
Protection of Individuals with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System Task Force
February 8, 2021

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

Minutes

Task Force Member Attendees: Kathleen Bankhead, Edwin Bowen, Fred Chinn, Representative Will Davis, Donald Dew, Mary Dixon, Penny Gates, Mary Hettel, Kathryn Hunt-Muse, Allen James, Kimberly Johnson-Evans, Dr. Antoinette Kavanaugh, John Keigher, Linda Kelly, Dr. Mary Milano, Carol Nesteikis, Amy Newell, Darlene Perry, Leigh Richie, Lt. Akil Smith, Allison Stark, Jennifer Vollen-Katz

Not present: Dr. Lily Gleicher, Dr. Jennifer Jaworski

1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to Order at 2:05 pm – Co-Chair Allen James, Member
- Roll Call completed with certification of number of members to constitute a quorum

2. Old Business

- Vote to adopt meeting minutes
 - Request made by Co-chair Allen James for corrections or additions- none heard
 - Motion to Adopt, Dr. Mary Milano, Member
 - Second to Motion, Donald Dew, Member
 - Ayes have it, Nays 0
- Vote to adopt Task Force Rules of Procedure
 - Motion to Adopt, Dr. Mary Milano, Member
 - Second of Motion, Amy Newell, Member
 - Ayes have it, Nays 0

3. Discussion of committees, including logistics and expectations

- Leigh Richie shared information regarding how many committees task force members could serve on- must be on at least one but could serve on two. Indicated that Gia Orr, task force administrator previously circulated committee lists based on member selections. Leigh inquired

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if newly appointed member, Dr. Jamil was on the committee lists. Gia Orr affirmed that his name does appear on the circulated lists.

- Leigh Richie progressed with additional committee expectations as well as all members meeting the Open Meetings Act (OMA) expectations. She referenced that the task force aim was to meet again in May at which time committees would be able to report out on their meetings and recommendations.
- Fred Chinn asked to be added to the Detention and Correctional Facilities Committee
- Kathy Bankhead and Kim Johnson-Evans asked to be added to the Police Interactions Committee
- Gia Orr indicated that she was adding the names to the previously circulated committee list and would send out updated lists either before the meeting ended or immediately after if members wanted to add committees. She also indicated a need for interim committee leaders to work with her to get committees on the calendar.
- Leigh Richie asked if there were volunteers
- Fred Chinn volunteered as interim lead for the Police Interactions committee
- Mary Hettel volunteered as interim lead for the Detention and Correctional Facilities committee
- Allen James volunteered as interim lead for the Legal Representation and Counsel committee
- Carol Nesteikis volunteered as interim lead for the Criminal Justice Systems Awareness committee
- Gia Orr stated that the committee's lists would also be updated to reflect the volunteer leads
- Leigh Richie asked if there were any thoughts on what the committees could address
- Dr. Mary Milano spoke about the ability to relate committee conversations and recommendations to the Illinois Black Caucus' Criminal Justice Reform pillar. She inquired of the committee if there were thoughts on this correlation
- Representative Davis gave background on the Illinois Black Caucus' bill package, timeline, and shell bills
- Dr. Milano gave background on her review of the ILBC package particularly the criminal justice reform package. She highlighted the intersecting areas where disability issues co-mingle with racial inequality issues. She asked if there should be a liaison from the task force to those writing the ILBC legislation
- Representative Davis encouraged using processes like the legislative process that the agencies have. Agencies can harness their power to address matters via their internal legislative processes.

- Allen James reminded the members about the next task force meeting tentatively being in May, but also cautioned that could change depending on the progression of committees.

4. Public Comment

- Kirsten Gharst asked if there are plans to be a committee addressing juveniles aging out of the system with disabilities
- Susan Kahan indicated no comment

5. Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn, Jennifer Vollen-Katz, Member
- Second the Motion, Fred Chinn
- Ayes have it, Nays 0
- Meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm