



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

Justice Advisory Board Minutes of Regular Meeting Google Meet

November 10, 2021

Present: John Haila, Vice Chair; Sarah Fineran; Tim Lane; Eileen Meier; Tina Meth-Farrington; Andrea Muelhaupt; Cody Samec; Ardyth Slight; Sherri Soich; Kurt Swaim; Bruce Vander Sanden; Olivia Walker; Dale Woolery
Ex-officio: Sen. Kevin Kinney; Rep. Mary Lynn Wolfe

Staff: Steve Michael; Mindi TenNapel; Julie Rinker; Lanette Watson; Cheryl Yates

Others: Betty Andrews; Zach Engstrom; Evan Johnson; Arnold Woods

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

John Haila welcomed all in attendance at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present at 1:23 p.m. and action was taken after that time.

II. Division Update

Steve Michael reported the following:

- CJJP was awarded a five-year, \$1.5 million grant for delinquency prevention. The focus will be on expanding pre-charge diversion (PCD) to reduce disparity. Currently 10-12 communities provide PCD programs. This grant will provide an opportunity to expand to other communities, standardize practices, and provide evidence-based programs for delinquent youth. Communities will apply for funding through a competitive bidding process.
- CJJP is conducting research on youth culpability and the minimum age at which youth should be referred to Juvenile Court Services. The research includes the availability of programs and resources aimed at youth who are not culpable based on age.
- Staff Shortages—
 - Justice System Analysts—Two positions are vacant and have been posted. The postings expired November 7. One position will focus on research, the other on data.
 - Reentry Navigators—Applications are being accepted for three navigator positions to be based in the 5th and 6th Judicial Districts and at the Boys' State Training School. The application deadline is November 14. Navigators will work with youth returning home from placement and assist with employment and job skills training.

Haila asked how the grant will dovetail with the Board's three-year plan and whether YSS could fill the navigator positions. Michael responded that Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation secured the funding and CJJP is required to be the

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employer. The effort will be a pilot program with hopes for eventual statewide expansion.

Haila asked about workload and staffing concerns. He questioned if there were any concerns with managing additional staff and whether the Board should provide any recommendations. Michael responded that experienced staff will be sought for the justice analyst positions. Work will be prioritized to achieve valuable products.

Haila encouraged Michael to update the Board on any staffing issues that should be brought to the attention of the Legislature.

III. Approval of Minutes—September 23, 2021 & October 21, 2021

A quorum was present at this time. Tina Meth-Farrington moved to approve the minutes from the September and October meetings, seconded by Bruce Vander Sanden. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Review Draft Annual Update to the JAB 3-Year Plan

Michael reported that the annual update includes a summary of plans and recommendations at the front. The remainder is the three-year plan which includes long-term projects. Some goals and activities may have changed due to discussions during the October meeting.

The following highlights discussion:

- **Racial Justice—**

TenNapel reviewed this priority area and asked for comments.

Haila noted that with regard to collecting data from law enforcement, that Ames police don't ask about race and many citations show 'unknown'. He was concerned about the quality of data.

Betty Andrews, NAACP of Iowa-Nebraska, concurred. She noted that the Governor's FOCUS committee shared the same concerns and recommended that race be imbedded in drivers' licenses. To do otherwise, was a judgement call by law enforcement.

Andrews also noted the NAACP's request for an audit of the juvenile justice system. She suggested including the school-to-prison pipeline as well as the juvenile court-to-adult criminal pipeline and added that Scott County has the highest disparity rates in Iowa. She asked that this information be included.

TenNapel responded that the report by "The Sentencing Project" is referenced later in the report. She will add this to the recommendation section at the front of the document.

Michael noted that the newly-awarded grant for pre-charge diversion for juveniles would fall under this priority. Pre-charge diversion for adults would also fall under this item.

- **Mental Health—**

TenNapel noted that some of the recommendations were revised to reflect discussion at the October meeting. She reviewed the goals and recommendations.

Dale Woolery asked that ‘greater utilization of access centers’ be included.

- **Community-based Corrections—**

TenNapel reviewed the goals and recommendations for this priority area.

Eileen Meier requested that ‘reduce revocations to prison by increasing or enhancing community treatment’ be added.

- **Sex Offenders—**

TenNapel reviewed the goals and recommendations for this priority area. She asked if any modifications should be made.

Rep. Mary Lynn Wolfe commented on the “efficacy of sex offender residency restrictions”, with regard to its effectiveness. She suggested studying those convicted of a sex offense against a minor and the restrictions related to workplace and other areas from which they are banned without permission, such as schools and libraries. She was specifically referring to non-predatory sex offenders whose charge resulted from consensual sex such as that between a 20- and 15-year-old. Although a small percentage of offenders, they are still subject to the restrictions for employment and presence in public facilities. She noted the impact on these individuals who are no threat to public safety.

Haila requested that changes to the draft document be noted. TenNapel offered to use ‘tracked changes’ features that would clearly indicate edits.

Priorities that Require Additional Funding—

TenNapel noted discussion from the October meeting and the results of a survey completed by JAB members. Three areas were identified as priority areas for future projects. Due to the amount of work required by staff, these priorities would require additional funding and a prioritization of staff time. These projects are in addition to the smaller projects already identified. She asked members to confirm that these issues remain priorities so that staff could seek funding from outside sources:

1. Priority 2 – Mental Health: Identify gaps in community resources for released incarcerated individuals needing mental health services/medication.
2. Priority 1 – Racial Justice: Evaluation of racial difference in crimes charged, convicted, and imprisoned using propensity matching.
3. Priority 2 – Mental Health: Evaluation of mental health courts.

There was consensus to keep the above priorities. Michael added that if other priorities arise, these issues may shift.

V. Public Comment--There was no additional public comment.

VI. Finalize and Approve Annual Update to the JAB 3-year Plan

Sherri Soich requested that stronger language be used regarding the equalization of penalties for possession of crack and powder cocaine (page 8). She suggested: “we continue to urge that they be made equal”.

Meth-Farrington reported that the Iowa County Attorneys Association met last week and agreed to send a letter supporting the equalization. TenNapel asked for a copy of the letter and noted that it could be referenced in the report. There was consensus to include this recommendation in the executive summary.

There were no further comments. The above changes will be made and a final draft will be shared with members for individual approval.

Woolery commented on his personal support of the goals and recommendations, however, due to the nature of his position as well as the work of the Office of Drug Control Policy, he would abstain.

Meth-Farrington moved to approve the report subject to the above edits as discussed. The motion was seconded by Cody Samec and approved with one abstention by Woolery.

VII. Issues for Next Meeting

Michael reported that the next meeting will most likely be held in conjunction with the DHR “Day on the Hill”. A notification will be shared once that date has been set. Meth-Farrington asked that February 10 be avoided since that is the Iowa County Attorneys Association ‘Day on the Hill’.

Haila requested that a planning meeting be arranged between Chair Neary, Michael, and him prior to the February meeting. Michael concurred.

VIII. Adjournment

Haila thanked staff for their time and wished everyone a wonderful holiday season. The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning