

**Minutes from the ARIOB Outreach, Technical Assistance & Communications Committee Meeting  
Friday, March 28, 2014  
1:00pm-3:00pm  
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)  
300 W Adams St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Chicago, IL 60606  
Small Conference room**

ARIOB in attendance: Joe Bruscatto, Nate Steinfeld (for Kathy Saltmarsh)

ARIOB members participating by phone: Cristin Evans (for Jack Cutrone), Kathy Saltmarsh

Non-ARIOB members in attendance: Mary Ann Dyar, Lindsey LaPointe, Sarah Porter

**Welcome and introductions**

Mary Ann Dyar called roll and determined quorum was not established; therefore, no votes will be taken. The previous meeting minutes will not be voted on or posted at this point in time. The goals of the meeting include discussion of recent outreach, recent communications activities, recent technical assistance, and the upcoming All-Sites Summit.

**Update on planning grant outreach process and follow up**

Lindsey LaPointe provided an update on outreach. The updated dashboard highlights the current planning grantees: Grundy County, Kankakee County, Cook County HOPE program, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Randolph and Monroe Counties), Pike County, and Will County. ARI staff has been targeting the top 20 counties committing the highest numbers of ARI-eligible individuals to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). The current targets include the non-ARI counties from the top 20 list (SFY13) and also counties in areas of the state where there is a lack of ARI programming (Whiteside, Adams, Vermillion). Several targets have been invited to the 2014 All-Sites Summit to learn more about ARI.

The committee reviewed the outreach plan and suggested specific outreach to Chief Judges, the State's Attorney's Association, and through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's (ICJIA) CJ Dispatch. Press releases were also mentioned. The deadline imposed for SFY14 planning grants motivated participation, so this is a lesson learned. Some counties are still unaware of ARI funding and programs. The committee suggested additional outreach ideas: direct meetings with non-participating counties (to align with other site visits or state travel), providing ARI information to state legislators to include in newsletters or letters (from legislators) to local stakeholders, tasking Oversight Board members with more direct outreach (avoiding conflict of interests), and providing palm cards for Oversight Board members to guide outreach. ARI staff will continue to focus on the top 20 committing counties and follow up with jurisdictions that have shown interest. Contingent on the outcome of the proposed SFY15 appropriation, outreach may be critical for growth.

ARI has received feedback that some current ARI sites do not realize that ARI provided technical assistance, both directly and through coordination of other entities. The lack of site awareness is likely due to staff's focus on paperwork to keep the program running. ARI needs to build a more codified "menu" of options of technical assistance and continue working with the Illinois Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health and Justice (COE) to provide training and technical assistance. Technical assistance is also vital in planning grants. Mary Ann Dyar mentioned the technical assistance provided by the Council of State Governments (CSG) to IDOC as part of a Second Chance Act planning grant, which has assisted to plan for the fullest impact on program participants, keep the planning group on task, determine the best target population, determine the most effective interventions, and determine current service gaps. There is room for ARI to provide much more technical assistance during ARI planning grants, and ARI could reach out to CSG or the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to replicate the process they have utilized.

This process helps jurisdictions identify what they can leverage and assists with longer term sustainability of well-constructed outcome-producing programs. This technical assistance can bolster community-led criminal justice efforts and familiarize jurisdictions with grant requirements in advance. Kathy Saltmarsh suggests utilizing a general planning structure in lieu of a checklist, taking lessons learned from previous ARI planning processes that worked well.

Kathy Saltmarsh suggested providing information on ARI funding availability to county executives, and Joe Bruscato agreed this is very appropriate since county executives are key stakeholders in the budgeting process. A letter could be drafted and crafted specifically to the county executive perspective to include language on local investment, being smart on crime, benefits to counties, and testimonials. The letter aligns with a county-level dashboard highlighting benefits to counties that has been previously suggested. Outcome data from earliest sites can inform these documents.

