

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

December 5, 2008, 9:10 a.m.

300 West Adams Street
Chicago, Illinois

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Sheldon 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 Chairman Sorosky, other Authority Members in attendance were:

State's Attorney Anita Alvarez
Chief David Bradford
Clerk Dorothy Brown
Sheriff Thomas Dart
Ms. Barbara Engel
Ms. Cynthia Hora
Mr. Eugene E. Murphy, Jr.
Director Michael J. Pelletier
Ms. Mariyana Spyropoulos
Mr. John Z. Toscas
Director Larry G. Trent

Approval of Minutes of September 5, 2008 Regular Meeting

With a quorum in place, Chairman Sorosky asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the last Authority Meeting.

{Mr. Toscas moved that the minutes of the September 5, 2008 Authority Meeting be adopted. Ms. Spyropoulos seconded the motion and it was adopted by unanimous voice vote.}

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Sorosky welcomed Board Members, particularly new Board Members State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, and the Attorney General's Designee Cynthia Hora. He added that Ellen Mandeltort, Ms. Hora's predecessor, became a judge, and recalled knowing her and State's Attorney Alvarez when they were young lawyers. He then asked that resolutions of commendation for Richard Devine, Norbert Goetten and Ellen Mandeltort as outgoing Board Members be approved.

{Mr. Toscas moved that the resolutions be adopted, with Ms. Engel seconding the motion, which was approved unanimously by voice vote.}

Executive Director's Remarks

Chairman Sorosky then called upon Executive Director Lori G. Levin for her remarks. Ms. Levin stated that she has been in her position for five years and that as in the past, rather than repeat items in the Board materials, she would highlight some issues.

She said that although she has mentioned the return of Ted Miller previously, on a personal basis she wanted to say once more how happy she was that he is in good health and able to rejoin the Authority again as the Authority's Chief Fiscal Officer. Director Levin remarked that while the budget process can be challenging, and it is unknown exactly what is going to happen with the Authority's General Revenue, the budget preparation has been the easiest in a number of years with Mr. Miller's assistance. She welcomed Mr. Miller back and thanked him.

Director Levin then discussed several other personnel matters. She reported that Brian Brosnan, the Authority's Associate Director for Human Resources, left to enter private industry. She said that some candidates have been interviewed, with an individual close to being selected and that she hopes the position will be filled the beginning of the new year. Next, she mentioned that Kim Burke, who played a major role in the preparation of the 2008 Trends and Issues publication, is going on leave to do student teaching. She said that Ms. Burke will be missed and that it is hoped she will return as one of the Authority's juvenile justice staff.

Lastly, Director Levin again commended Ron Litwin for his outstanding work as Acting Chief Fiscal Officer, actually performing three jobs for over a year and a half. She said she wanted the Board to know that to recognize his significant contributions, Mr. Litwin was selected the Authority's Employee of the Year. Director Levin explained that normally employees are given awards quarterly, but because the Authority could not have managed without him, Mr. Litwin was selected for the year to show the Authority's appreciation.

Next, the Director gave a short funding history. She reiterated that in the past the Authority's budget had been over a hundred million dollars. She added that as reported at the last several board meetings, the federal funding situation has been grim but that there is hope with the new administration, it will be somewhat better. The Director then recapped the Justice Assistance Grants. She referred to the Byrne JAG funds or what were the Byrne anti-drug abuse funds that the Authority administered four or five years ago that totaled over \$20 million. She said the money went down to \$14.4 million, then to \$8.5 million, and the Authority was able to limit grantee cuts to 25 percent because of always operating in arrears. She added that the amount increased to \$12.4 million, leaving the Authority with some cushion.

She remarked that the Authority staff does not ask the Board to designate all of the grant money received in order to cover possible reductions such as the two-thirds cut in Byrne funds last year. She explained that essentially Congress had passed out an increase from \$550 million nationally, with the Senate voting \$660 million without earmarks, and the House voting \$600 million. The Director stated that the budget passed out at \$174 million for Byrne, after President Bush threatened a government shut down if Congress did not make certain cuts. She added that this amount translated into a little less than \$4 million for the Authority, but with the help of Domingo Herraiz, Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Authority received \$4.3 million.

She stated that no cuts were anticipated due to the Authority's budgeting in arrears, but funds were decreasing because the Authority was basically still operating under the \$8.5 million. Director Levin added that only \$1 million of the extra \$4 million was used to compensate for cuts in the victim assistance programs; thus, again no major reductions were anticipated.

She then reported that through the National Criminal Justice Association there has been extensive lobbying to restore Byrne funding, along with letters that Board Members and she have written to the Illinois congressional delegation; however, with no success. But noting some good news, she said that the restoration of Byrne funding is now being considered in the stimulus bill and that President-Elect Obama's transition team is very familiar with Byrne JAG. She recounted a positive conversation she had recently with former Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson, who had been in charge of the Office of Justice Programs and is part of the transition team. Director Levin remarked that when she was in law school in Washington, D.C., she met Ms. Robinson and has maintained contact with her ever since.

She stated that Ms. Robinson reached out to Elizabeth Pyke, the lobbyist for the National Criminal Justice Association, to discuss issues related to Byrne JAG. The Director also recounted a conversation she had with another individual working very closely with the President-Elect on criminal justice issues. She said the person was very interested in learning more about the decline in JAG funds from \$20 million to \$4.3, as well as the VOCA situation, and that information was being sent to him.

She added that VAWA is also an issue, but noted that since Vice-President Elect Biden wrote the Violence Against Women Act, she felt he would promote that cause. She stated that Ms. Robinson, who was less conversant about VOCA, recommended that the Authority provide some documentation on that topic. With respect to JAG funding, the Director pointed out that in Illinois it is used not only for law enforcement efforts as in other states, but also to support initiatives such as reentry projects, the Authority's research unit that addresses disproportionate minority contact, and juvenile justice programs.

She also related that at one point the Authority hoped to use Byrne JAG money for the Safety Net Works juvenile justice crime prevention program. Thus, she suggested that JAG Byrne be presented to the President-Elect as a model illustrating that Byrne JAG funding is not only crucial to law enforcement but also crucial for general criminal justice purposes, making it more broad-based. The Director stated that she is cautiously optimistic and continued to say that she will be getting in touch with as many contacts as possible who are familiar with the Authority and who know her.

After asking for questions or other ideas, the Director moved on. She reported that the Authority is in the process of planning for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds and said that she will be consulting with the Chair about providing more funding in that regard. In addition, she indicated that InfoNet, the Authority's victims' assistance information system, which tracks services for many of the domestic violence agencies, children's advocacy centers, and sexual assault programs, as well as for DHS, is exploring whether service can be expanded to serve other states because it is considered a model for the nation. She said that a feasibility study is underway to make that determination.

With respect to research, she again mentioned the Safety Net Works initiative. She explained it basically includes sites throughout the state where the governor is allocating resources for juvenile crime prevention programs, primarily in the Cook County area, with one in Rockford and one downstate. The Director then mentioned Go To 2040, another of the Authority's major efforts, which represents the public safety planning by Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and the Chicago Community Trust for the seven county northeastern Illinois area. She stated that there would be a presentation later and that the Board's input and ideas will be solicited.

The Director next covered several other upcoming activities including updates to Trends and Issues, a survey by the Illinois Integrated Justice Information System on information needs, and the next phase of addressing IIJIS privacy policy. She said that she will be meeting with State's Attorney Alvarez, and perhaps Sheriff Dart along with other individuals to help move IIJIS forward next year.

In conclusion, she asked if anyone had questions. With no response, Chairman Sorosky thanked her and introduced Eugene E. Murphy, Jr., Chairman of the Authority's Budget Committee for his report.

Budget Committee Report by Eugene E. Murphy Jr., Chairman

Mr. Murphy thanked Chairman Sorosky and said that he was happy and proud to report that the Authority has had unprecedented participation in its budget proceedings this year. He reiterated that about two years ago, all agreed to not just hold quarterly or semiannual Budget committee meetings, but to have them throughout the year. He said the Authority had the most number of meetings in the Authority's history this year. Mr. Murphy commented that by doing so, the Authority was able to get ahead of issues such as

funding cuts and address how to deal with them rather than react. He said that the Authority's mantra, doing more with less, was met.

