

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY Friday, June 5, 2015 at 9:01 a.m. 300 West Adams Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room Chicago, Illinois

I. Roll Call

Chair Elizabeth Robb welcomed Board members and guests to the June 5, 2015 quarterly Board Meeting of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information authority. She called the meeting to order and asked General Counsel Lisa Stephens to call the roll.

In addition to Chair Robb, Authority Board Members in attendance were:

State's Attorney Anita Alvarez
Public Defender Amy Campanelli
Sheriff Thomas J. Dart
Director Patrick Delfino
Ms. Cindy Hora
Director Michael Pelletier
President Toni Preckwinkle
Ms. Angela R. Rudolph
Ms. Jennifer Vollen-Katz
Ms. Paul Wolff

II. Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2014 Board Meeting

With a quorum in place, Chair Robb asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the December 5, 2014 Authority Board Meeting.

{Ms. Cindy Hora so moved with Public Defender Amy Campanelli seconding the motion. With no response to a call for discussion, the motion was adopted by unanimous voice vote.}

III. New Business: Consideration of Proposed Open Meetings Act Public Comment Rules

Chair Robb then proceeded to the next item on the agenda, approval of Proposed Opening Meetings Act Public Comment Rules. She noted that a copy previously had been sent to the Board and asked for a motion to approve.

{President Preckwinkle so moved with Ms. Paula Wolff seconding the motion. After a call for discussion, Ms. Hora questioned whether the rules were too restrictive, yet acknowledged that they needed to convey that not any subject can be discussed. Ms. Wolff suggested adding language to indicate that any discussion needed to be germane to the business of the Authority. At that point, President Preckwinkle agreed as did Ms. Wolff and upon a call for a vote, the rules were adopted as amended by unanimous voice vote.}

IV. Old Business: Approval of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Strategic Plan for 2014-16

Next, Chair Robb turned to approval of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Strategic Plan for 2014-2016, which she also mentioned was sent to Board Members. At that point, ICJIA Victim Services Program Administrator Ronnie Reichgelt summarized the plan, explaining that it is mandated by the Office on Violence Against Women for three years of funding for the Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors (S.T.O.P) Violence Against Women Act Program for the State of Illinois.

Chair Robb then asked for a motion to approve the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Strategic Plan for 2014-2016.

{State's Attorney Anita Alvarez so moved, with President Preckwinkle seconding the motion. With no response for further discussion, the motion was adopted by unanimous voice vote.}

V. Introduction of Authority Board Members

Chair Robb remarking that this was her first meeting as Chair, said how pleased she was to be named to this position. After giving her background, she asked all the Board members in attendance to do the same. After each responded, she thanked them and moved on to the next agenda item, turning the meeting over to Executive Director John Maki.

VI. The Authority's Mission and Core Work

Director Maki said he was appointed by Governor Rauner in January, 2015, after having been the Executive Director of the John Howard Association. He added that he also was a previous Authority Board Member, being the first Executive Director to have had that background.

Before giving his presentation, Director Maki introduced and welcomed a special guest, Cabell Cropper, the Executive Director of the National Criminal Justice Association in Washington, D.C. Director Maki explained that the Association is the umbrella organization of all the counterparts of the Authority across the country and brings an impressive national perspective to the area of criminal justice.

Director Maki then gave background on the Authority, mentioning its vision to use grants administration, research and analysis, policy and planning, and information sharing technology to improve the criminal justice system. He explained that was the statutory vision that began with the Authority in 1983 as an outgrowth of the vision of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, the Authority's predecessor – to bring together the entire state criminal justice system to analyze it in terms of its needs, its strengths, and its opportunities for improving it.

Continuing his presentation, Director Maki noted that the Authority has an amazingly strong national reputation, benefitting from decades of leadership, particularly in the eighties and nineties, and is known for using research that drives policy that informs funding. He then emphasized that it was his goal, the goal of the core staff and hopefully the goal of the Board to strengthen the Authority as the leader in the state in this pursuit.

