

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

March 4, 2004
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 Robert Boehmer, the Authority's Secretary and General Counsel, to call the roll.

In addition to the Chairman, other Authority members in attendance were:

Chief David Bradford
Mr. Brad Demuzio
Ms. Barbara Engel *
State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor Director Norbert Goetten
DeKalb County Circuit Court Clerk Maureen Josh
Attorney General Designee Ellen Mandeltort
Madison County State's Attorney William Mudge
Mr. John Piland
Mr. John Z. Toscas
Illinois Department of Corrections Director Roger E. Walker, Jr.

* A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Engel arrived during the discussion of the Byrne Priorities. No votes were taken until after Ms. Engel's arrival.

Approval of the Minutes of the December 5, 2003 Regular Meeting

{Mr. Toscas made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 5, 2003. Director Walker seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.}

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Sorosky welcomed two new members to the Authority – Brad Demuzio and William Mudge. He noted that Mr. Demuzio has been in state government for many years and is currently the director of the Illinois Secretary of State Police. He said that Mr. Mudge, the State's Attorney of Madison County, replaces Mike Waller on the Authority.

Chairman Sorosky congratulated State's Attorney Waller for the work he has done on behalf of the Authority. He noted that State's Attorney Waller had been on the Authority for many years and served as chairman of many committees including the Budget Committee. He said that we all appreciate his time and effort and great work. Chairman Sorosky also expressed thanks to Al Apa for his work on behalf of the Authority.

{Later in the meeting, Ms. Josh made a motion to approve resolutions of commendation for State's Attorney Waller and Al Apa. Ms. Mandeltort seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.}

Executive Director's Report

Director Levin highlighted some of the information contained in the mailing. She noted that Rose Rossi is the Authority's new associate director for the information systems unit and that we have hired Rebecca Juergens for the

Research and Analysis Unit. She also noted that we have processed three resignations since the last Authority meeting. She reported that there has been a final resolution regarding union coverage of Authority employees.

Director Levin said that we are continuing to work with the Office of Management and Budget, which has agreed to work with the Authority to return the \$300,000 that had been transferred from the criminal justice information systems trust fund. She noted that we have more than 1100 daily user hits on our website and now have over 1400 registered users of the CJ Dispatch. She also referred to the Chicago Homicide Dataset Update Project, the statewide crime victimization survey, the CHRI audit, and various program evaluation and research projects.

Director Levin highlighted the Authority's involvement with the Sheridan Correctional Center Therapeutic Community Program. She said that Sheridan is a fully dedicated therapeutic community for inmates in need of substance abuse treatment. She said that Dr. Dave Olson has been involved in the planning efforts and that Dave and Rebecca Juergens will be evaluating the program.

Regarding the Federal and State Grants Unit, Director Levin noted that staff has monitored 430 grants representing almost \$120 million in grant funds. In regard to the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program, she noted that this year 488 police department applied for the grants. In addition to the LLEBG funds, the Budget Committee voted to add Byrne funds that will allow us to fund 90 police department proposals. She also noted that the Authority is actively seeking discretionary grants and informing other entities in Illinois of grant opportunities.

Director Levin reported that planning is underway for two elder abuse trainings. She said that the first training would be held on June 10th. She noted that three nationally known speakers have accepted our invitation to present at the training. She noted that we are working closely with the Attorney General's Office and the Department on Aging to put this conference together. She said that the second training would be in central or southern Illinois in the fall.

Regarding information systems, Director Levin noted that we have migrated 147 ALERTS agencies to the new ALERTS.Net and we are rolling out ALECS.Net and PIMS.Net. Regarding InfoNet, she said that 96 domestic violence and sexual assault programs could access it from 150 sites statewide. She also noted that we have entered into a new partnership with the Department of Human Services regarding InfoNet. She said that staff is currently working on the Illinois Integrated Justice Information Systems Implementation Board (IJIS) annual report, which is due to the General Assembly by April 1st. She noted that four IJIS committees have been created, including the Planning and Policy Committee, the Technical Committee, the Outreach Committee and the Funding Committee.

Director Levin called on Robert Boehmer to report on the status of the Authority's legislative initiative to amend the Uniform Conviction Information Act to remove the obligation to annually set the fee that local criminal justice agencies may charge to assist persons in seeking conviction information. He reported that Representative Millner introduced the bill as House Bill 6881. He noted that the bill is currently in the House Rules Committee and not likely to proceed any further.

Director Levin then continued to discuss the IJIS project, thanking IJIS staff and noting that the privacy policy subcommittee working document has been nationally recognized and that we are taking the lead nationally in regard to privacy policies related to integration.

Next, Director Levin reported on federal appropriations. She said that the President's Budget proposes that the Byrne and LLEBG programs be combined into one program – the Justice Assistance Grant Program. She noted that the proposed appropriation for that program is significantly reduced. She also noted proposed reductions in other appropriations, including a proposed elimination of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program. She also noted proposed increases in DNA Backlog Reduction Funds and Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Funds.

Director Levin said that the Authority has already appeared before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and that our submitted budget will save the state about 500 thousand dollars in general revenue. She said that will be done through the transfer of some positions to the federal payroll and the reduction of match funds.

Budget Committee Report

Chairman Sorosky called on Mary Milano to provide a report on the February 24th Budget Committee Meeting. Ms. Milano noted that an extended summary is at members' places. She said that the committee discussed and recommended priorities for the 2004 Byrne Strategy, made general recommendations with respect to federal fiscal year 2004 Byrne funds, and made designations for reallocations amending various federal funded programs. She noted that there were four general recommendations for the use of Byrne 2004 funds, including treatment for sex offender parolees from the Illinois Department of Corrections, a special DNA prosecution unit at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, various balanced and restorative justice projects, and other public policy initiatives suggested by the Governor's office, Authority members, and staff. She said that those four areas are in addition to continuing programs. She also reported that there were specific designations of Byrne FFY 97-03 funds; reductions and designations for FFY 99-02 VAWA funds; and designations for VOCA FFY 00 – 03 funds.