He also reported that the Authority has had an historically unprecedented low amount of lapsed funds. He attributed this situation in large measure to the oversight of grantees by the Authority Director and her staff to hold these entities accountable. He said that the Director and her staff have been very effective in basically educating groups who are participating in Authority programs to keep current and to be responsible for the funds that they have received.

Mr. Murphy continued to say that while the newly-elected President is from Illinois, nothing should be taken for granted with respect to federal and state money and that competition for funds will still be a factor. He then indicated that, unless there were objections, he would like to continue having frequent meetings to keep aware of issues and avoid problems before they occur. Mr. Murphy concluded by stating that he thinks being flexible and having more meetings has been profitable for the Authority because it has lost less and gained more than any other similar group in Illinois.

Chairman Sorosky thanked Mr. Murphy and asked for any questions or comments. With no response, the Chairman called on Ted Miller for a fiscal report, and said that he echoed Director Levin's comments that the Authority was truly grateful for Mr. Miller's return.

Fiscal Report by Ted Miller, Chief Fiscal Officer

Saying that it was a pleasure to be back at the Authority, Mr. Miller remarked that as Budget Director for the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority for several years, he encountered different challenges and hoped that he could bring some of what he learned back to the Authority. He called attention to Exhibit 1 and 2 in the Board materials. Under Exhibit 1, he referred to General Revenue Fund operations and said that the Authority spent 15 percent of its appropriations so far mostly in salaries, retirement, and FICA expenditures. He added that historically the Authority does not start spending its General Revenue money in commodities, EDP and other items until the second or third quarter of the year.

He then moved to Exhibit 2. Covering the Criminal Justice Trust Fund, he stated that to date, 21 percent was spent to administer funds for the Authority and pay its grantees. Mr. Miller said this amount was basically in line with past expenditures at this point. Next, he discussed the General Revenue Matching Funds. He explained that 34 percent was spent because OMB had a problem with the line item last year, which the Authority corrected and had to spend some money to make up for the problem for a number of grants.

Addressing the Criminal Justice Information Projects Fund, he said no expenditures have been made at this point, and while there may be some spending later in the year, that was not anticipated. The last item he detailed was the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block

Grant Fund stating that only 9 percent was spent thus far, but that amount would increase as the year moves ahead.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Miller reported that when he returned to the Authority, OMB requested a FY10 budget. He continued to say that OMB generally in October gives parameters for insurance, for retirement and for cuts. He said OMB's cut in General Revenue funds, like it has been every year, is 3 percent, which he indicated should not be a problem. Mr. Miller then explained the budget preparation process. He said the Authority budget, broken down by line item, is put on the on-line system to OMB, which prepares a budget bill.

He stated that in February or March, the Authority will testify at budget hearings and whenever the bill passes in April, May, June or July, the Authority will learn its budget amount. Mr. Miller mentioned that at this time, no problems are anticipated; however, he added that things can happen in Springfield that are completely out of the Authority's control, but hopefully the Authority will not experience difficulties.

Mr. Miller asked for questions or comments. Not receiving any, Chairman Sorosky thanked him for his remarks and then called on Mark Myrent for a presentation on the Go To 2040 Project.

Presentation by Mark Myrent, Dr. Dennis Rosenbaum of University of Illinois at Chicago and Dr. James Lewis of Chicago Community Trust on the Go To 2040 Project

Mark Myrent introduced the long-range planning project called Go To 2040. He explained that it is co-sponsored by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and the Chicago Community Trust, targeting the seven county region surrounding Chicago: Cook County, the collar counties and Kendall County. He further explained that the Authority is partnering with the University of Illinois at Chicago to serve as the lead agency for the area of public safety, with parallel groups addressing other domains of public life, such as public health, transportation and food supply.

Mr. Myrent then called upon Dr. James Lewis, senior program officer for the Chicago Community Trust, for a more detailed overview of the project. Dr. Lewis stated that three years ago the Chicago Area Transportation Study and the Northeast Planning Commission were joined by state legislation into a single planning body, called the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), for the seven-county region. He said that one of its charges is to create a strategic 30-year plan for the Chicago area, which is to be put before the CMAP board in 2010. Dr. Lewis added that CMAP by its charter has designated committees that have various levels of oversight around transportation, the environment, economic development, and housing and also was charged with developing a regional indicator system, or data warehouse, to track progress toward the 30-year goals.

