

**Minutes from the ARIOB Outreach, Technical Assistance & Communications Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 28, 2014
1:30pm-3:30pm
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)
300 W Adams St., 2nd floor, Chicago, IL 60606
Small Conference room**

Adult Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board (ARIOB) in attendance: Tracey Williams (for Director Godinez), Darlene Bearden (for Patricia Hayden), Cristin Evans (for Jack Cutrone)
ARIOB by phone: Kathy Saltmarsh (SPAC), Judge Radcliffe
Non-ARIOB in attendance: Lindsey LaPointe, Mary Ann Dyar, Thomas Sumner, Mystik Miller

Welcome and introductions

Mary Ann Dyar called roll, and it was determined an in-person quorum was established.

Approval of minutes – previous two meetings

The committee reviewed minutes from the previous two meetings: October 30, 2013 (not voted on due to lack of quorum) and March 28, 2014. Darlene Bearden moved to accept the minutes as presented from the October 30, 2013 and the March 28, 2014 meetings, which was seconded by Cristin Evans. All in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

Election of Committee chair

Mary Ann Dyar described how ARI staff has historically led committee meetings; however, the committee seeks a chair from the Oversight Board to facilitate reporting at quarterly Board meetings. Kathy Saltmarsh was nominated for chair of this committee. Darlene Bearden made a motion to nominate Kathy, which was seconded by Tracey Williams. All in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

Discussion of outreach plan in light of flat funding

Mary Ann Dyar opened the discussion about outreach efforts, noting the importance of maintaining forward momentum, developing new sites, and improving current sites, even this year with flat funding. Past outreach efforts, particularly of the retired judges, have been focused on encouraging new sites to come on-board. Without funding for additional sites, however, it is important to manage expectations. Mary Ann suggested preparing consistent messaging with jurisdictions to inform them of the current funding situation while maintaining interest and relationships. The committee discussed bullet points that can be utilized with the media.

The committee discussed the importance of working with the current ARI sites to produce and document the best possible results, to build the case for further funding. The committee discussed showcasing a “menu” of options of ARI programming that could be useful to the media, future sites, and state legislators as they discuss and consider diversion options. Kathy Saltmarsh noted that the scheduled Joint Criminal Justice Reform Committee visit to DuPage ARI on September 29th is a good event to publicize ARI results, encouraging the use of targeted programming and evidence-based practices. ARI staff suggested developing a “key highlights” document from the implementation evaluation report on DuPage ARI that is being finalized. The committee discussed possibly sending out a press release if DuPage stakeholders were comfortable with that.

The committee discussed in-person meetings with jurisdictions that have expressed interest, especially jurisdictions already implementing some diversion programming. ARI can share information and learn from these programs such as the DeKalb County drug court. Some ARI staff visited the Champaign County drug court in this capacity and it went very well and strengthened relationships. Darlene Bearden

suggested including a representative from a current ARI site on these meetings/site visits, and the committee agreed this was a good idea that could serve multiple peer-learning purposes.

The idea of inviting legislators to the meetings/site visits was discussed, either local legislators or members of special committees such as the Joint Criminal Justice Reform Committee. The message is that increased funding and growth of ARI will improve criminal justice outcomes. Other ideas include participating in other legislative events around the state such as the Heroin Task Force hearings and IDOC's Summit of Hope events. It was noted that county level officials, such as county board members, are useful points of contact for outreach since they are positioned to relay the usefulness of ARI to the county. These officials could be included in the "meet-and-greets" or site visits. Presentations such as the one before the LaSalle Rotary Club meeting, provide additional opportunities to increase public awareness and engage community members in local ARI sites.

The committee discussed the content of communications to the media, noting evidence-based practices and human interest success stories are important. It will be useful to inquire with juvenile Redeploy Illinois on their process for vetting and preparing their media stories. On targeting media stories, the committee noted that although good stories can be widespread in proliferation, most legislators live in Cook and the collar counties and thus these stories may be most impactful. The use of success stories was discussed (which ARI staff has an archive of) to put a human face on ARI programming.

Kathy Saltmarsh suggested a small meeting with press and a cross section of ARI participants and local team members to tell their stories. ARI staff added the compelling story of Judge Stephen Sawyer retiring then becoming the circuit-wide coordinator of the 2nd Judicial Circuit Drug Court. Events to convene media around or briefings could include the Illinois Problem Solving Courts Conference or anniversary of the Crime Reduction Act of 2009. Cristin Evans suggested doing a press release about the CRA anniversary and providing an update on ARI progress to-date.

