

**Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council**  
June 10, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Location:**

James R. Thompson Center, Room 2-025  
Chicago, IL

Members Present: Warren Wolfson (Vice-Chair), Kwame Raoul (Vice-Chair), Mike Tardy, Jack Cutrone, Mike Hood, Cynthia Cobbs, Adam Monreal, Gladyse Taylor, Tom Callum, Nick Kondelis, David Yellen, Pat Unsinn (for Mike Pelletier), Jeff Howard, Shauna Bolliker (for Cook County State's Attorney),

Members Present By Phone: None (technical issues)

Members Present via Video Conference: None

Members Absent: Gino DiVito (Chair), Allan Spellberg, Tom Dart, Patricia Watkins, John Millner, Ronald Holt, Jim Durkin, William Clay III, Mike Waller

Non-Members Present: Kathy Saltmarsh, Paula Wolff, MaryAnn Dyer, Mark Myrent, Lindsay Bostwick, Dave Olson, Pete Baroni, Rick Veenstra, Lisa Stephens

**Welcome**

Vice-Chair Wolfson called the seventh meeting of the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council to order at 10:30 a.m. He opened the meeting by noting that Chair DiVito was out on medical leave. A round of introductions of all present followed.

**DOC Director Godinez**

Salvador "Tony Godinez", the new director of the Department of Corrections gave brief remarks on the current fiscal and population conditions at DOC.

Gladyse Taylor, Assistant Director of DOC, remarked that the enormous cuts to the DOC budget would have some impact on the new data system that DOC is implementing. Ms. Taylor said that Offender 360 was an initiative of the Governor's Office and is still underway but that the loss of appropriations may slow down the implementation of the new system.

**Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2011 Meeting**

Upon a proper motion by Mike Hood, seconded by Jack Cutrone, the minutes of the March 18, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Approval of allowing phone attendees to count toward quorum**

Following a short discussion, a proper motion to allow phone attendees to count toward quorum was made by Jack Cutrone and seconded by Mike Hood. The motion was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

**Roundtable discussion with Tony Preckwinkle, President of Cook County Board**

Tony Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board, campaigned on two issues, health care and criminal justice reform. One-third of the Cook County budget goes to criminal justice. It is President Preckwinkle's goal to reduce the Cook County Jail population by one third. The jail has an average daily population of 8500 to 9000 people, 70% of which are arrested for non-violent offenses. The jail cost per day is \$142 a person. Most do not have the benefit of treatment while held. Spending tax dollars to house these people does not seem to be fiscally responsible or good public policy.

President Preckwinkle observed bond court and found that public defenders need additional resources in order to argue more effectively for release. She hopes that more resources can be put into the Public Defender's Office so that public defenders can obtain mitigating information and argue effectively for release on one's own recognizance. She is also in the process of reinvigorating the Judicial Advisory Council to work on reform issues.

President Preckwinkle is also working with stakeholders on performance management. The first performance management reports are due at the beginning of June. She also noted that her staff is working with the foundation community to assess best options and performance costs for reducing the jail population, reducing recidivism, and improving public safety. This collaboration has the support of the Public Defender, the States Attorney, the Chief Judge, and the Clerk of the Court on these efforts.

Cook County Public Defender Cunningham, a retired judge, noted that given the number of people the system handles, judges are taught to keep cases moving due to the high volume. He noted that additional personnel would give the Public Defender's office more opportunity to do more interviews and get more information to the judges, but it would also be helpful to have more than one bond court so that all information wasn't going through just one court.

There was some discussion of the successes of the Cook County Bail Project, integrated information management – presentence investigation and risk assessment, and the need to start the information retrieval process at Bond Court.

War on Drugs – President Preckwinkle discussed how the War on Drugs is negatively impacting African-American and Latino communities. She noted that although we know that people of all races are using drugs at about the same rate, drug raids are focused almost exclusively in black and brown communities. She believes that drug usage should be treated as a public health issue rather than a criminal justice issue. She also suggested a more careful examination of how laws are enforced and the disparate impact on people of color.

