



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

300 W. Adams Street • Suite 200 • Chicago, Illinois 60606 • (312) 793-8550

MINUTES

Sex Offenses and Sex Offender Registration Task Force

January 23, 2017

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Sex Offenses and Sex Offender Registration Task Force met on Monday, January 23, 2016, via Video-conference:

- Chicago - Thompson Center, 100 W Randolph St, Room 9-036
- Springfield – Capitol City Training Center, 130 W Mason St., Room 104
- Marion – HFS, 3419 Professional Park Drive.

Task Force Chair Elgie Sims called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Roll call was taken and the following members were present:

- Mary Boland, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney (Chicago)
- Jacqueline Bullard, Deputy Defender, 4th Judicial Circuit (Springfield)
- Mike Fogel, Associate Professor, Chicago School of Professional Psychology
- Jennifer Gonzalez, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, Supervisor of the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Division (Chicago)
- Lisa Jacobs, Vice Chair, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (Chicago)
- Maria Jacobson, Chicago Police Department for Superintendent Eddie Johnson
- Beth Johnson, Director of Legal Problems at Cabrini Legal Aid (Chicago)
- Lynne Johnson, Policy Director at Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (Chicago)
- Gary Lemmon, License Clinical Social Worker (Marion)
- Director John Maki, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Chicago)
- Tracie Newton, Offender Registration Unit, Illinois State Police, for Director Leo Schmitz (Springfield)
- Becky Palmer, Training, Consultation and Treatment (Chicago)
- Co-chair Representative Elgie Sims, Jr., 34th District (Chicago and later via teleconference)
- Beth Tarzia, Cook County Public Defender's Office for Amy Campanelli (Chicago)
- Hon. George Timberlake, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (Chicago)
- Rob Vickery, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (for Heidi Mueller) (Chicago)
- Darla Wexstten, Clinical Social Worker (via teleconference)

- Alyssa Williams Schafer, Public Services Administrator, Illinois Department of Corrections for John Baldwin (Springfield)
- Ed Wojcicki, Executive Director, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (via teleconference)

Also in attendance were:

- Megan Alderden, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Chicago and later via teleconference)
- Mary Ratliff, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Springfield)
- Laurie Jo Reynolds, University of Illinois Chicago (Chicago)
- Erin Sheridan, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Chicago)
- Anita Weinburg, Loyola University Chicago's School of Law (Chicago)

II. Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks

Director Maki welcomed everyone. He explained that the task force is using video-conferencing and teleconferencing to accommodate everyone with limited travel abilities.

III. Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission Report: Improving Illinois' Response to Sexual Offenses Committed by Youth

Director Maki introduced Hon. George Timberlake and Lisa Jacobs from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC) and Anita Weinburg from Loyola Law School to present the IJJC Report: Improving Illinois' Response to Sexual Offenses Committed by Youth.

Hon. George Timberlake, Lisa Jacobs and Anita Weinburg presented, via PowerPoint, the IJJC Report: Improving Illinois' Response to Sexual Offenses Committed by Youth.

Director Maki opened the discussion up for reactions to the presentation. Several task force members commented that the report has helpful information and is accurate based on members' experiences. Members discussed the differences between two phrases, "never repeat sex offending behavior" and "recidivism". The group agreed that they should discuss and research recidivism including, what recidivism is, how do we measure recidivism and what is the real risk to individuals.

Members discussed the multi-year timeframe that was allowed for the IJJC report. The report assigned to this task force is due in less than a year, therefore having considerably less time. However, members stated that this group could take information, methodology and resources from the IJJC report to assist in this task force's charge.

Members discussed the differences in resources and data available for juvenile offenders and offenses versus adult offenders and offenses. It was suggested that there is more information available for adult cases.

Questions came up about how the report has affected legislation on juvenile sex offenses. The IJJC communicated with legislative officials about the findings related to proposed legislation. There are task force members who are members of the Illinois Legislature; they could help in providing information to the General Assembly about findings and future recommendations.

Questions were asked about research done regarding juvenile sex offender petitions to be removed from the registry. Anita Weinburg responded by saying that this petitioning process is complicated and can involve expensive attorney fees. Members talked about this process being more complicated and unavailable than intended. This conversation led to more discussion about risk assessments and the advantages and possibility of their use in determining sex offense sentences and assignment to the sex offender registry. It was suggested that the task force research sex offenses and sex offender registry laws in other states.

