
**Committee Meeting Minutes
Detention and Correctional Facilities Committee**

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: Kathleen Bankhead, Edwin “Bob” Bowen, Bryan Echols, Mary Hettel, Dr. Omar Jamil, Jennifer Vollen-Katz

Not present: Fred Chinn, Donald Dew

- I. Call to order
 - Meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm- Mary Hettel, Committee member
- II. Roll call
 - Roll call completed with certification of number of members to constitute a quorum
- III. Define committee purpose or goals
 - Mary Hettel provided introductory remarks related to the purpose of the task force and committee
 - Jennifer Vollen-Katz suggested the committee identify the needs in jails and prisons and dive deeper into what exists and what is needed
 - Bob Bowen indicated that city jails must be included. He followed by giving his background and length of service in the corrections arena. He indicated there are policies that exist, but also advised that small jails do not have the finances or resources that their larger counterparts possess. Smaller jails are those with up to 10-15 beds.
 - Dr. Omar Jamil spoke to the need to affirm that detention and correctional facilities are using the proper assessments for persons with disabilities as well as matching the accommodations/modifications and/or medical treatments needed. This included psychological testing.
 - Committee member Vollen-Katz continued the discussion about battery of tests used or what may be needed
 - Bryan Echols furthered the discussion keeping focus on the lack of resources and queried what information needed to be presented to whom
 - Jennifer Vollen-Katz indicated that there is data on the threshold numbers upon entry
 - Bob Bowen identified categories of data kept

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- Jennifer Vollen-Katz suggested that each person on the committee say what their field of work is so that it was easier to recognize who has what expertise. Jennifer then gave information on her work as the ED of John Howard Association and those that John Howard Association works with.
- Kathleen Bankhead spoke to her work in youth advisement. She spoke of the need for a mechanism for making sure those who run the facilities and those in them know what the ADA is and how it fits to related rights. She continued with the dilution of rights in certain arenas like when balanced against security needs.
- Jennifer Vollen-Katz queried if Equip for Equality is on the task force?
- Task force administrator, Gia Orr indicated that they were not however they can be invited to a meeting.
- The committee members wrapped up the discussion to the agenda item.

IV. Committee work plan

- Mary Hettel opened this agenda item with asking the committee members how they could get the information that they need.
- Jennifer Vollen-Katz asked Bob Bowen where he thought it was a good place to start, is it policies or is it the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)?
- Bob Bowen offered that the department has administrative directives and departmental rules through JCAR. The directives are developed after the rules. He continued providing information surrounding the departmental rules like psychological testing and educational testing. Psychological testing is done on every individual who comes in. The Department of Corrections no longer has a school district but does have an education department at each facility. Mr. Bowen suggests bringing in Maria Miller who is the new Secretary of Schools Administration at DOC to speak to the committee or the whole task force.
- Mr. Bowen also gave information related to D.O.C and Title 20 (JCAR Rule) which is very generic and does not get granular especially if clients do not stay in jail a long time though at this time because of Covid-19 clients are staying longer. There is a single annual review of every city jail required by Uniform Standard Code. At that time there is a review of standards for persons with disabilities and mental health needs. There is a committee being convened to review Illinois Jail Standards.
- Kathleen Bankhead indicated that rights are not the same as fees when in jail
- Bryan Echols from the State Treasurer's Office spoke about the ABLE plans and accounts that assist individuals in saving money in a manner that does not threaten government benefits. He also works with youth in communities who have had interactions with the juvenile justice system. He works with a restorative justice model and indicated that youth are looking for humane treatment while in the system
- Dr. Jamil asked if the task force addresses educational needs like IEP's (Individualized Education Plans). He also spoke about neurological needs for youth in detention facilities and how often these are done. IDJJ (IL Dept. of Juvenile Justice) has been focusing on the well-being of youth and what policies exist for youth with disabilities both identified and unidentified.
- Mary Hettel asked if IDJJ works with schools.
- Jennifer Vollen-Katz indicated that they have their own school, but does work with other schools

V. Next steps:

- a. Determine focus of and schedule follow up committee meeting
 - Establish a timeline to meet monthly with a goal of July 2021
 - Bob Bowen will send the jail standards out to the committee so they can see what is required. He also stated that there is such a variation of what city jails have in the 102 counties.
 - Bryan Echols asked if there are testimonials available to the committee from people working at DOC. What are they doing? What works? What do they need?

- Bob Bowen recommended inviting Susan O’Neil from Equip for Equality and spoke about issues being so prevalent in detention settings and services help with decrease in stress. He also indicated that there is a real issue with funding.
 - Bryan Echols asked if there was someone from Peoria County Jail (mentioned earlier in the discussion) who could come out and speak.
 - Jennifer Vollen-Katz agreed with EFE and Peoria personnel as starting points to speak. She also indicated that there must be a differentiation juvenile needs and adult needs
 - Bob Bowen also reminded the committee members that there is a distinct difference between D.O.C. jails, IDJJ and state operated forensic facilities. He spoke to some of the differences and indicated that he would ask his boss to have someone speak to the committee.
 - Jennifer Vollen-Katz spoke to differences between the entities as well.
- b. Presentation to the whole task force
- Mary Hettel indicated that the final report should reflect the areas the Jennifer Vollen-Katz identified

VII. Public comment

- None

VIII. Adjournment

- Jennifer Vollen-Katz moves to adjourn the meeting
- Dr. Omar Jamil Seconded the Motion
- Ayes have it and the meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm

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