

Minutes from the Adult Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board (ARIOB)
Site Selection and Monitoring Committee
Friday, March 18, 2016
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
At the following public site:
ICJIA, 300 W. Adams Street, Chicago, IL – 2nd Floor – Large Conference Room

ARIOB in attendance: Lisa Castillo (for John Maki), Emily Cole (for Tom Mahoney), Angelique Orr, Judge James Radcliffe (Ret.)

ARIOB by phone: Mike Torchia, Lori Roper (for Amy Campanelli)

Others in attendance: Ali Abid (Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice/ Cook County Access to Community Treatment Court), Mary Ann Dyar, Rebecca Frale, Lindsey LaPointe, Katy Welter (Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice/ Cook County Access to Community Treatment Court)

Others on phone: Judge Thomas Sumner (Ret.)

Welcome and introductions:

Committee Chair Angelique Orr called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. Roll call was taken and it was determined there was not an in-person quorum. No votes were scheduled, so it was determined the meeting could go on for discussion with no quorum.

Update since last meeting:

Angelique Orr reminded the committee of the content of the past two meetings and Lindsey LaPointe provided the goals and expectations for this meeting. The meeting's goal was to determine the grant renewal process guidance for provision to the ARI sites. It was noted that in a typical year at this time, ARI would be preparing the sites for the annual All-Site Summit, but the lack of funding and fiscal uncertainty did not allow for a summit this year.

Discussion on impact of SFY16 budget impasse on Adult Redeploy Illinois

Mary Ann Dyar provided an update on the impact of the SFY16 budget impasse on ARI, noting Illinois has gone almost nine full months without a state budget. The ARIOB previously approved SFY16 funding for 21 continuing sites, two new sites and one expansion grant. Logistically, all 21 continuing sites have completed SFY16 grant agreements which are approved, signed, and now waiting at the ICJIA office. No funds have been disbursed and all awards were made contingent on a sufficient appropriation for ARI becoming available in the SFY16 state budget. Sites continue to utilize other funds that counties are "floating" temporarily to keep the programs up and running wherever possible, with the expectation of reimbursement when a budget is passed. Sites submit monthly fiscal reports to keep track of spending and what is owed. In total through the end of February, ARI owes \$3.2 million to the sites which represents an overall spending rate of 2/3 the expected rate. Most sites are spending around at 60-70% of their normal amount.

Mary Ann referred to the infographic provided in the meeting materials that shows six sites as red flags – one already closed in December 2015 (Kane County) and five others do not know if their programs will survive without any funding by June 2016. Eight other sites are not as critical, but there is uncertainty about making it through the end of June; while seven other sites are fairly confident they can maintain a certain level of operations through June 2016.

ARI staff has been providing information on the status of ARI to the Governor's office and other policymakers. Additionally, ARI staff has communicated the need for \$5-5.5 million for SFY16 to preserve the program by covering expenses incurred at the sites and administratively through June 30, 2016 at the reduced operational level.

Mary Ann noted that an appropriation of \$8.5 million for ARI was included in a Senate appropriation bill with social services and higher education funding which passed yesterday without a veto-proof majority (SB 2059). It is unknown whether the Governor would sign or veto the bill.

ARI staff is watching legislative action and continues to document the impact of the budget impasse, track spending at ARI sites, and communicate the status of ARI. Some ARI sites have received local media coverage on the impact of the impasse, and a Will County ARI media piece was included in the meeting materials.

A committee member asked about SFY17, and Mary Ann said that not much is known, but the Governor's proposed SFY17 budget included \$9 million for ARI – \$4.3 million of general revenue and \$4.7 million from a special projects fund at the Authority. The committee discussed possible mechanisms to access the special projects fund for SFY16 to keep the program alive.

Mary Ann noted that decisions to keep operating without state funds are local and can change rapidly. Several sites expect to be floated through June 30th but not beyond.

In terms of when an SFY16 appropriation becomes available, ARI staff created a "rapid response" grant process which includes checking spending for a sufficient appropriation and invoking this committee in decision making on reductions if necessary. With the rapid response grant process, it may take an estimated five to six weeks to get funds to the sites.

