

**Minutes from the ARIOB Outreach, Technical Assistance & Communications Committee Meeting  
Monday, May 9, 2016  
10:30am-12:00pm  
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)  
300 W Adams St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Chicago, IL 60606  
Small Conference room**

Adult Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board (ARIOB) in attendance: Cristin Evans (for John Maki), Nate Steinfeld (for Kathy Saltmarsh)

ARIOB by phone: Judge James Radcliffe (Ret.), Kathy Saltmarsh,

Non-ARIOB in attendance: Mary Ann Dyar, Lindsey LaPointe, Sara Orlan

Non-ARIOB by phone: Shataun Hailey, Judge Thomas Sumner (Ret.)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Chair Kathy Saltmarsh called the meeting to order and determined that there was not a quorum. It was determined that no votes would take place and the meeting could proceed for discussion-only purposes.

### **Approval of minutes**

Without quorum, the committee was unable to vote on the approval of minutes from previous meetings. These were deferred until a future meeting.

### **Update on impact of SFY16 budget impasse**

Mary Ann Dyar provided background on the state budget impasse, highlighting that Adult Redeploy Illinois staff is in the process of making phone calls to the sites to collect accurate and timely information on spending and the willingness of local programs to enter the renewal process for SFY17. Sites are spending about 66% of program budgets, ARI owes sites \$3.5M through March 2016, and ARI anticipates owing the sites \$4.6M at the end of SFY16. The estimated total of local program reimbursement and administrative costs through SFY16 totals \$5.5M.

Lindsey Lapointe shared some summary feedback from the recent status check-in phone calls to sites. Sites are working hard to keep the programs going in some form, showing a high level commitment to ARI. Every site and county is different and each is utilizing a different matrix of methods to keep the programs running. Several positions at sites or in other county departments are being held open. Another big theme is that in some sites the fiscal crisis is playing out publicly (e.g. Will County) while in others there is little attention on the issue.

Upon a question about other funding sources, ARI staff noted that the funds through some judicial circuits and counties have been fronted temporarily, all on the premise of reimbursement. Another county has used public safety tax funds.

Judge Sumner inquired about how well sites are doing, in particular toward their reduction goals, which is what ARI is all about. ARI staff noted these numbers will be presented at the Oversight Board meeting.

### **Review of outreach, technical assistance and strategic partnerships**

Lindsey provided information on technical assistance, noting that travel has been limited because of the budget impasse, but staff is supporting sites in other ways. ARI staff attended the Cook County ACT Court graduation recently, and in March some staff attended a Will County problem-solving court graduation in Joliet. Attendance at these events is extremely valuable and ARI staff should always think about who else might benefit from observing these events and will share invitations with the Oversight Board and others.

Lindsey emphasized that ARI staff and the Oversight Board should not lose site of the provision of technical assistance, should be vigilant about taking stock of technical assistance needs and the ongoing goal to provide strong technical assistance and data analysis in “feedback loops” back to the sites. Kathy Saltmarsh asked if a researcher is needed and ARI staff noted that research capacity is a big need. Sites consistently ask for better use of the database and data and some need assistance with determining an appropriate prison-bound target population and reduction goal. Cook County and DuPage County in particular (bigger counties) have asked for assistance in making changes to their target populations and reductions goals. In several counties, the trends of ARI-eligible IDOC commitments have changed over the past several years in some counties, in particular in some counties that have been with ARI since 2011. These sites would like to be responsive to the changing trends by analyzing and changing their target population and reduction goal. Overall, research capacity is needed for a full data feedback loop to the sites.

Lindsey summarized other recent technical assistance inquiries from the sites including assistance to leverage the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to make sure that clients are connected to the right providers; assistance on access to housing; and opportunities for general information-sharing (which has been reduced this year, in particular in the absence of an All-Sites Summit).

### **Discussion of communications and media**

Kathy Saltmarsh opened the discussion on communications and media, noting that ARI had 20 media hits since the last meeting in January. The content of media hits has varied and many were specifically about the budget impasse. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle publicly discussed the funds that the state owes Cook County, and mentioned ARI.

In terms of future media coverage, Cristin Evans emphasized that local coverage is ideal. It was agreed that local coverage can increase local support for the programs, in particular legislative support. Legislators particularly attuned to justice issues were discussed. Judge Sumner noted that it is valuable to have diversion numbers in hand when speaking to legislators and the committee weighed in with other important high-level program data to share with policymakers.

