Justice Reinvestment Advisory Board Meeting

JRA Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 30 · 12:00 – 1:00pm
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/fii-hsko-ddf
Or dial: (US) +1 260-338-8844 PIN: 294 578 532#

Board Attendance

- Ama Frimpong, *Casa de Maryland*
- Judge Carlos Acosta, *Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) Criminal Law & Practice Section Council*
- Jamin Ford, *Division of Parole and Probation*
- Victoria Reaves, *Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV)*
- Jodi Cavanaugh, *Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)*
- Jen Corbin, *Anne Arundel County Crisis Response System*
- Cailey Locklair, *Maryland Retailers Association*

Minutes

- **Welcome and Introductions**
    - **Brandi Cahn, Assistant Director, JRA, GOCPP**

- **GOCPP Updates**
    - **Performance Incentive Grant Fund**
        - Provided figures for the FY26 PIGF funding decisions. It was an extremely competitive year, and all applications underwent a rigorous scoring and review process. All awards started on time on July 1st.
            - Available to fund: $10,894,090.00
                - Parole Commission: $337,963.00
            - Total requests: $23,915,427.00
            - Total number of applications: 99
            - Number of recommended applications: 58

        - Recommendation total: $10,556,127.00
- **Boards and Commissions**
    - Former Chair, Bethany Young, is no longer with GOCPP.
    - JRA statute requires the establishment of an Advisory Board, but it does not require the Board to meet on a regular basis.
    - Because of frequent turnover and the lack of engagement, it has been decided to dissolve the Board.
    - Cahn provides information about other Boards and Commissions operating in this space for members who still wish to remain involved in these efforts.
    - *See slides for more detail.*
    - **Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board**
        - The Oversight Board is responsible for monitoring and evaluating recommendations made by the JRCC and JRA implementation.
        - It also advises on policy and budgetary proposals and collaborates with the Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission and other key agencies.
            - This Board acts as a vehicle for stakeholder engagement, and it is a perfect place for Advisory Board members to discuss the work their organizations have been doing and to voice their concerns.
        - The Board also performs financial oversight, as it is tasked with calculating the annual cost savings created by the JRA. This is done with the help of DPSCS.
        - Lastly, the Board relies heavily on data collection to guide fiscally responsible criminal justice reform. At each meeting, the Health Department reports on substance use treatment and placement averages and the Administrative Office of the Courts reports on technical violations. Once a year, GOCPP presents pretrial detainee data.
        - **Pretrial Improvement Workgroups:** For the next year, the Board's work will focus on making improvements to Maryland's pretrial system. Recently, GOCPP conducted interviews with all 24 jurisdictions to establish a baseline understanding of pretrial supervision processes across the State and identify areas to be addressed. The Board will split up into the following workgroups, which correlate to the interview findings:
            - Standardization of terms and levels of supervision
                - Levels of supervision and the conditions for each are different in almost every county.

        - Legislation and local rules
            - Baltimore City's pretrial services are defined in COMAR, but other jurisdictions may have local rules that hinder the ability to standardize.
        - Detainers and information sharing
            - Counties are not effectively communicating and transferring individuals.
        - Private home detention and electronic monitoring
            - Currently a concern in the news are individuals violating terms of release.
        - Risk assessments and validation
            - Risk assessments not being validated every 5 years, making them unaligned with best practices.
        - Data collection
    - Advisory Board members are welcome to join these workgroups, they are still being formed and have not yet met.
    - Ama Frimpong suggests including ICE detainers in the workgroup discussions on detainers and information sharing.

- **Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission**
    - The Commission is focused on evaluating the current correctional education system and recommending improvements. The Commission receives correctional education data and is exploring best practices for prison education.
    - This Commission aligns with recent Advisory Board work, and it has also recently split into workgroups to tackle specific issues:
        - Adult Basic Education, GED, and Special Education
        - Career Technology and Workforce Development
        - Higher Education
    - Commission and workgroups meet monthly. The Commission meetings are open meetings, but it is unclear if the workgroups are.

- **Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens & Expanded Reentry Services**
    - The basis of this Task Force is to identify and assess Maryland's present reentry services; identify gaps in those services; assess the markers of successful reentry; and ensure that the recommendations of the Task Force equally consider returning citizens regardless of gender.
    - This task force has ample support from individuals with lived

experience.
    - They have split into workgroups, currently in the beginning data collection stages. This task force has a public forum, a live stream, and they are always taking public comment.

- **Member Updates**
    - N/A

- **Open Discussion and Next Steps**
    - Cahn encourages members to keep in touch and to reach out if interested in being connected to these boards.