

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

December 6, 2002
120 S. Riverside Plaza, 4th Floor
Chicago, Illinois

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Peter Bensinger convened the regular meeting of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and asked Robert Boehmer, the Authority's Secretary and General Counsel, to call the roll.

Other Authority members in attendance were:

Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown
Cook County State's Attorney Richard A. Devine
Ms. Engel
State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor Director Norbert Goetten
State Appellate Defender Theodore A. Gottfried
Chicago Police Superintendent Terry Hillard
DeKalb County Circuit Court Clerk Maureen Josh
Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Director Thomas Jurkanin
Mr. John Piland
Mr. John Z. Toscas
State's Attorney Michael Waller

Approval of the Minutes of the September 6, 2002 Authority Meeting

{State's Attorney Devine made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 6, 2002. State's Attorney Waller seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.}

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Bensinger introduced Heather Baker and other staff from Ohio's Office of Criminal Justice Services. Ms. Baker stated that they were visiting Authority staff to exchange ideas regarding how we administer our grant programs. Chairman Bensinger then called members' attention to three Resolutions of Commendation which were at their places. These Resolutions commended Chief John Millner, Attorney General Ryan, and John Farrell for their service to the Authority. He noted that Attorney General Ryan has been to Authority meetings more than most Attorney Generals and that he has been an advocate for children and was instrumental in starting the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority.

{Director Jurkanin made a motion to approve the Resolution of Commendation for Chief Millner. State's Attorney Devine seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.}

{Mr. Toscas made a motion to approve the Resolution of Commendation for Attorney General Ryan. State's Attorney Devine seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.}

{State's Attorney Devine made a motion to approve the Resolution of Commendation for John Farrell. Mr. Toscas seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.}

Chairman Bensinger announced that this would be his last meeting as chair of the Authority. He said that he will not be asking the new governor to consider extending his term. He said that he has served since 1991 and thinks that it is an appropriate time for a new chair with the new governor. He indicated that serving the Authority has given him a personal sense of humility, awareness, satisfaction, and gratitude for the cooperation that has been extended to him as chair. He then thanked the members. He said that he would continue to make himself available to the Authority and the new administration for advice and commentary.

Clerk Brown complimented Chairman Bensinger on the professionalism that he demonstrated in chairing meetings during the two years that she has been sitting on the Authority. She said that he was interested in keeping each board member informed of specific information. She complimented the sensitivity he has shown to many of the issues that she has brought before the Authority. She thanked him for all of his hard work for the people of the State of Illinois. Director Gottfried thanked Chairman Bensinger for assuring that something was done when the Office of the State Appellate Defender was experiencing huge backlogs which affected the entire appellate system.

Chairman Bensinger noted that he was appointing State's Attorney Devine as vice-chair of the Authority. He said that in the chair's absence, State's Attorney Devine will be acting chair for the Authority. State's Attorney Devine said that it was truly an honor to be asked to serve as vice-chair because of the high regard he has for Chairman Bensinger. He said that he has served on many boards with Chairman Bensinger and noted that whenever Chairman Bensinger undertakes a job for the public, he does it with the same commitment, integrity and class as he has done as Authority chair. He thanked Chairman Bensinger for his service.

Chairman Bensinger said that it is his recommendation that this staff and leadership continue in the future and that members who will serve on the Authority receive the same type of professionalism that he has received. He thanked Director Kane and the entire Authority for their support and guidance and the advice and information that has been provided to him and the people of the State of Illinois during his tenure.

Chairman Bensinger called members' attention to a Tribune editorial that recognized Becky Block's homicide research. He also noted that Congress has not yet passed the federal justice appropriations bill.

Executive Director's Report

Director Kane called on Dr. David Olson to speak briefly about the Illinois Substance Abuse Monitoring Network. Dr. Olson said the group arose out of the Planning Assembly where we recognized that there was a lack of effective communication across state agencies that are dealing with substance abuse. He said that the group, comprising state agencies, local agencies, justice agencies, and public health and treatment officials, will share information about emerging drug issues in the State.

Director Kane said that she gathered information from Chairman Bensinger's tenure as chair since 1991. She said that we started in 1991 with a \$23.5 million appropriation and now have a \$136 million appropriation. She said that we started with a headcount of 118 and now have 112. Regarding federal grants, we had two and now we have nine. At the time Chairman Bensinger started we had 125 grantees and now we have 450. We had 105 ALERTS users and now we have over 3300. On the crime side, 708,000 offenses were reported in 1991, while in 2001, 524,000 were reported. In 1991 there were 29,000 adults in prison, while in 2001 there were 43,000.