Mary Ann turned to the topic of the 2015 Annual Report, asking for input on main themes of 2015. The theme of local commitment to ARI was offered, but there is a limit to their ability to carry on without state support. The committee agreed that last year’s Annual Report was excellent and provides a good template. Judge Sumner stressed that it is important to highlight numbers diverted and savings to the state in the Annual Report. Cost savings during the life of the program and any decrease in diversions and cost-savings due to the impasse should be noted.

Regarding strategic partnerships, Kathy Saltmarsh reported on the Governor's Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform which is discussing ways to reduce the state prison population, including looking at the role of services and evidence-based practices. The Commission has referenced ARI as a model program. In the future, the Commission will talk about ways to also reduce the number of people supervised in community corrections, e.g., by using fines or community service. Additionally, Mary Ann is providing support for the implementation of the Commission's recommendation to establish Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (CJCCs) by sharing lessons learned in ARI and accessing best practices through the National Network of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils.

On the topic of outreach, Lindsey shared the top 20 committing counties document with the committee which outlines the counties that commit the most non-violent ARI-eligible individuals to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). Kathy recognized the number of ARI counties in the top 20 list, noting that this should be emphasized in the Annual Report. Due to the budget impasse, ARI staff has not been doing much outreach, however awareness of the program has increased with the media mentions. The committee agreed that once a SFY17 budget is in place, outreach to high committing counties is in order.

Mary Ann provided some background on a recent federal grant application she assisted with to access more resources to implement CJCCs. Lindsey provided some information on a targeted phone survey completed with TASC and the Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health and Justice aiming to determine county-level knowledge gaps regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Kathy Saltmarsh inquired about staffing updates and priorities, such as what is needed to provide technical assistance, research and data analysis. Mary Ann noted that, in addition to the dire need for research support, a program manager-type of position based in Springfield would be useful to facilitate technical assistance and more training opportunities. Lindsey shared that ARI needs a researcher who is "hands on" and can execute a feedback loop and translate data to sites. Kathy noted that the Oversight Board will want to review a larger staffing plan and assist in executing it.

### **Discussion of eligibility expansion**

Lindsey provided background on the issue of eligibility expansion, noting that ARI is restricted to those with a committing offense considered non-violent per the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act. ARI fields frequent questions on eligibility, which is subject to local decision-making, and some sites serve some individuals who are not ARI-eligible but with other non-ARI funds and resources. For example, aggravated battery is a frequent charge for individuals who could benefit from ARI (such as a mental health court), but who are not eligible.

On a policy level, there is bipartisan support for decreasing incarceration, however the potential is limited if reforms are limited to non-violent offenses. Eligibility expansion for ARI aligns with larger conversations to move away from the violent/non-violent distinction and focus on risk. Research indicates directing resources toward high risk (to recidivate) offenders, including those deemed violent, leads to better outcomes and gets more "bang for the buck." This issue is relevant to Illinois because the Commission is working to reduce the IDOC population by 25%

(12,000 people) and a diversion limitation to non-violent offenses will be a hindrance to meeting this goal.

Lindsey provided an overview of a survey to sites last fall about eligibility expansion for ARI. Many sites acknowledged turning away offenders due to the limitation to non-violent offenses. Sites reported a potential to serve more people if violent offenses were eligible. Sites also reported that they often serve these offenders with violent offenses in regular probation with less resources since they cannot access ARI. Sites were happy to provide input on this issue.

The committee discussed the issue, noting that it will be important to share this information with the research committee of the Commission. It will be shared with the Oversight Board on May 16<sup>th</sup> for discussion and feedback. The committee agreed that another survey to sites on this issue is not necessary at this time. Kathy summed up that a standalone recommendation on this could come from the Commission, noting that a recommendation to expand the number of probationable offenses is also under review. A proposal regarding ARI could be to expand eligibility to all probationable offenses, contingent on local control and design.

#### **Old business/new business**

Kathy asked for old business and new business. Mary Ann noted that the process evaluation conducted by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority on sites using the Intensive Probation Supervision with Services program model is nearly ready and is being shared with the sites referenced. She also reported that the overhaul of the current ARI website is coming in the near future. The substance will be the same, but will have a new look with more easily accessible information.

The meeting ended at 3:55p.m.No motion was needed due to a lack of quorum.

**(Approved 7/25/16)**