### **Update on communications plan**

Mary Ann Dyar thanked Cristin Evans for compiling the press release from December 2013, which successfully generated several media stories around the state. The committee suggested possible follow-up to the press release such as working with local partners to meet with editorial boards. Cristin Evans noted that follow-up with specific journalists is not typical until there is more news; however, it may make sense when ARI next needs to garner support in specific counties or in the General Assembly.

Mary Ann Dyar noted a recent piece on LaSalle County ARI in the News Tribune that will be distributed at the next meeting. Cristin Evans suggested following up with reporters who write critical pieces or miss important information to initiate a direct conversation with the reporter. It was noted that ARI does not need to wait until grants are available to conduct outreach.

The idea of revisiting talking points every six months to a year was raised. Talking points would not be distributed publicly, but would serve as a guide for ARI staff and the Oversight Board.

### **2014 All-Sites Summit and other technical assistance to sites**

This committee has been instrumental with ideas on the All-Sites Summit. The 2014 Summit will be held April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Bloomington, Illinois. Participation of 120 is anticipated, the biggest event thus far, and registration is online this year. This year's event is critical due to overall program growth, growth of funding and recent press. The event has been a great mechanism to build buy-in with potential sites.

Planning and event content has been shaped by last year's evaluation and will focus on the critical issues of heroin, opiates, and medication-assisted treatment; housing; and employment. Lore Baker, former head of the Illinois Supportive Housing Provider's Association and new staff in the Governor's Office, will provide a working lunch presentation. The Midwest Harm Reduction Institute of Heartland Health Outreach and the Safer Foundation will present on heroin and employment respectively. Sites will be engaged through site presentations and panel presentations. Technical training on data and/or budgeting will be provided.

Participation has not been an issue and historically all sites have sent representatives. If incentivizing participation is ever necessary, a keynote speaker, key technical assistance, and networking benefits can be highlighted. The committee suggested following up with non-participants and inviting the media, specifically the local Bloomington press. The pros and cons of media coverage were discussed along with the idea of a media workshop for general education about the program. Kathy Saltmarsh suggested the Capitol press corps may be interested since ARI is an example of the state running a successful program and local communities being empowered by state incentives. Since representatives from this statewide program will all be in one place, this is an excellent opportunity to engage the press on this growing

program. It was suggested that event information needs to be shared with the Governor's Office early next week.

The closing speaker is not yet confirmed and the idea of hearing from former participants was discussed. ARI staff will ask one or two sites about program graduate participation in the event. Concern about the comfort level of program graduates was discussed. Opening speakers include Judge Robb and State's Attorney Bruscato.

Other recent technical assistance includes two recent site visits (Macon and the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit), both two-day visits. The COE provided training in the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. The COE will provide a training during the next site visit in Jersey County in April 2014.

Several ARI sites participated in *Moral Reconciliation Therapy* (MRT) training this year, two sites attended the American Probation and Parole Association conference, three sites worked with the COE, and several sites are scheduled to participate in the National Association of Drug Court Professionals conference in May 2014.

### **2013 Annual Report**

Mary Ann Dyar provided an update on the 2013 Annual Report which is more complex this year due to the inclusion of 20 sites instead of 10 sites. There is no concrete deadline, but the 2012 report was completed in early March of 2013. The draft Executive Summary was distributed to the committee for feedback. The current theme of the Executive Summary is expansion on multiple levels such as an increase in overall size and an increase of effective interventions and evidence-based practices in use. Nate Steinfeld suggested referencing the specific counties concisely in the Executive Summary. Committee members can provide feedback direct to ARI staff once reviewed, but several agreed the draft is strong and it is a good tool to highlight the program.

### **Old business/new business**

Mary Ann Dyar suggested this committee meet again soon to avoid too big a gap between meetings. It was again noted that a vote on previous meeting minutes, both October 2013 and March 2014, will occur at the next committee meeting since an in-person quorum was not achieved.

The meeting ended at 3:05 p.m.

**(Approved 8/28/14)**