Dr. Lewis went on to say that the Chicago Community Trust also was interested in developing a regional indicator system. He said that since other areas were not precluded from consideration in this long-range planning initiative, the Trust approached CMAP about collaborating and adding human services topics to the discussion. Dr. Lewis remarked that subsequently planning groups working in the fields of education, health, community or human relations, arts and culture, hunger and public safety were created. He said a core agency has been commissioned in each of those areas to produce a planning document that essentially will include needs assessments for the fields, sets of goals for the future, and strategies for how the goals can actually be implemented.

Further, he said that administrative changes that might have to be made, agencies that might have to act, and everything else that would be required to carry out the plan also would be addressed. Dr. Lewis then stated that a strategic plan that incorporates all the topic areas will be adopted by the CMAP Board, becoming its official plan. He said it also would be a roadmap for how the Trust will decide on future grants, which may become a model for other foundations.

At this point Mr. Myrent explained that an Advisory Council for Crime and Justice, representing different interests and expertise in criminal justice, had assembled on October 3, 2008 to begin discussing emerging issues in the field. He then presented a PowerPoint presentation about current demographic and crime trends in the region, along with future demographic projections and possible issues that will affect the region by the year 2040. Next, he asked Dr. Dennis Rosenbaum to facilitate a discussion with the Authority Board members and gather further input into the planning process.

Dr. Rosenbaum introduced himself as a professor of criminal justice, criminology, and psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the Director of Research for Law and Justice. He asked the Board members to think beyond money and time constraints, beyond local politics, to look ahead to a safer society in 2040. He said this would include two general areas: one, the criminal justice system and what needs to be done to achieve a better administration of justice, especially in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and equity; the other, thinking 30 years ahead in terms of crime prevention.

Cynthia Hora stated that she would like to see victims addressed more in the process and that they be recognized as part of the criminal justice system. She added that the competing social needs of victims and offenders should be considered as well as the enforcement of victims' rights, making sure that they are treated with fairness, dignity and respect and that their constitutional statutory rights are honored.

Chairman Sorosky remarked that one of the problems with victims' rights is that historically there has been no institutionalized system to assert them. He continued to say that the Attorney General's Office is working diligently to try to institutionalize victims' rights, and that perhaps the Authority could become involved in formulating some type of established system whereby such action can be taken.

Ms. Hora stated she previously worked for the Alaska Office of Victims' Rights where attorneys could go into criminal court and assert the victim's rights alongside the prosecutor and defense and that there are other models around the country.

Ms. Engel then commented that in Illinois there has been victims' advocacy for the past 30 years regarding sexual assault, domestic violence, and more recently child advocacy, but that such activity is not as formalized and has not been funded commensurate with the need, adding that the Authority's original funding empowered such efforts. Ms. Engel reiterated the need to ensure that victims have a chance for visibility and justice in the system, especially as emphasized within the philosophy of Balanced and Restorative Justice in the juvenile justice system.

Ms. Engel continued to say that community-based alternatives to the formal criminal justice system for young people should be developed, both holding them accountable and also supporting their growth, to prevent a future path into prison. She stated that there is considerable interest both in Illinois and internationally regarding this approach. She also questioned whether creating a stronger and more representative criminal justice system was the only answer and stated that the Advisory Committee ought to be thinking about issues that are vastly different than just creating a better integrated system.

In agreement, Director Levin related how the participants in discussions at the first 2040 meeting reflected thinking in nontraditional terms and encouraged the Board members to "think outside the box" in this discussion.

Clerk Brown stated that she was thinking along the lines of Ms. Engel, but perhaps even further to develop systems in the community that might prevent people from committing crimes in the first place, including looking at the educational system, and other underpinnings. She added that the criminal justice system needs to be more connected to other spheres, such as mental health issues that may cause people to commit crimes. She suggested that effecting change elsewhere may have a positive impact on the criminal justice system.

The ensuing discussion included Director Trent mentioning the expanding role of technology in law enforcement, and Dr. Rosenbaum in agreement, adding that the use of increased surveillance needs to be balanced with privacy concerns.

