

**Minutes from the ARIOB Outreach, Technical Assistance & Communications Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 30, 2013
1:30pm-3:30pm
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)
300 W Adams St., 2nd fl, Chicago, IL 60606
Small Conference room**

ARIOB in attendance: Darlene Bearden (for Patricia Hayden), Cristin Evans (for Jack Cutrone), Kathy Saltmarsh

ARIOB members participating by phone: Tracey Williams (for Director Godinez)

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

Welcome and introductions

- Mary Ann Dyar initiated roll call and it was determined there was quorum.
- Goals of the meeting include (1) Discussion of next steps in communications/media related to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) press release and (2) Discussion of planning grant outreach. Mary Ann Dyar summarized the current planning grant funding opportunity in terms of timeframe and available funds. There is \$200,000 set aside for planning grants which must be spent before June 30, 2014.

Approval of minutes from January 29, 2013 meeting

- The group reviewed the minutes that were previously circulated. Kathy Saltmarsh made a motion to approve the minutes with the time amended to reflect “PM” and Cristin Evans seconded. All in favor, none opposed, minutes approved.
- Mary Ann Dyar went over previously distributed committee meeting reports.

Update and discussion on communications strategy and activities

- The draft press release is the first broad-scale effort to get information out about ARI. Cristin Evans noted it was submitted to Governor’s press office last week. The group discussed from which office it would be released.
- Kathy Saltmarsh noted playing up the empowerment of local jurisdictions through ARI which is different than typical criminal justice programing.
- Kathy Saltmarsh noted that the “high-committing counties” document can be a powerful tool to promote current ARI programs and outreach and expansion. This tool shows that ARI has expanded at a rapid pace.
- ARI may want to communicate with juvenile Redeploy Illinois to share successes with outreach and communications. ARI has been able to leverage problem-solving court expansion in Illinois.
- Local stories may be more compelling than program-wide stories.
- Media stories on ARI will be compiled on ARI website.
- The group discussed using client success stories in communications as well as different strategies for timing news stories (obtaining grant, first enrollees, and graduation) for local media. Kathy Saltmarsh discussed building a record of value and success for probation departments that may assist with information sharing for funding. This could include press release templates that can be used with editorial boards, information sharing with legislators.
- ARI has not utilized editorial boards up to this point mostly due to capacity issues; however ARI staff could collaborate with other entities, e.g., ARI could partner with local jurisdictions to go in front of their editorial boards.
- Cristin Evans mentioned an implementation timeline for editorial boards outreach. Timeline could align with the strategic planning process (November 2013 – February 2014), and the actual strategic plan can be leveraged for a communications plan and spring session budget talks. Kathy Saltmarsh suggested creating a press release template and an example timeline that could be rolled out in March 2014.

- Kathy Saltmarsh noted that the research, data, and performance measurement components of ARI could be newsworthy as well. Once cost-benefit analysis data exists, stories can be generated through that lens to demonstrate the move towards best practices to improve criminal justice outcomes.
- Cristin Evans suggested working on the templates, and in the meantime tracking any local stories that are published.

Discussion of outreach activities

- In SFY14 there is \$200,000 set aside for planning grants. Experience shows that sites going through the planning process have had stronger implementation plans. ARI staff (Judge Radcliffe and Judge Sumner) has conducted outreach targeting 11 counties. The ARIOB previously discussed which jurisdictions to target; historically jurisdictions have reached out on their own initiative.
- ARI staff has built a knowledge base on possible barriers to planning grant uptake. Barriers include the task of implementation, a lack of clarity of what the program would look like, and a lack of clarity on the obligation to implement if planning grant is received.
- The planning grant outreach plan should minimally include direct communication to the Chief Judges, Court Services Directors, State's Attorneys, and Public Defenders. It was also recommended to enlist the assistance of judges at current ARI sites.
- Prioritizing the top 20 highest committing counties is important to ensure that funds are directed where there can be the most impact to save the state dollars. 90% of the ARI-eligible IDOC commitments could be covered if there is success with targeting the top 20 committing counties.
- Kathy Saltmarsh suggests having materials available at the Illinois State Bar Association December event and the Supreme Court dinner. The suggestion was made to reach out to the State's Attorney's Association to include ARI planning grant information in trainings.
- There was a discussion about ARIOB member outreach and avoiding any possible conflicts of interest with future funding decisions.
- ARI staff shared county-level data about the target jurisdictions, and an outreach strategy was discussed, including a proposed webinar to planning grant targets. Outreach needs to address potential programs, target population and building on current services and interventions in the community.

Technical assistance to sites

- Lindsey LaPointe discussed methods of providing and promoting technical assistance as well as the necessity of institutionalizing the technical assistance process.
- ARI staff has developed a partnership with the Illinois Center of Excellence of Behavioral Health and Justice (COE) to provide technical assistance. COE conducted a mental health training for 85 participants in the 2nd Judicial Circuit. COE shares significant information about problem-solving courts in Illinois.
- National technical assistance partners include the National Center of State Courts which conducted a training for McLean County in June 2013 and provided a facilitator for the Cook County ACT Court planning grant. The University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) presented at the 2013 All-Sites Summit and trained both Lake and DuPage ARI programs. The UCCI will be training ARI staff on the Correctional Program Checklist tool in January 2014.

There was no old business or new business, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

(Approved 8/28/14)