Director Kane also related the following activities and accomplishments during Chairman Bensinger's tenure: The Authority had just released Trends and Issues '91: Education and Criminal Justice in Illinois. Among other things, the report informed readers that 72% of Illinois' prison inmates were high school dropouts – a rate three times the state average – and almost 30% lacked the equivalent of a 6th grade education.

All requests to our Research and Analysis Unit for data or other information came by phone or mail. We didn't establish an Internet presence until 1996. Today, more than 50% of the 1500 requests received annually come to our website. By the way, our website has had 6.5 million hits since we started keeping track in 1999.

Since Chairman Bensinger came to the Authority, R&A has answered 18,000 information requests...and still found time to publish 191 reports...and that doesn't include the county profiles of each of Illinois' 102 counties!

One of his first actions was to urge staff to develop a program to prevent the use of illegal drugs. The result was the *Consider the Consequences* campaign to educate young people about the legal consequences of a drug conviction - loss of driving privileges, personal property, and school and job opportunities...as well as the possibility of time in prison or jail.

Then came the Governor's Task Force on Crime and Corrections, the Legislative Committee on Juvenile Justice, the Truth and Sentencing Commission, the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition, the Governor's Commission on Capital Punishment, and the Criminal Code Re-Write Commission. He chaired, was a member of or provided valuable insights to all.

He was our champion when community policing was in its infancy and yet-to-be director and then-Chief Nowicki wanted to test this new philosophy of policing in Joliet – several years before Chicago sought, and received, his support for CPD's nationally -heralded CAPS program.

He quietly advocated for victims – expanding services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. And thought supporting the establishment of sexual assault and domestic violence hotlines in Chicago was important to do.

He has long recognized that police, prosecutors, judges, probation officers, and corrections personnel are the backbone of the criminal justice system so he reminded us that a balanced approach – which takes into account the whole system and our whole state – was best.

He led us through a Summit (on gangs, guns and drugs), an Assembly, Y2K and the development of a plan for criminal justice – Illinois' first – and four directors (Coldren, Nowicki, Baker and Kane).

He knows how important information is – to practitioners, policymakers, researchers and the public. So he pushed for improvements in criminal history records, program evaluation and pioneering research including the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study and the CAPS evaluation.

Perhaps most of all – and best of all – he has been a diplomatic and thoughtful chair. He heard and responded to the angry concerns of Project CLEAN, guided the board through potentially divisive discussions, and reassured staff of the value of our work.

Director Kane said that Chairman Bensinger has earned our respect and our thanks and that he will be leaving big shoes to fill.

Chairman Bensinger said that those accomplishments were those of the members and staff. He said that the thing that he takes the most pride in is that we have not had fistfights. He said that through the course of 50 Authority meetings and so many planning sessions we have managed to get through the issues and come to the best possible recommendations and conclusions.

Budget Committee Report

State's Attorney Waller noted that the Budget Committee last met on November 16th. He called members' attention to a summary of that meeting at their places. He noted that there were adjustments to the Byrne program for federal fiscal years 2000 and 2001; and to the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program for federal fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Diane Griffin then gave the fiscal year 2002 final fiscal report, describing the charts contained in the mailing. In summary, she said that we spent about 81 percent of our general revenue appropriation, 68 percent of our user's fund, 58 percent of our criminal justice trust fund, 71 percent of general revenue matching funds, 90 percent of the criminal justice information projects fund, and 48 percent of the Juvenile Incentive Block Grant Fund. For fiscal year 2003 she reported that as of the end of October we have obligated or expended 30 percent of our general funds, 33 percent of our user's fund, 42 percent of our criminal justice trust fund, 44 percent of our general revenue matching funds, and 28 percent of the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Fund.

State's Attorney Waller said that it has been a privilege, an honor and always a pleasure serving under Chairman Bensinger. Chairman Bensinger thanked State's Attorney Waller for his comments and for serving the Authority and chairing various committees.

