is able to suggest referrals. With the assistance of interpreters of 140 different languages, if needed, the Help Line places a three-party call to the service provider while the victim is still on the telephone. This has removed the frustrating experience for victims of having to call program after program in order to find a provider for the needed service. In order to accomplish this, the Help Line maintains a database of all service providers in metropolitan area.

During the evaluation process, approximately 400 victims were interviewed and they universally said that the Help Line had been useful. Even where immediate linkage to a service provider was not necessary, the interaction with the Help Line staff and obtaining information was empowering and helped them cut back on their isolation and assisted them in being able to make decisions. Ms. Landis also provided two examples of cases in which the Help Line was called on for assistance.

Ms. Engel observed that the City's Help Line was being looked at by other municipalities in Illinois and in other states as an extraordinarily well-designed model.

Chairman Sorosky noted that one of Governor Blagojevich's priorities has been the fight against methamphetamine, and the Chairman introduced another presenter for the meeting, Ernest Melchior, a CJIA staff member who has been working on an on-line database to allow for the reporting of clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizures.

Mr. Melchior explained that he is a programmer in the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit and that he and Ding Hai Liu from the Authority's Information Systems Unit had been working on the project together. Mr. Melchior's Power Point presentation simulated what a user of the system, known as CLARIS, would experience in going into the database to enter data about a laboratory seizure. Mr. Melchior also noted that the Authority was able to make improvements based on user suggestions. CLARIS allows the user to submit information about the location where the seizure was made, the suspects who were encountered and the chemicals, if any, that were found. Mr. Melchior also demonstrated how the CLARIS system assists the officer in entering the data by preventing the entry of inappropriate data while explaining why the data is not appropriate, thus giving the officer a chance to correct the entry. In designing the system, Mr. Melchior and Mr. Hai tried to be both reasonable and flexible for ease of use. The database is designed so that for various questions, only if a particular item is entered will the user be asked additional questions about that item by means of drop-down boxes. If the answer to the question indicates that the additional information is not appropriate, then the user will not even see the drop-down boxes. The process is thus simplified.

Mr. Melchior also related that he had been permitted to attend a training session for meth lab responders conducted by the Attorney General's Office so that he could see and hear their concerns as they are in the process of seizing a lab. He also stated that the design strategy has been that if the officer might possibly need to enter information, the database allows them to do that.

Chairman Sorosky then called up Fred Trick acting CFO, to present fiscal information.

Mr. Trick directed the Board Members' attention to written materials which had been distributed, and noted that the Authority's expenditures are well under the appropriation due to some staff vacancies not having been filled as of yet. Mr. Trick reminded all of the Director's statements that OMB indicated that permission would be given to fill some of the vacancies in a short time. The fiscal staff will, of course, monitor expenses under

the General Revenue Fund as the year progresses. Mr. Trick further noted that because of the transfer of the police information systems to IPSAN, the only costs are those that will be passed along to IPSAN under an agreement including for rent and telecommunications charges. The Authority will bill IPSAN for those and expects that that IPSAN's Board will pay those costs.

Mr. Trick next directed the members' attention to another portion of the written materials dealing with federal funding sources. Mr. Trick noted that the Authority was right on target for the first quarter. Mr. Trick also pointed to the state matching funds that are required for the federal grants and noted that that figure is also on target. As to an item listed as miscellaneous, Mr. Trick indicated that is for the expenses of the Capital Punishment Reform Study Commission, the expenses for which are monitored by the Authority. As to the criminal justice information project fund with an appropriation of \$400,000, Mr. Trick related that funds have not yet begun to flow. Mr. Trick noted that the juvenile accountability block grant was in the amount of \$12,540,000 but that next fiscal year's figure will be lower.

Chairman Sorosky recognized John Stroger, now retired from the Authority Board, as a friend, a colleague and a credit to county government.

{The Chairman sought a motion to adjourn, which motion was made by Mr. Toscas, seconded by Mr. Goetten and passed by unanimous voice vote.}