

Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 17th, 2017 10:00AM – 12:45PM

Location: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
300 West Adams Street, Suite 200
Chicago, IL

Members Present – Stephen Baker, Kathryn Bocanegra, Jim Chadd (Michael Pelletier), Gino DiVito (Chairman), Craig Findley, Annie Fitzgerald, Michael Glick, John Maki, Margo McDermid, Marcia Meis, Micaela Smith (Marcus Evans), Alan Spellberg, Julian Thompson and Warren Wolfson (Vice Chair).

Members Present by Phone – Nicholas Kondelis and Stu Umholtz.

Members Absent – Jason Barickman, Stuart Palmer, Kwame Raoul (Vice Chair), Don Stemen, Gladyse Taylor and Kristen Ziman.

Non-Members Present – Mary Ann Dyar, Michael Elliott, Lily Gleicher, Bryant Jackson-Green, Madeleine Hamilin, Roger Franklin, Sharone Mitchell, Lynne Mock, Adriana Perez, Mark Powers, Kathy Saltmarsh, Laura Scherkenbach, Nate Inglis-Steinfeld, Michael Toomin and Paula Wolff.

Non-Members Present by Phone – Jennifer Paswater and David Risley.

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman DiVito called the twenty-eighth regular meeting of the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council to order at 10:10 a.m. Chairman DiVito gave the opening remarks, including a summary of the agenda and purpose of the meeting:

- At our last SPAC meeting, Rep. McDermid commented that we pay way too much attention to the back end of the system and not enough to the front end, thus the idea of doing a meeting on how reform efforts impact the exercise of police discretion. Given our mandate to look at the system as a whole and the allocation of resources, it is appropriate to talk about the law enforcement role as the gatekeeper to the system and the gulf between policy and practice that frequently exists.
- We invited Chief Kaminski of Park Ridge and Chief Tanksley, who retired from the Oak Park Police Department not too long ago, because both have taken innovative approaches to policing in their communities. However, Chief Tanksley was called into court and was not able to attend. Additionally, Champaign County Drug Court from Judge Jeffery Ford and Champaign County Sheriff's Deputy Shawn Hallett provided insight into law enforcement's duties with drug courts and how that county's courts have dealt with local budget cuts. Special thanks to Mary Ann Dyar for suggesting that we include this topic as it goes to the role law enforcement can play to help keep people out of the prison system via alternatives to incarceration.

Vote: Approval of the meeting minutes from the September 15, 2017 SPAC meeting

Margo McDermed moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Julian Thompson. The minutes from the September 15, 2017 SPAC meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Stakeholder Viewpoints; The Impact of Criminal Justice Reform on the Exercise of Police Discretion

Moderator, Dr. Laura Kunard, has worked with many police agencies throughout Illinois in her past positions with CNA and at the University of Illinois' Institute of Government and Public Affairs where she served as the director of Center for Public Safety and Justice. Dr. Kunard currently serves as Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety within the Inspector General's Office in Chicago. She explained that the purpose of this panel was to start thinking about the relationship between policy reforms and practices on the exercise of police discretion. Dr. Kunard then turned the conversation over to the three panelists who shared their experiences with the Council.

Chief Kaminski shared his extensive background in community policing/problem solving, school and community relations, accreditation, media relations, enhanced 911, criminal and internal investigations, financial management, and labor relations. He also spoke about the need for more communication and involvement with policy makers earlier on in the process, rather than the usual practice of him and his colleagues learning about potential policy changes, when they are already moving through the legislative process. Funding is another hurdle that he constantly has to deal with, but the best decision that was ever made in his current department was the hiring of a social worker. The hiring has helped give his officers a different perspective than many learn in training. He also believes that the role of the police officer has drastically changed over the years, and their duties have become more socially focused than police focused.

Judge Ford began with an overview of his drug court and the importance of having a sheriff's deputy involved, working in tandem together. Champaign County Drug Court functions by blending accountability with treatment which, along with an effect, Judge-monitored court docket, strikes the proper balance between the need to protect the community and the need to improve public health. Offenders stay in drug court is typically 12-18 months. Throughout this time clients are afforded an intensive regimen of drug treatment, regular and random drug tests, and frequent appearances in court for the Judge and his team to review their progress. Clients are rewarded for doing well and sanctioned for not living up to their obligations.

Through a two-year grant provided by the Department of Justice, Champaign County Drug Court received funds to add a Deputy Sheriff to the Drug Court Team. The recent inclusion of law enforcement on the Drug Court Team has proven to be highly successful. By working the streets, law enforcement contributes a unique perspective that reaps many benefits that the court would not normally be privy too. The Sheriff's Office is a full team member, and his perspectives are not ignored. According to statistics developed by the NPC Research, having a member of law enforcement on the team was associated with a 57% higher graduation rate compared to 46% for those that did not have law enforcement on their team. By adding law enforcement to the team, Judge Ford stated his belief that the county benefits from this cost-effective strategy by adding an active voice in problem-solving, as well as an increase in credibility and accountability. Judge Ford reported that the Champaign County Sheriff's Office and the Champaign County Drug Court were working together will continue to greatly reduce the revolving door of recidivism and make their community a safer place to live.

Updates from SPAC Partners

Adult Redeploy Illinois (ARI): ARI Program Director Mary Ann Dyar provided an update of funding, site statistics, and current site issues. Ms. Dyar said a second grant monitor will join ARI and that they are formalizing the contractual policy and project coordinator position. Ms. Dyar introduced new ARI intern Khyrah Simpson, a University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration student who assisted with the Smart Decarceration Initiative 2nd National Conference, attended by ARI staff. ARI staff also attended the ICJIA Opioid Conference in early November 2017. Ms. Dyar reported on a survey about sites' use of pleas, fees, and fines and on efforts to inform sites about new legislation that expands criminal records sealing eligibility. She noted that Cabrini Green Legal Aid presented on the topic of records relief at the recent All-Sites Summit.

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA): Director John Maki spoke briefly about ICJIA's two most recent notices of funding opportunity, including one for community-based violence intervention (State) and one for victims of community violence (federal). He also said ICJIA was staffing two unfunded initiatives: the Sex Offenses and Sex Offender Registration Task Force and Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils.

New Business

Chairman DiVito announced the 2018 SPAC meeting dates will take place on the third Friday of June (15th), September (21st), and November (16th).

Adjournment

Craig Findley, moved to adjourn the twenty-eighth regular meeting of the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council, seconded by Alan Spellberg. The twenty-eighth regular meeting of the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. by unanimous voice vote.