Legislation and Regulations Committee Report

Director Goetten noted that the Legislation and Regulations Committee has not met since the last Authority meeting and then called on Robert Boehmer to discuss some legislative initiatives contained in the mailing. First, Mr. Boehmer described the proposal to amend the Illinois Uniform Conviction Information Act proposal which would remove the requirement that the Authority annually set the maximum fee local criminal justice agencies may charge to assist persons with requests under the Act. He said that this proposal was drafted in response to a recent audit finding. In response to a question from Director Goetten, Mr. Boehmer noted that if the legislation passes, the Authority would be able to set its own timeline regarding how often the fee review would be conducted.

{Ms. Josh made a motion, seconded by Superintendent Hillard, to approve the draft legislative initiative regarding the Uniform Conviction Information Act. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.}

{Director Goetten made a motion, seconded by Chairman Bensinger, to set the maximum fee that criminal justice agencies other than the Illinois State Police may charge to assist persons under the Illinois Uniform Conviction Information Act at \$16. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.}

Mr. Boehmer described the proposal to extend the life of the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council another four years. He noted that the Council had already approved this proposal and that we are also seeking Authority support.

{{Director Goetten made a motion, seconded by Mr. Toscas, to approve the legislative initiative to extend the life of the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council by four years. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.}}

Director Kane noted that despite the transfer of funds from the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Trust Fund to the General Revenue Fund, the insurance industry still supports the extension of the program because it has done a great job of impacting motor vehicle theft.

Illinois Integrated Justice Information System Strategic Plan

Chairman Bensinger noted that the Authority, the Illinois State Police and others have been working on a strategic plan for integrated justice in Illinois. He noted that the plan is ready to be presented to the Governor and called on Candice Kane and Ken Bouche to provide an overview.

Director Kane said that there have been many problems with criminal justice information being missing, incomplete or late. She said that the Governor created the Illinois Integrated Justice Information Systems Board to create a plan for integrated justice. She thanked Authority members and their staffs who put a lot of time and effort into the process. She also noted that Clerk Brown helped us get an opportunity to present the plan to the transition team. Finally, she called on Illinois State Police Deputy Director Ken Bouche to provide an overview of the issues.

Deputy Director Bouche noted that others are looking at Illinois' process as a model to be followed in developing an integration strategic plan. He noted that three committees, the planning committee, the technical committee and the outreach committee, worked together to develop the plan. He said that besides the committee members, many others also participated in the plan development. He said that the plan is a collaborative effort and sets the standard for us to measure progress in the future.

Deputy Director Bouche noted that the plan is divided into sections. One section is the scenario of what the board believed our future would look like if we integrated justice agencies in Illinois. He said that the basis of the plan is the strategic issues that tell us what the plan is going to try to accomplish. He said that the first strategic issue is to form a governing body to oversee integration efforts. The next issues include privacy and rights of individuals, funding, the establishments of standards, guiding the infrastructure, and the use of biometrics for rapid identification of people in the system.

Deputy Director Bouche said that this plan has taken us a long way. He said that it recognizes that technology is not about technicians; it's not about acronyms that none of us understand. He said that it is about policy makers coming together to use technology as a tool to accomplish their goals. He noted that the Authority has already committed funds toward integration and those funds will be used to support a new IJIS board until fiscal year 2006. Director Kane said that there is significant money to fund integration activities at this time.

In response to a question from Chairman Bensinger, Deputy Director Bouche said that we have been active in attempting to educate the justice system on our activities. He said that we have an aggressive schedule of getting to the conferences of the chiefs, sheriffs and state's attorneys. He said that we don't want to stop people from building systems, but want them to build with an eye towards an open architecture that can exchange information in ways that are common. He said that setting standards is very important.

Clerk Brown reported that the outreach committee was given guidance to market the plan throughout Illinois. She said that we have developed a strategic marketing plan and are looking for champions in every county. She also thanked people for their hard work on the plan.

{Ms. Josh made a motion, seconded by Ms. Brown, to approve the draft legislation contained in the IJIS plan. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.}

{State's Attorney Devine made a motion, seconded by Director Goetten, to express the Authority's support for the IJIS strategic plan. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.}


Chairman Bensinger noted that the Authority is endorsing the governing board to continue its existence and to provide them support and funding. He said that he would expect the group to report to the Authority on its progress from time to time.

New Business

After hearing no new business, Chairman Bensinger announced that the next Authority meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2003. He also said that he wished the new governor and any new appointees the best of luck and good will. He thanked all of the members, the staff, the executive director and general counsel for their enthusiasm and support.

Chairman Bensinger adjourned the meeting after a motion, a second and a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert P. Boehmer
Secretary and General Counsel