President Preckwinkle will be happy to return in the future to update SPAC on her progress.

#### **Working Lunch: Updates from RANA, Adult Redeploy and CIJA**

Jack Cutrone gave an update of CIJA's strategic plan, which should be released in either September or October. Mr. Cutrone also reported that Illinois' Justice Reinvestment Initiative application had been denied, but there might be an opportunity to reapply in the future.

Gladyse Taylor gave an update on RANA. She indicated that they were about six months behind the desired schedule but that they were working to get all of the procurement requirements met. She gave a timetable for rollout and implementation and said that they were looking at June 2013 for full implementation.

Mary Ann Dyer gave an update of Adult Redeploy and the first round of pilot sight implementation. Ms. Dyer noted that Adult Redeploy received a letter of intent from Cook County.

#### **Update and Progress Report from the Executive Director**

##### Legislative Seminar

Kathy Saltmarsh reported on the SPAC Legislative Seminar that took place on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Six legislators were in attendance. A panel on evidence based practices was moderated by Lisa Braude from ICJIA and included Rose Gray from Lake County Probation, Sheriff Mike Emery from McLean County, and Walter Boyd from Protestants for the Common Good who spoke about the best practice approaches implemented in their jurisdictions. The Dave Olson presented the abbreviated Retrospective Analysis and Director Saltmarsh explained SPAC's history and mandates. Vice-Chair Raoul suggested a more formal presentation on the Crime Reduction Act, SPAC and the resource statement at a joint subject matter hearing early in the spring session.

##### Staffing Update

Ms. Saltmarsh reported that a policy advisor, has been hired, and we are waiting on an official start date. Ms. Saltmarsh is also talking with Harris School for a research director/research staff.

National Association of Sentencing Commissions Conference

Ms. Saltmarsh and Vice Chair Raoul will be attending the National Association of Sentencing Commissions Conference at the end of July. Ms. Saltmarsh was asked to be on a panel on evidence based journalism and how a new sentencing commission will incorporate media in its strategy. Toni Irving and Matt O'Shea have been invited as well.

#### Outreach

Ms. Saltmarsh will be speaking to the States Attorneys Association on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Short Term Work Plan

The Strategic Planning Committee met in April. Discussion focused on producing a concrete deliverable for next legislative session. The Resource Statement for legislative proposals can be that deliverable. The a meeting with the reasearchers and Mike Tardy will be convened to discuss the model's structure, identify other organizations and sources of data that would be helpful to bring in. The methodology will be developed, data collected, and the model tested on several bills from last session. SPAC members will be briefed on and approve the methods and assumptions that are incorporated in the model. The final model needs to be up and running by December for use in the 2012 session.

The committee also discussed producing a regular newsletter, a one pager that would give a narrative on a sentencing issue. The first one would be on the history of SPAC. This would help present information to policy makers in an easy and manageable way. Possible topics would include:

1. Who is going to DOC, for what and how long.
2. Talking about 3 types of leg action that effect the sentenced population the most
3. Incarceration vs. alternatives, cost vs. outcomes
4. EBPractices that are going on in IL

#### **Meeting schedule – set dates through the end of the year; consideration of quarterly schedule**

Adopting a quarterly rather than bi-monthly meeting schedule was discussed. Upon motion by Jack Cutrone and seconded by Jeff Howard, a quarterly meeting schedule was adopted.

Gladyse Taylor noted that with greater involvement in the coming legislative session some special meetings may be needed if SPAC goes to quarterly meetings.

The next two meetings were scheduled for September 30, 2011 and November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

#### **Other Business**

A proper motion to approve the Short Term Work Plan was made by Vice Chair Raoul and properly seconded. The work plan was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jack Cutrone and seconded by Jeff Howard. The seventh meeting of the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council adjourned at 12:45 p.m.