
Committee Meeting Minutes
Criminal Justice System's Awareness of Disabilities and Needs for Accommodations

Protection of Individuals with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System Task Force

**Conducted via WebEx Pursuant to
Executive Orders 2020-07 and 2020-18**

Minutes

Task Force Member Attendees: Representative Will Davis, Mary Dixon, Kimberly Johnson-Evans, Penny Gates, Linda Kelly, Carol Nesteikis, Allison Stark

Not present: Amy Newell

1. Call to order
 - Meeting was called to Order at 2:03 pm – Mary Dixon, Member and Committee Chair
 - Roll Call completed with certification of number of members to constitute a quorum
2. Introductory remarks
 - Chair Dixon introduced Kimberly Johnson-Evans who was unable to be present at the last meeting.
 - Kimberly Johnson-Evans gave a background of her personal and professional history and its relation to her involvement with the task force. She spoke of her son and the tireless advocacy work she has done behalf of him.
3. Old business
 - Vote to adopt March 12, 2021 meeting minutes taken at 2:55 pm
 - Kimberly Johnson-Evans Moved for the minutes to be adopted
 - Carol Nesteikis Seconded the motion
 - The Ayes carried the vote
4. Updates on outreach efforts
 - Mary Dixon referred the committee's attention to a document she created and sent to the group that she believes will help the group to keep their thoughts and next steps in order as they move through their committee meetings and prepare what they intend to recommend to the whole task force in May 2021.
5. Speaker: Judy Rosenthal, District Attorney, Rockland County, New York regarding IDDATI program
 - The speaker was unable to make the meeting, but will be rescheduled for a future meeting
 - Mary Dixon offered information on the speaker and their interview in preparation for the committee meeting.

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- Mary Dixon referred to additional information in the pre-meeting materials on the IDDATI program and another interview she had with Jackie Ballard of the Scott Maine Center. The interview centered around a juvenile resource center, funding and needs associated with the juveniles who seek out the center. ID/DD is referenced in statutes.
- Mary Dixon asks Allison Stark from DHS to speak on outreach efforts.
- Allison Stark spoke about information she secured about training and an institute that is held and offers for Mary Dixon to share information learned as well.
- Chair Dixon offered for Carol Nesteikis to speak on outreach efforts
- Member Nesteikis has been reaching out to the State Appellate Prosecutors and is awaiting call backs from the four (4) offices called. She will continue her efforts and report out when appropriate.
- Chair Dixon offered Rep. Davis the floor to give an update on his outreach efforts
- Rep. Davis referenced that he provided the task force administrator Gia Orr two references to consult for the committee. One is John Milner from the IL Police Chief's Association and the other is Jim Kaitshuck from the IL Sheriff's Association. Administrator Orr will be reaching out to them to provide background information on the Disabilities Task Force and the committee.
- Rep. Davis is also going to reach out to the State Appellate Office in tandem with Carol Nesteikis and continues to work to reach out the judges who were appointed to the task force.
- John Milner was also asked if he had an interest or would refer another chief to sit on the task force
- Carol Nesteikis spoke about the importance of putting ID/DD information into language for policies and protocols as well as guidance documents for the public. She went on to ask how committee members feel about independent court.
 - Chair Dixon indicated that perhaps that could be tabled until they have an opportunity to hear about the IDDATI program from Judy Rosenthal. Chair Dixon expressed that she would like to hear more about what the benefits of independent court would be.
- Discussion continued about details of the program that Chair Dixon was familiar with
- Committee members pondered about what to do about sex offenses
- Mary Dixon referenced the two speakers who have been invited- Tonya M. and Judy R.
- Another reference was made to the work of the other task force committees and their use of the guiding questions
- Chair Dixon asked if Kimberly Johnson-Evans has any input
 - Kimberly Johnson-Evans cited that she has further interest in how the group will meet the intent of the committee and how she could be of assistance in ensuring the asks of the committee are thoroughly communicated the whole task force via her work in research. She feels that her expertise in the field of research and work with individuals in the CJ system can lead to some anecdotal data that conveys what families go through.
- Mary Dixon indicated that the committee should add Probation to the outreach efforts list.
- Allison Stark indicated that another area in need of attention is Determination of Fitness. Questions to answer center around how to train clinicians to assess and determine fitness. Director Stark pointed out that the idea that someone can get to fitness can be problematic
- Mary Dixon spoke to the process that judges and others have to go through and asked Director Stark a question about the adequacy of provide training
- Director Stark spoke to the trainings provided and needs for further training topics
- Mary Dixon referenced LCSW's and LCP's and pondered if their training needed to be looked at
- The committee drew their attention to an email from Andrew Walter that highlighted DOC policies. There is an observation that there is no mention of ID/DD in written policies.
- Chair Dixon queried Allison Stark about what she believes needs are that she sees in her role as a department director in DHS.
 - Director Stark spoke about data needs and uses of data

- Representative Davis spoke about the direction legislators are headed in related to being data driven. He asked about availability of data and the ability to use that data to inform decisions.
 - Chair Dixon talked about there is a need for more data and this may be a recommendation from the committee to the whole task force
 - Rep. Davis would like to have further conversations about the idea of Independent Courts and their benefits. He suggests that this may be a topic for a Subject Matter Hearing in the legislature.
 - Mary Dixon spoke about there being many people with ID/DD who go through the courts, but the courts are not suitable for them. She suggests looking at IL Redeploy and Juvenile Redeploy and likes the idea of consideration to gathering data. Indicates that there should be some consideration of thought for a separate disability recognition by courts
 - Director Stark reviewed materials sent from IDOC and observed that the IDOC directive does not take into account cognitive disabilities. Wonders about what kind of feedback the chair would see as helpful. There is also the question of how the task force can address these observations about policy directives that make be violating the rights of persons with disabilities in the criminal justice system.
 - Kimberly Johnson-Evans offered to assist with this area with more direction on information sought
 - Mary Dixon referenced keeping the work of the committee within certain limits and the need in future meetings to determine recommendations to make to the task force and subsequently to the General Assembly taking into account what is being done well in the mental health space and the disabilities space. She also referenced work on CIT in the past year and the IL Black Caucus' bill
 - There was a question raised about CIT and whether it is required statewide. What is the status of how many hours of training there is on ID/DD interactions
 - Administrator Orr offered information related to what other task force committees are doing particularly the Police Interactions committee. They are looking at additional training for dispatch and the general public
 - Mary Dixon re-referred to data collection and to whom questions could be referred about data collection and availability
 - Administrator Orr asked to committee to return to the agenda item Old Business and take a vote on the minutes
6. Next steps/assignments
- Chair Dixon reviewed next steps from the conversation
 - Administrator Orr to reach out to Rep. Davis' contacts
 - Rep. Davis to assist Carol Nesteikis with reaching out to the State Appellate Office
 - The need to add Probation as a entity to contact
7. Public comment
- None
8. Adjournment
- Chair Dixon moves to adjourn the meeting
 - Carol Nesteikis Seconded the Motion
 - Ayes have it and the meeting adjourns at 3:00 pm

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