Upon a question about reimbursing the sites for SFY16 expenses, it was noted that ARI intends to reimburse sites based on a sufficient appropriation, including sites that have had to shut down. It is acknowledged that some sites may not meet their reduction goals due to reduced spending and programming, and the Performance Measurement Committee (PMC) is tracking this. It was noted that the PMC and the full board will look at this on a case-by-case basis, with the recognition that no funds have been provided and there are some significant programming reductions, including ceased enrollments. ARI staff noted that some sites are not on track to meet their reduction goals; however, all sites have been providing updated information at least quarterly, which indicates good faith efforts (from all the sites) to run their programs with reduced resources.

Given the circumstances, Mary Ann suggested that information on program reductions and issues with meeting the 25% reduction goals should not play a role in ARIOB funding decisions for SFY17.

Discussion on Adult Redeploy Illinois in SFY17

Lindsey opened the discussion on SFY17, referring to the grant process timeline in the meeting materials. The renewal process normally starts in late-March with the sites submitting their designation request forms with a broad overview of plans for the subsequent year and requested funding amounts. In a typical year, ARI staff has asked sites to include possible expansion plans in the designation request form, for maximum flexibility and planning depending on the final appropriation level. This year, ARI staff will request sites to submit designation request forms with an amount that maintains programs at planned SFY16 levels. Overall, ARI staff seeks to make the renewal process the least burdensome as possible while upholding important accountability standards and adhering to local control and design.

Lindsey walked the committee through a proposed renewal process where all continuing sites are encouraged to submit designation request forms at maintenance levels (with no obligation to continue if funding is not available) that the committee reviews to prepare SFY17 funding recommendations to be voted on by the ARIOB at its May 16th meeting. In early-May, ARI staff plans to request full grant agreement materials from those sites that expect to continue incurring expenses beyond June 30th (contingent on full ARIOB approval), anticipating that some sites may not want to go through this more burdensome paperwork process that requires county approval if there is still no state budget. Some sites may wish to prepare full grant materials internally, but only submit them once state funding becomes available, which may result in partial year grants. Emily Cole inquired about the logistics of programs that may be on hold in this scenario in terms of cases and staff. ARI staff noted that these are critical local decisions that need to take into account whether a program is able to ramp back up if state funding becomes available beyond July. Mary Ann noted that some counties are making decisions based on fiscal years that are different from the state fiscal year. With the program stakeholders in the room, there was a discussion about how this might play out in Cook County with its contract approval process. If the program is halted until there is an appropriation, it can take an estimated three to four months to add subcontractors to the grant program.

Mike Torchia offered that in Sangamon County (drug court) funding comes from several sources besides ARI, and this braided funding has helped to maintain the program. Sangamon County will complete the designation request form but likely will not submit the full grant agreement materials unless there is a SFY17 budget in place. Sangamon County has recently lost a major service provider in the Juvenile Redeploy Illinois program. The decision to move forward with ARI is a county decision. The drug court itself will likely go on, but the ARI grant work will likely cease July 1st if no funds are in place. The drug court will have to adjust (decrease) the program capacity and may have to change the structure.

The committee felt comfortable with the proposed renewal process. ARI staff will collect information from continuing sites about how their programs might be different on July 1st vs. the original plan, and what it would take to ramp back up to the original plan once funding is available. It was determined that the two new counties approved by the board in the late summer (DeKalb and Kendall) will be treated as renewing sites. This will avoid the need for a response to another Request for Proposals (RFP).

Old business/new business

It was noted that all signals from policymakers point to a broad recognition that ARI is a much-needed program. Regarding other new business, in lieu of the annual All-Sites Summit, ARI will be hosting a small Chicago event after the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) Community Justice Summit in mid-April that a few ARI sites and partners will be attending. A small group of about 20 people will convene for an after-hours informal dinner on Thursday, April 14th for information sharing and a debriefing on the conference. The CCI conference is at-capacity, but everyone is welcome to attend the after-hours dinner.

Angelique Orr thanked Mary Ann and Lindsey for all of their hard work and dedication to ARI.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

(Approved 5/5/16)