

Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council

Regular Meeting Minutes¹

September 20, 2024 10am – 12:20pm

Location: Northern Reception & Classification Center, Illinois Department of Corrections

19893 Division St, Crest Hill, IL 60403

Michael A. Bilandic Building and Virtual

160 N La Salle St, Room N502, Chicago, IL 60601.

Members Present in Person

Chair John Cullerton, Scott Main, Doug Harvath, Julia Reitz, Mitchell Davis, Latoya Hughes, Jim Montgomery, Delrice Adams, Declan Binninger

Members Present by Video

Sen. Elgie Sims, Rep. Justin Slaughter, Rep. Patrick Windhorst, Christelle Perez, Don Bernardi, Daniel Hunt, Augie Torres, Don Stemen, Patricia Jjemba, Lisa Daniels

Members Absent-

Sen. Steve McClure, Ron Hain, Anne Fitzgerald

Non-Members Present in Person or by Video

Victoria Gonzalez, Mark Powers, John Specker, Michael Varrige, Paula Wolff, Caitlyn Rothenberg, Jorja Powers, MaryAnn Dyar, Jen Paswater, Selina Zhang, Ivan Castaneda, Laurie Jo Reynolds, Josh Blum, Francesca Federspiul, Isaiah Thomas, Vianie Sanchez, Alyana Dela Cruz, Ariel Cisneros, Yaretzy Gonzales, Victor Diaz, Alexandra Sanchez, Leo Martin, Zander Garcia, Troy Szabo, Sarah Plumlee, Lindsey Reppe, Christine Brannon-Dortch, Charles Truitt, Jean-Marie Case, Brian Page, Darrin Hunter, Sunina Chacko, Alyssa Williams, Shelith Hansbro, Millicent Lewis-McCoy, Molly Halladay-Glynn, Anne Sullivan, Lindsey Hammond

Welcome, Introductions & Updates

Chairperson Cullerton called the forty-fifth regular meeting of the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council to order at 10:00 a.m. Chairperson Cullerton then had SPAC's Executive Director Victoria Gonzalez take the roll.

Chairperson Cullerton reviewed the agenda for the meeting stating there would be an Executive Director's Report, a presentation about reception and classification from the Illinois Department of Corrections, a presentation from the Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy, and a tour of the Northern Reception and Classification Center.

¹ A full recording and transcript are not available for this meeting because of technical difficulties experienced at the Northern Reception and Classification Center which resulted in a network connection failure.

Vote: Approval of the Minutes from the June 2024 Meeting

Chairperson Cullerton called for a motion to approve the Minutes from SPAC's June Meeting. Following a motion being made and seconded, the minutes from the June 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Chairperson Cullerton then asked Director Gonzalez to provide the Executive Director's Report.

Executive Director's Report

Director Gonzalez's Report included reminding those council members who are not exempt from annual State-mandated trainings to complete their training requirements. Director Gonzalez also provided an update on staff recruitment, specifically for two researchers. Director Gonzalez provided a preview of the next few SPAC meetings, one of which will cover the risk and needs assessment tool that the Department of Corrections uses for those in its custody.

There were no questions or discussion about this topic.

Illinois Department of Corrections Presentation

Chair Cullerton introduced Stateville and Northern Reception Center Warden Charles Truitt who provided a brief introduction to the presentation. Next, Assistant Warden of Operations JeanMarie Case began the presentation and covered topics including background on the Department of Corrections and its various locations for reception throughout the State, what occurs on an individual's first day in custody, and services provided at the Northern Reception Center. Then, Brian Page, Psy. D., presented on the mental health review that staff completes for all intakes at the Northern Reception Center. Next, Sunina Chacko, DNP, presented on the healthcare unit and its capabilities at the Northern Reception Center. Finally, a Department of Corrections counselor presented on the process to get classified and transferred to a parent facility within the Department of Corrections.

Presentation from Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy

Chairperson Cullerton introduced Jorja Powers, the Executive Director of the Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy, to present on the differences between Nevada's process for reception and classification compared to Illinois's process. Ms. Powers presentation provided a history of the Nevada penal and carceral systems as well as an on the ground view of the system from her perspective having worked in the Nevada Department of Corrections prior to her work with the Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy.

Public Comment

No Public Comment due to the technical difficulties.

New Business

SPAC's next meeting is November 22, 2024 at 10 am.

Tour of the Northern Reception and Classification Center

Illinois Department of Corrections staff invited the Council and others present to tour the Northern Reception and Classification Center.

Adjournment

Chairperson Cullerton adjourned the meeting after the tour of the Northern Reception and Classification Center.