Ms. Engel then stated that the group should look at findings of reputable studies that address creating safety in communities, and supporting ways for communities to be accountable to one another rather than relying on law enforcement to act as the disciplinarian. She suggested that not enough attention is being paid to certain bases of knowledge because of the way the criminal justice system is currently structured, which does not necessarily include an understanding of determinants to criminal behavior. Mr. Myrent remarked that the theme of community engagement has been brought up in the course of the Go To 2040 project, and requested assistance from the group to make staff aware of successful community engagement initiatives.

Ms. Engel then said that more work is needed to learn how offenders' behavior can be changed. She continued to say that for a small percentage of offenders, incarceration may be the only solution in terms of public safety, but for others, treatment could be effective and early family intervention with small children would be an ideal crime prevention strategy. Chairman Sorosky suggested that staff contact research organizations in other states to benefit from their research on these issues.

Other comments included Mr. Myrent stating that the Advisory Council had talked about going beyond educating policy makers to educating the public as well. He cited as an example the harmful effects of incarceration and the pragmatic aspects of community-based options which could be both more effective and more economical.

Dr. Lewis added that the human relations areas being addressed by the other Go To 2040 planning groups involving education, culture and arts, housing, and food supply are new to traditional regional planning. He stated that the Board discussion made it clear that the project needs to plan for a feedback network in these non-traditional CMAP areas.

Dr. Rosenbaum stated that Go To 2040 requires setting new goals and objectives and then developing measurable objectives and monitoring systems. As an example, he indicated that there is no ongoing monitoring system to measure victims' satisfaction with the criminal justice system, except for occasional one-time surveys. He added that it is unknown if doing something different to change offenders' behavior will affect victims' satisfaction and willingness to work with the system.

Ms. Engel stated there is a greater awareness that mental health and criminal justice are unfortunately more connected, and that there are barriers between social workers and police even though the same people may be in both systems.

Other issues included Ms. Spyropoulos asking if there were going to be a global dimension to this plan, in terms of how global crime such as identify theft and trafficking of people will affect trends locally. In response, Dr. Rosenbaum said that there is a definite sense that thinking needs to go beyond Illinois in order to protect Illinois, as the State Police would attest.

Dr. Lewis stated that the planning process for the crime and justice area will be the strongest, staying focused on undertakings that the people in the seven-county area can accomplish and also where it integrates the work of the other planning groups. As an example, he cited the group on economic development, which will be cognizant of how the nation and world marketplace are changing.

Ms. Engel said that the process should involve the business community, since an important part of creating a safer culture is making sure that people have a real way to make a living. She added that this is especially important once individuals have been released from prison, so that they do not turn to a street economy. She remarked that business leaders need to understand the power they have to contribute significantly to

creating an avenue for productive lives. Ms. Engel said that this awareness should extend to both local shopkeepers and multinational corporations.

Dr. Rosenbaum then observed that from the discussion it appeared that there needs to be a symbiotic relationship inside and outside criminal justice, and that the whole society plays a role in deviant and criminal behavior. Ms. Engel added an inquiry as to whether society is ignoring it, condoning it, depending on it, or stopping it.

Dr. Rosenbaum went on to say that the Authority Board covered a wide range of topics, from basic prevention and early childhood intervention to dealing with ex-offenders and reentry. He added that Illinois is very progressive in terms of criminal justice compared to much of the country, and that the Authority can be credited for a major part in bringing about that status over the last several years. He stated, for example, that the Authority has played a significant role in re-entry issues, in restorative justice and other key initiatives, including being on the cutting edge of technology.

Mr. Myrent concluded the presentation by pointing out that staff is developing summaries and pertinent literature which will be available on a newly created project website. Director Levin and Chairman Sorosky thanked the presenters, with the Chairman also thanking Barbara Engel for her meaningful participation in the discussion. At that point, Chairman Sorosky asked if there were any other old business, new business or comments. Receiving no response, he announced the dates for the 2009 Board meetings: Friday, March 6; Friday, June 5; Friday, September 11, and Friday December 4. He then called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn

{Ms. Engel's motion to adjourn was seconded by Ms. Spyropoulos and passed by unanimous voice vote.}