Mr. Piland expressed concern that Byrne funds continue to go to uses other than what the fund was set up to do, that is, address the problems of drugs and drug use. He noted that methamphetamine is a major problem in southern, and parts of central, Illinois. He said that we need to make sure that law enforcement has the tools they need to interdict and address the problem of people using and distributing drugs. He noted that MEGs and task forces have not had a substantial increase over the years and that southern Illinois has not seen the funding increases that are necessary to respond appropriately to the problem.

Director Levin responded that multi-jurisdictional drug task forces are a priority and permanently funded out of Byrne. She noted that we are attempting to expand in southern and central Illinois. Chief Bradford said that he believed that the Budget Committee agreed that the task forces would be the number one priority under Byrne. Ms. Milano noted that the Budget Committee agreed to continuation of those programs and that multi-jurisdictional drug programs receive the highest percentage of Byrne funds.

Fiscal Report

Chairman Sorosky then called on Ted Miller to provide the fiscal report. Mr. Miller referred members to his report in the mailing and noted that we are able to meet the goals and objectives set forth by the Office of Management and Budget and that we are doing our best to try to address the general revenue shortfall. He also noted that we have installed a new accounts receivable system and were able to collect past due bills. He thanked Jim Oas for getting this done.

Adoption of Byrne Strategy Priorities

Chairman Sorosky called on Mary Milano to discuss the Byrne Strategy. Ms. Milano indicated that she would discuss the Budget Committee priorities and the development of the strategy. She noted the Authority is required to develop a four-year strategy for Byrne. She said that the strategy outlines the kind of programs we will fund and provides data and explanations of the need for those programs. She noted that the Research and Analysis Unit has worked extensively on the development of the data analysis section of the strategy. She reported that the six priority areas adopted by the Budget Committee are consistent with the priorities of the National Drug Control Strategy. The priorities, outlined in a memo at members' places, include: Support prevention programs that help youth recognize risks associated with violent crime and drug use and target youth to reduce the use of violence, illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco products; support statewide programs that target prevention and early intervention for juveniles with particular emphasis on the principles of balanced and restorative justice; support programs that enhance treatment effectiveness, quality, and services so that those who need treatment can receive it; support research that identifies what works in drug treatment and the prevention of drug abuse, violent crime and its consequences; support programs that promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system; support efforts that implement an integrated justice system in Illinois that includes all components of the criminal justice system and includes every jurisdiction within the state.

Ms. Milano then referred to selected programs that would be funded using Byrne funds. She noted that we will be seeking to continue funding multi-jurisdictional drug task force efforts and other programs as well as fund programs regarding sex offender management, BARJ initiatives, and a DNA prosecution program.

Ms. Milano provided a brief summary of the public comments received. She said that we received comments indicating that parental responsibility for youth actions should be promoted. We also received comments seeking funding for specific initiatives to address the methamphetamine problem. In addition we received commentary from MEGs and task forces supporting and encouraging funding of those activities. Finally, she said that we received commentary from the Cook County Public Defender, which analyzed our priorities, suggested various needs of that office, and sought to assure balance and evenhandedness in funding decisions.

Ms. Milano also referred to a letter at members' places regarding the Tyler's Justice Center requesting consideration for funding. Ms. Milano noted that that center received a one-time grant through lapsing funds in the past and that it was previously made clear to them that they should not expect future funds.

Chief Bradford made a motion, seconded by State's Attorney Mudge, to adopt the Byrne priorities as identified by Ms. Milano. (The motion was subsequently withdrawn after the following discussion regarding adding a 7th priority.)

Mr. Piland raised a concern that the priorities do not reflect the priority to interdict, intervene, and disrupt drug use and sales. He said that it appears that the MEG's, task forces, and law enforcement struggles to address the drug problem are being ignored. Director Walker also expressed a similar concern that law enforcement is not addressed in the priorities. Director Levin responded that it would be appropriate to add that priority. She indicated that the priority could reference the Authority's continued support of multi-jurisdictional drug task forces and the disruption of the drug trade. Chief Bradford noted that at the Budget Committee meeting there was an exhaustive conversation and discussion about the methamphetamine problem. It was presented in a research report and was a top priority of the Budget Committee. He indicated that the subject of multi-jurisdictional task forces was addressed under the priority of supporting programs that promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system. He also said that he supports Mr. Piland's suggestions to clarify the priorities, but people should not get the impression that the Authority is not interested in multi-jurisdictional task forces.

{Chairman Sorosky made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mandeltort, to approve the six priorities identified by Ms. Milano and the seventh priority identified by Mr. Piland. The motion was adopted by unanimous voice vote.}

Director Goetten then asked for a breakdown of the percentage of Byrne funds allocated toward prevention, treatment, law enforcement, and prosecution. Ms. Milano indicated that staff would provide that to members.

New Business

Ms. Josh noted that she recently received expungement information put together by the Office of the State Appellate Defender. She complimented Director Gottfried and his staff on the excellent information packets. Chairman Sorosky noted that the remaining Authority meetings for this year are scheduled for June 4th, September 3rd and December 3rd. Ms. Engel requested that the meeting date for September be changed so that it is not on the Labor Day weekend.

{Upon a motion by Mr. Toscas, second by Ms. Josh and adopted by unanimous voice vote, Chairman Sorosky adjourned the meeting.}

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert P. Boehmer
Secretary and General Counsel