



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

Justice Advisory Board

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Polk County River Place, Room 1
2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa

September 18, 2019

- Present:** Rebecca Stout for Beth Barnhill; Tammy Bramley; Kim Cheeks; Chandlor Collins; Brian Gladney; Tim Lane; Betsy Richey for Sarah Reisetter; Cody Samec; Sherri Soich; Kurt Swaim; Bruce Vander Sanden; Susie Sher for Dale Woolery; Daniel Zeno *Ex-officio*: Hon. Romonda Belcher; Hon. Jeffrey Neary; Rep. Timothy Kacena; Sen. Brad Zaun
- Staff:** Steve Michael; Sarah Fineran; Meg Berta; Brianne Potts; Julie Rinker; Lanette Watson; Cheryl Yates
- Public:** Arnold Woods, Iowa-Nebraska NAACP; Jo Ann Finkenbinder, Karen Persons, League of Women Voters
- Other State Employees:** Terry Cowman; Cathy Engel

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Steve Michael welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was present. Introductions were made.

II. Division Update

Michael provided the following update:

Staff Changes—Meg Berta has been hired as a Justice Systems Analyst, replacing Tracy Loynachan who transferred to the Department of Public Safety; a Research Coordinator has been hired to replace Sarah Fineran who has accepted a position with the Department of Corrections.

Budget—2021 budget preparation is underway and will be submitted to the Governor's Office for approval.

Board Membership—There are still some vacancies on this Board. A membership roster was included in the meeting packet.

III. Review of Justice Advisory Board Legislation

- a. Roles and Responsibilities

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

Michael reviewed HF634—the legislation that established this Board, its membership, purpose, and duties. The duties of the former Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council, Public Safety Advisory Board, and Sex Offender Research Council are now incorporated into the duties of this Board.

IV. Election of Officers

Michael provided an overview of the duties required of the chair and vice chair.

Kurt Swaim moved to appoint Judge Neary as Chair, seconded by Sherri Soich. The motion was unanimously approved.

Neary asked Michael to preside over the remainder of the meeting

Swaim moved to nominate Chandler Collins as Vice Chair, seconded by Kim Cheeks. There were no other nominations. The motion was unanimously approved and Collins was appointed Vice Chair.

V. Current Research Projects

Sarah Fineran reviewed a list of current research projects in CJJP.

VI. Future Topics – Small Group Exercise

Michael and Fineran asked members to form small groups to identify priority topics to guide future research.

VII. Review Topics and Identify Areas for Future Research

Members divided into four groups and identified the following:

Group 1

- Housing for juvenile offenders
- Human trafficking—
 - Number of charges plead down
 - Victim study on prostitution charges
 - Where are victims coming from—in/out of state
- Mental health treatment services for offenders—
 - Particularly juvenile offenders
 - Services available
 - Awareness
 - Access in correctional facilities
- Public defender caseload/overload
 - What is a reasonable caseload to provide effective representation
- Reduction in cannabis laws
- Cash bonds and the impact on jail populations

Group 2

- Mental health for adult & juvenile offenders—
 - Availability of community-based services

- Alternatives to facilities
- Youth waived to adult court—
 - Mandatory/non-mandatory
 - Minimum age in other states
- Restoration of felon voting rights
 - Adjustment in the community
 - Employment opportunities—trades/licensing
- Barriers to drivers licenses
- Police in schools
 - What is happening statewide
 - Rural v. urban
 - Hiring—police, school employee, security officers
- Reducing sentences for Robbery 1 & 2
 - What happened between 2016-2019
 - Robbery 3—misdemeanor removed, back to felony
- Disparity in sentencing, esp. crack v. powder
- Court debt—fines, bail, restitution
- Family drug court and the impact on children
- Data—disaggregate data, who does it affect by race/ethnicity, etc.

Group 3

- Elder abuse—both civil and criminal side
- Felon voting rights
- Fines—reasonable ability to pay—what is appropriate
- Pre-trial reform – appropriate assessment
- Sex Offender—
 - Special sentence
- Sex Offender Registry—cost of resources, is being on the Registry appropriate for some offenders
- Incarceration rates v. probation—
 - by charges and convictions – 6th district issues

Group 4

- Drivers license related—fines and fees
- Mental health—
 - Co-occurring disorders
 - Mental health courts
 - Psychiatric hotline
 - Expanding residential treatment options
 - Improving outcomes
 - Substance abuse treatment—esp. meth and medication assistance treatment
- Disparity between crack and cocaine
- Human trafficking—internet accountability
- Cash bail/bonds
- Internet bullying/harassment – especially in schools
- Youth vaping – especially marijuana/THC
- Drug use—
 - Meth
 - Youth

- Prevention

Fineran will review the various topics and look for trends to provide a more concise focus.

Michael thanked members for their assistance. He noted that this information is helpful with grant applications and the ability to take advantage of those opportunities when they arise.

VIII. Public Comment

Karen Persons, League of Women Voters, acknowledged the balance of men and women on the Board and thanked staff accordingly.

IX. Issues for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held November 6. There were no issues identified.

X. Adjournment

Michael thanked those in attendance for joining the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
Iowa Department of Human Rights