Anita Weinburg stated that the IJJC report recommendations seemed to be easy to make once the research findings were agreed upon. The IJJC used both consensus and voting to determine both findings and recommendations. Judge Timberlake mentioned that research with clear findings was easier on which to come to consensus. He stated that it was the circumstances in which there was little to no research on a topic that became challenging to agree upon a finding and a recommendation. He said that often times, the recommendation would be to do more research in that area.

Director Maki invited public comment on the subject of the process of research, findings and recommendations. Questions were asked about the ages of offenders in the juvenile system. Judge Timberlake responded by saying that people ages 17 and older are considered adults. A member of the public recommended the task force look at the U.S. Sentencing Commission reports. Another member of the public recommended the task force consider researching the Ohio Justice and Policy Center's database of collateral consequences.

IV. Discussion of Topics for Future Meetings and Recommended Speakers

Director Maki introduced Erin Sheridan, researcher at the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, to present a recommended a work plan with outline of topics for future meetings. Erin suggested that each meeting should focus on a specific topic as follows:

February meeting:

- Environmental scan on Illinois recidivism
- Expert presentation on recidivism, programming, and case management
- Discussion

March meeting:

- Environmental scan on how state and locals use risk to address/manage people convicted of sex offenses
- Expert presentation on risk assessment
- Discussion

April meeting:

- Environmental scan on how Illinois registry and notification works

- Expert presentation on registry & notification
- Discussion

May/June meeting:

- Environmental scan on restrictions imposed upon people on the sex offender registry
- Expert presentation on restrictions
- Discussion

Jun-Sept:

- Draft report and recommendations

Sept-November

- Meeting to review and approve report and recommendations

December:

- Submit written report of findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

The proposed meeting structure would generally be as follows:

- Meetings would last 4-5 hours;
- ICJIA presentation on current state in Illinois of meeting topic;
- Expert presentation on what research and science say about topic of meeting;
- Task Force discussion on what changes should we make to align Illinois current practices with best practices.
- ICJIA staff would use information presented and discussed in the meeting to write findings and recommendations for the final report.

Director Maki suggested that each topic/meeting should have part of the discussion involve how it relates to the sex offender registry. Members suggested that attention needs to be paid to the SMART office on the federal level. A member commented that the group should look at how the registry impacts the criminal justice system's decision to charge sex offenses. Director Maki suggested that the impact of the registry is a larger part of collateral consequences.

Judge Timberlake commented that the report the task forces produces will not change the world, but rather should be foundational for further research and future reform. A member maintained that having foundational research is essential in order to promote action and reform. Stakeholders' perspectives were also emphasized as being important.

Director Maki proposed that each meeting involve discussion about how the topic relates to the registry. Members proposed that this task force accept and reference the Juvenile Justice report presented and narrow the focus of the work to adult sex offenders/offenses. Director Maki agreed. Members discussed the topics recommended by ICJIA and the order in which they should be presented.

Director Maki talked about possibly having a joint legislative hearing in which the task force and legislators would hear testimony from people affected by the sex offender registry. Representative Sims commented that a hearing is a great suggestion, but may be premature. Sex offender bills are being introduced in the current legislative session. Rep. Sims intends to educate legislators about the task force and relay findings and preliminary recommendations in legislative committees.

Director Maki stated that ICJIA is creating a website to post meeting information as well as resources for member to review before meetings. ICJIA staff will write up a fact sheet repurposing the Juvenile Justice Commission's report. Additionally, staff will touch base with all stakeholders. Director Maki also mentioned staff would consider adding a session on case management and programming. ICJIA staff will discuss and plan a public forum to get feedback and other perspectives on these topics. Staff will email the link to all members.

VI. Public Comment

Mary Clair, mother of a young man convicted of a sex offense, talked about her experience of the sex offender registry including consequences of being registered. She stated that young adults should be managed according to their stage in emotional and mental development. She asserted that restrictions on internet access is not reasonable in our current society. Ms. Clair explained her son's experience of how he was convicted of a sex offense as well as his experience with being a registered sex offender.

Another member of the public testified about his experiences registering on the Murder and Violent Offender Registry.

Veronica, mother of a sex offender, discussed her experiences of the sex offender registry. She emphasized the need for risk assessment, treatment and education about the sex offender registry for offenders. Veronica's husband also spoke about the need for research on sex offenses in changing times. He asserted that race and culture should also be considered when researching sex offenses and the sex offender registry.

VII. Schedule Meetings February - June

ICJIA staff will schedule future meetings and email as well as post the dates/times to a website.

VIII. Adjourn

John Maki thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.