

IAPSC Board Meeting

Center of Excellence in Behavioral Health
Rockford, Illinois
April 24, 2014, 12:00 pm

The board members of the Illinois Association of Problem Solving courts met in Rockford, Illinois on April 24. The following people appeared either in person or via telephone conference:

Judge Jeff Ford (Champaign County)
Scott Block (McHenry County)
Michael Roman (Kane County)
Ericka Sanders (Marion County)
Michelle Rock (Center of Excellence)
Judge Bowden (Cook County)
Janet Leone (Rock Island County)
Mark Raskie (Rock Island County)
Alicia Kusiak (TASC)
Judge Scott Drazewski (McClellan County)
Craig Cooper (TASC)
Hugh Brady (NAMI)
Judge John Bell (Rock Island)
Judge Janet Holmgren (Winnebago County)

Also appearing: Mary Grubbe Lee (Center of Excellence)

I. Call to Order

Judge Ford called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting at Urbana, Illinois was made by Scott Block and seconded by Craig Cooper. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

III. Welcome/Introduction/Announcements

Justice Garmin will give a welcome address to the conference attendees the first morning of the conference. She will be speaking before Doug Marlowe.

The AOIC coordinator for problem solving courts has been named. Judge Ford reported that the coordinator intends to review standards of other states in drafting a standard and certification process for Illinois problem solving courts. Scott Block has invited the new coordinator to meet with the IAPSC board.

Judge John Bell congratulated the board members who taught at the recent judicial educational conference. Reviews from conference attendees were very positive.

Scott Block spoke about the Dekalb County problem solving court alumni group. Given their successes, Scott invited the board to take a look at their brochure which is available on-line. Marilyn Stromberg is the contact person.

Michelle Rock reported that the COE is attempting to post all graduations on the COE website. Please forward graduation dates to Mary Lee via e-mail.

Judge Bowden announced that a daily devotional pamphlet for participants in our problem solving courts will be distributed to 200 churches. The pamphlet will also contain resources.

Judge Ford suggested that we include any positive media on our website.

Alicia Kusak praised the Affordable Care Act. She reported that over 14,000 applications were received from inmates in the Cook County jail, individuals that likely have never before had health insurance. To date, over 6,000 applications have been submitted and 4,000 have been approved. The acceptance rate was 95.3%. Alicia relayed a story of a man who, in the past, had no option but to seek medical care in the emergency room, but can now go to a regular doctor's office. He could not believe that he saw a doctor in 40 minutes, compared to the usual 6 to 8-hour wait in the ER. Alicia emphasized that these new enrollees can now go to a doctor just like everyone else and receive the care that they need, now that they know how to access it. It is a complicated system, but it is working.

IV. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee

President: Judge Ford reported that we now have liability insurance for officers and directors.

Vice President: Scott Block reported that the IRS form 1024 application has been completed. The Benning group will review our revenue and expense documents to determine whether we need to file a tax return. The Benning Group will also meet with us to set up an accounting structure and controls. Scott and Michael Roman will gather that information for review by Benning.

Treasurer: Michael Roman reported that he created a log of our expenditures which will be included in the board meeting documents in the future. The spreadsheet contains deposits, withdraws and bills paid. In January, 2014, the balance was \$53,316.00 As of April 21, 2014, the balance is \$48,326.52.

2. Nominating Committee

Judge Holmgren received three names for nomination to the board. Per the suggestion of Judge Holmgren, all nominees shall also submit a letter, sent to the president of the IAPSC, wherein the nominee shall set forth his or her qualifications and interest in the position of board member. The letter is in addition to the nomination form that must be submitted. Judge Ford noted that the nomination procedure and the form are on the website. The website will need to be updated to include the requirement of submitting the letter. Nominations should be submitted by early June.

There are eight board members whose terms will end in 2014. Board members who wish to remain on the board must submit a letter of interest as well.

3. Government/legislative committee:

Judge Bell is in the process of reviewing various bills concerning amendments to the mental health code, the definition of mental defective, adjudication as a mental defective, etc. He intends to submit a detailed report to everyone after his review.

Michelle Rock informed the board of a new case from Idaho which addresses the State's Attorney's right to veto a potential candidate for admission into a problem solving court. She will forward the case to the secretary for dissemination to the board.

Michelle also reported that Illinois Congressmen Kinziner and Bobby Rush have sent a letter to Attorney General Holder requesting increased funding to treatment based programs in jails and prisons and for re-entry programs. The letter will be sent to the secretary for dissemination.

Hugh Brady announced that none of the bills discussed at our January meeting that addressed the 4-prescription limit passed. While the issue is still alive, there is no longer a pending bill. Hugh also discussed another bill which requires DCFS and DHS to devise a plan of action for severely mentally ill minors whose parents are not able to care for them which will not necessitate the involuntary relinquishment of custody.

Hugh has been receiving information from mental health advocates about the adverse affects to mental health programs if the proposed income tax cuts are instituted. According to Hugh, many people will lose mental health services. Substance abuse programs will be cut as well.

4. Technology Committee

The board agreed to get rid of the old website. The new site is stable and functioning properly.

5. Public Awareness Committee

Judge Bowden reported that he has started compiling media contacts into a database. He currently has approximately 75 contacts in the database and 50-60 will be added. Judge Bowden requests that board members forward any media list from their areas to him, Judge Ford or Michelle Rock.

Judge Bowden still seeks contact information for the media coordinator in each judicial circuit. So far, he has only received one name. Please send the contact information for your circuit's media coordinator to him as soon as possible.

Michelle Rock reported that Judge Sawyer intends to launch a public service announcement campaign which targets problem solving court stakeholders, particularly State's Attorneys and other positions whose buy-in needs to be increased. Chief Judge Phillips from Lake County and Judge Mullins have agreed to lend their expertise and help with this project. Judge Sanders indicated that she spoke to Judge Sawyer and it was agreed that the question which should be posed to the board is what role the IAPSC would have in the promotion and dissemination of the final product.

Alicia Kusak informed the Board about a conference, sponsored by Lady Gaga's "Born this Way Foundation," which was conducted via text. Alicia referenced this story to emphasize the power of social media.

6. Conference Committee

It was reported that the vast majority of presenters and speakers have confirmed their attendance. The speakers include:

Justice Rita Garmin, Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court
Theodora Binion, Director of the DHS Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
Doug Marlowe, Chief of Science, Policy and Law with NADCP
Steve Hampton
Amy Miles, Advanced Chemist, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Peter Early, author of the book, "Crazy"

On Thursday evening, there will be a networking event sponsored by Gateway. Simultaneously, there will be a "Friends of Bill W." meeting.

Conference attendees can begin submitting registration and fees by June 1st.

Hugh Brady made a motion to adjourn which was seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.

Next meeting date:

July 11, 2014 at noon in Chicago. The call in number will remain 877-903-2255, code 7581828

Important dates: ILAPSC Annual Conference: October 2-3, 2014
Springfield Crowne Plaza

ILAPSC Annual Retreat: November 13-14 – Starved Rock