Director Maki then referred to the importance of the core executive staff and his reliance upon them, inviting the Board's reliance on them as well and introduced them. He started with Dr. Megan Alderden, who was hired after a national search as the Associate Director of Research and Analysis. Dr. Alderden outlined the functions of the Research and Analysis Unit and indicated that she was not going to talk about these activities specifically, but overall of how to use them to inform and move the criminal justice system forward from where it is today.

At that point, President Preckwinkle indicated an area she would like added: the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on black and brown communities. Dr. Alderden agreed and stressed that she was very open to suggestions for additional areas to address and measure.

Director Maki then thanked Dr. Alderden and introduced the Authority's General Counsel and Chief of Staff Lisa Stephens. He noted that Ms. Stephens is intimately involved with every function of the Authority and thanked her for her assistance, which he said helped him navigate through his first days as to the essential accountability of the agency.

Ms. Stephens thanked him and outlined the responsibilities of the office of General Counsel as: complying with the highest ethical standards per the State's Ethics Act and federal regulations; and holding the Authority and grantees accountable by ensuring Authority operations are informed by best practices, along with ensuring full and timely return of unspent or misspent funds. She added that she learned her responsibilities the first day of her previous position as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

Ms. Stephens continued to say that the Office of General Counsel in line with its overarching themes of transparency and accountability recovered over \$4,000,000 in unspent or unallowable funds from grantees over the last two years. She then thanked her staff of attorneys, whom she said bring years of professionalism, knowledge and experience to the Office of General Counsel.

Director Maki thanked General Counsel Stephens and introduced Mike Carter, Director of Special Projects and Information Sharing. He said that Mr. Carter would report on how the Authority is reviving the use of information to drive policy which was envisioned when the Authority was created in 1983. Director Maki said that Mr. Carter is on the forefront of making this happen, getting national recognition.

Mr. Carter thanked Director Maki and reviewed work starting three years ago to strengthen the Authority's role and statutory responsibility of coordinating and developing information sharing within the criminal justice system. He recounted an atmosphere of information ownership among different agencies and departments at that time. He then reviewed statewide forums the Authority sponsored that brought national case studies to Illinois, showcasing the Authority's potential for what information sharing can solve.

At that point, Mr. Carter showed a slide depicting the current inadequate, ineffective information sharing environment in Illinois. He then outlined the high costs of information sharing because of the archaic methods used. Moving on he showed a slide portraying an improved information sharing environment using the platform of the Illinois Data Exchange Coordinating Council which the Authority has proposed to the Governor. He explained that the platform would bring together agency directors and others to address governance for creating an information sharing environment for Illinois. He then outlined how it would work, not only to be more effective but more economical, and reviewed steps the Authority has taken in conjunction with the Governor's Office including a letter sent to agency directors informing them of this direction.

He pointed out that meetings will be taking place with those agency directors to facilitate their operational personnel working together to solve the current problems of information sharing and improve the system. Mr. Carter mentioned the steps that will need to be taken through the Authority's leadership of the Illinois Data Exchange Coordinating Council. President Preckwinkle then inquired if the Governor can create the Council by fiat or if it requires legislative action.

In response, Mr. Carter reported that the initial approach is the issuance of an Executive Order; however in contacts with legislators, there is legislative interest. He further reported that the Authority has promised to deliver a full-blown strategy within 12 months that also will include a return on investment, adding that he is confident once that document is in place, legislative support will be sought.

In the discussion that followed, questions were asked and comments were made by Ms. Paula Wolff, Public Defender Amy Campanelli, President Toni Preckwinkle, Ms. Vollen-Katz and Ms. Hora concerning the strategy that Mr. Carter outlined, with Director Maki further explaining the Authority's role in creating and overseeing the Illinois Data Exchange Coordinating Council. He thanked Mr. Carter and then introduced Randy Kurtz, Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer.