Review of technical assistance provision for sites

A. 2014 All-Sites Summit

ARI staff provided a brief recap of the 2014 ARI All-Sites Summit where expectations were high due to recent and rapid growth of the program. The Summit was held in Bloomington, IL for the fourth year and about 135 individuals participated. The group heard from outside experts, as well as from other ARI sites. The event highlighted the critical issues of heroin addiction treatment, housing, and employment. The event was well-received and analysis of the evaluations to inform next year's programming is in process. The discussion on heroin and medication-assisted treatment (MAT) was particularly useful and produced information that was provided in testimony to the Heroin Task Force in July. The Summit is a forum for sharing what is working in other counties, continuing the notion of ARI sites as "laboratories" involved in "cross-pollination."

B. St. Clair County site visit

ARI provided information on a recent site visit which reflects both monitoring and technical assistance activities. All of the original ten sites have been visited at least once and this was the second visit to St. Clair ARI, scheduled sooner due to a corrective action plan last year to assist with better aligning some program elements with evidence-based practices. ARI staff noted that this site is working with a very difficult population that has high levels of mental illness and comorbid substance abuse. Lindsey LaPointe provided detail on the site visit and the full site visit report was included in the meeting materials.

C. Other

Other recent technical assistance activities included a Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health and Justice visit to Jersey ARI, the creation of a corrective action plan for Jersey ARI that has been approved by the ARIOB, a plan for several ARI stakeholders from around the state to

participate in the October 2014 Illinois Association of Problem Solving Court Conference, and recent training accessed at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference in May where ARI staff and several site-level stakeholders attended.

Update on media and recent presentations

Mary Ann referred to the “ARI in the media” document included in the meeting materials. Included in the document is the Chicago Tonight television coverage of the first Joint Committee on Criminal Justice Reform hearing from July 2014 where ARIOB member Kathy Saltmarsh and ARI Oversight Board Co-chair Director Godinez made reference to ARI. Two articles on the Grundy County mental health court are included in the document. More recently, Mary Ann made presentations to the community re-entry committee at the Illinois Department of Public Health and the LaSalle Rotary Club, both opportunities to increase overall awareness of ARI and evidence-based practices in use. ARI staff noted that the “ARI in the media” document is posted online.

Old business/new business

ARI staff described a possible supplement to the 2013 Annual Report that would highlight performance measurement data on a fiscal year basis instead of a calendar year basis. The idea is to provide a contextual overview of the need for a fiscal year supplemental, graphs of progress for the 12-month fiscal year and updates to the cost-saving measures for the fiscal year. The committee provided feedback to this idea which was positive, clarifying that once the supplement was issued, the next full Annual Report would be provided around late summer 2015 covering the next fiscal year. The committee questioned if this shift to release the Annual Report in August instead of February or March may create a missed opportunity to share information in advance of the General Assembly’s annual budget negotiations. Kathy Saltmarsh suggested publishing the supplement at the end of the fiscal year, and Cristin Evans noted that many other programs and agencies provide an Annual Report based on the previous fiscal year in April, allowing for 8-9 months to compile the report, and that legislators are accustomed to this schedule. In sum, it was decided that a supplement to the Annual Report in advance of the veto session would be helpful. The next Annual Report could come in April 2015 based on the fiscal year or a mid-year report on SFY15 in advance of the SFY16 budget discussions. Kathy Saltmarsh noted that a measure of outcomes for ARI is important to show to legislators directly, but this does not necessarily have to be an Annual Report.

Kathy Saltmarsh suggested that ARI directly reach out to the Joint Criminal Justice Reform Committee to discuss possible testimony focusing on ARI principles and local implementation (versus talking about funding needs). The testimony would present ARI as a solution to current criminal justice issues and could include graphs, numbers, and success stories. Mary Ann will contact the Joint Committee staff person to try to get on the schedule.

Adjournment

Mary Ann Dyar asked for further business and there was none. Cristin Evans made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Darlene Bearden. All in favor, none opposed, meeting adjourned at 3:35p.m.
(Approved 5/16/16)