He explained that one of his first priorities when becoming Executive Director was hiring Mr. Kurtz for his significant private sector experience. Director Maki noted that Mr. Kurtz is basically in charge of all Authority operational activities, overseeing Human Resources, Grants, Information Technology, Fiscal and the Office of Administrative Support. Director Maki then asked Mr. Kurtz to discuss the Authority's grant work, efforts to "unsilo" the Authority, and use of a SWOT perspective – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

Mr. Kurtz thanked Director Maki and stated that with respect to Grants Manager a process will be underway to hire a new Grants Manager because the incumbent, Wendy McCambridge, will be leaving the middle of June for another position. He said Ms. McCambridge, who served the Agency for three years, will be missed. He added that internal and external candidates will be interviewed and that the position is important overseeing 20 staff.

Mr. Kurtz continued to say that because the grants unit is very good, he is comfortable to take a few months to fill the position and that the situation is not an emergency, but an opportunity. He added that regarding grants, over the last nine months an internal work group with staff from fiscal, legal and the grants unit has been working on reforming the Authority's grant-making process. He explained that the group is developing some new and different procedures with respect to areas such as timing and requests for proposals (RFPs) and that more information in line with that endeavor would be discussed at a future meeting on policy reform.

Mr. Kurtz then noted that in line with legislation now in place, the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), two Authority staff, Deputy General Counsel Junaid Afeef and Grants Unit member Jude Lemrow, are serving on state committees tasked with how to apply the Act to all state grant making operations. He added that the Governor's Office of Budget and Management (GOMB) values the Authority's grant making. He then moved on to the area of Authority Management and Talent Development, stating that in line with Director Maki's vision to make the Authority the best run state agency, several functions have been undertaken.

He noted that he and Director Maki conducted one-on-one meetings with all staff members, job descriptions were updated, performance reviews are underway to completion for 100 percent of staff by July 1, and efforts are being undertaken to break-down "silos," moving groups inside to work better together. At that point, Director Maki thanked Mr. Kurtz and discussed the SWOT analyses that have been taking place with each unit.

Next, Director Maki called on Mr. Cropper who noted that the National Criminal Justice Association is a good resource to use to assist with federal funding and described a number of the ways. Director Maki thanked Mr. Cropper and moved onto a discussion of the role of the Board.

VII. The Role of the Board

Director Maki noted that he wanted to bring the role of the Board back to identifying and addressing the most important issues which are affecting our justice system. He continued to say to accomplish that mission, the Board needs to be the Coordinating Council.

In the discussion that followed, suggestions were made about better utilization of the Budget and other Committees, Board Policy and how to improve Board Meetings. Director Maki then talked about constituting a Strategic Opportunities Committee, and described its function. He also mentioned creating a Violence Prevention Committee. A discussion followed about other aspects of the role of the Board and Board meetings, leading to re-arranging when Public Comments take place, with President Preckwinkle suggesting they come after roll-call. Other suggestions were made for future discussion, such as earlier distribution of materials so that Board Members have sufficient time to review and study them.

VIII. Board Resolutions

At that point, Chair Robb indicated that the quorum diminished with several Board Members having to leave. Therefore she stated that Board resolutions to honor prior Board Members and staff would need to be referred to the next Board Meeting for adoption, which was scheduled for Friday, September 4. Because that being the Labor Day weekend, it was noted that the Board Meeting might be moved to the following Friday, which would be announced.

IX. Public Comment

Chair Robb then opened the meeting to public comment. In response, an attendee identified herself as Queen Sister, saying that she represents "It Takes A Village Organization," and explained that it is of service and assistance to people. She went on to criticize several Authority Board Members, at which point Chair Robb advised her that rules were adopted earlier at the meeting that require comments to be germane to the discussion of substantive matters and asked her to please tailor her comments accordingly.

Queen Sister then asked that the Authority please apply time and attention to the black state of emergency. She said she was going to present a proposal requesting \$100,000 for her organization to address the problem and asked that she be met with assistance rather than resistance. Chair Robb then advised her that a three-minute limit for Public Comment was adopted and thanked her. She asked if there were other public comments.

X. Adjourn

Hearing no other requests, and without a quorum, Chair Robb thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.