



Kane County Juvenile Justice Council Board of Directors February 2026 Meeting Minutes
February 3rd, 2026 at 12:15 PM

Kane County Juvenile Justice Center Training Room

37W655 IL Route 38
Saint Charles, IL 60175

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87400717824?pwd=bzI5SVpRRmtwNzMxbzIWZmRBeTV2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 874 0071 7824

Passcode: 097584

Phone: (312) 626-6799 (Chicago)

***Voting Members:** State's Attorney (chair), Chief Judge's Office, Juvenile Delinquency Court Judge, Public Defender, County Board, Sheriff's Department, Court Services, Regional Office of Education, Kane County Chiefs of Police, Juvenile Officer's Association, Kane County Bar Association*

Members present: Rachele Conant, Josh Axelsen, LaTanya Hill, Judge Karayannis, Vern Tepe, Mike Doyen

Members present virtually: Dana Fortunato (left at 12:43pm)

Council members present: Yesenia Saldana

Members absent: Kristen Lohrstorfer, Patrick Eversole, Sheriff Hain

Call to order: 12:19pm

1. Introductions
2. Approval of minutes from December + January Special Board of Directors Meeting

Result: APPROVED as distributed

3. JJC Chairman's report

Financial update unavailable; will provide to Board when received.

Introduced Officer Patrick Eversole as the JOA representative, an SRO from South Elgin PD. Officer Eversole unable to attend this meeting.

4. Old Business

- Racial and Ethnic Disparities
 - **RED: The Health Department is doing some internal planning/work and has said they will be ready to meet in the Spring**
 - **IRJEC: no new updates**
 - **ADB: Update regarding fall trainings – these occurred before the training was certified through ILETSB for training credit. Julia will be communicating about the miscommunication with those who attended. The training is now certified and SA Mosser is willing to go to departments to provide the training.**



- Collaboration with CSG
Court Services shared about updates being made to protocols around notifying families of first appearance. Currently reviewing and updating the policy around early termination of probation for youth. As these changes are being implemented, the next step will be to look at the standard conditions of probation and consider revisions. Court Services is currently in the middle of their case management system change.
- Truancy Workshop
The second session was held on January 29th, with around 110 attendees. Josh provided reflections so far - positive evaluations have been returned with feedback about interventions that can be applied right away and a trusted adult or trusted peer is a focal point. Networking moments have been integrated into the workshop as well. Schools are beginning to pull their data and make referrals to the ROE for support. All 9 school districts have been represented so far.

For the upcoming sessions (April 16th), there are a few spots for community providers to attend as this session will focus on Tier 3 interventions, which includes involving community partners for the level of student needs.

Discussed some opportunities to support connections with the community and consider the implications of the MH Screenings that are going to be implemented. Want to ensure that there are enough service providers/supports available as youth are identified.

Josh also provided an update on the Youth Voices forum scheduled for Friday, February 6th with over 100 students joining.

- JJC Structure
Strategic Planning session has been scheduled for March 9th at the ROE. Checked in around extending invitations beyond the Board of Directors. Let Julia know.
- Collaboration with Dream Academy
 - VOTE: Does the Board of Directors approve compensating students who participated in the panel discussion with Dream Academy?

Result:	DENIED
Mover:	LaTanya Hill
Seconder:	Judge Karayannis
Nays:	Conant, Axelsen, Doyen, Hill, Tepe
Abstain:	Judge Karayannis

Discussion:

This was carried over from previous meetings. Need to consider going forward if intending to compensate and make sure that it is finalized.

- Adolescent Brain Development Workshop
Confirmed scheduled for March 12th at 1:30pm
CEU's and CPDU's have been secured. Working to confirm CLE's before promoting. Rachele will assist Julia with this.



Reviewed drafts of flyers. One was developed by the SAO, two have been developed by KCBA. No concerns identified with the flyers. They will be distributed once finalized.

- **Restorative Practices**

A survey has been distributed to partners from each of the districts to get an update on the status of their restorative practices implementation. Responses will be reviewed to inform next steps.

Julia provided an update regarding new proposed legislation for community mediation programs. See legislative updates for the specific bill number.

5. New Business

- **Theory of Change Discussion**

Julia provided a summary. Rachele, Julia, and representatives from Challenge II Change joined a discussion led by Dr. Dana Weiner. Resources were provided to help JJC's compile a theory of change. This is something we have done in the past, but have not received feedback on them.

The Commission has asked Councils to begin conversations to go through this process. The Board agreed to invite Dr. Weiner to attend the strategic planning meeting in March to bring an outside perspective.

- **Trauma Informed Juvenile Court Assessment TA Initiative**

Checked in on the opportunity. Judge Karayannis provided an update regarding the capacity of the judiciary and other initiatives.

6. Department/Agency Updates

LaTanya shared about an upcoming workshop on Juvenile Problematic Sexual Behaviors on April 9th at 1:30pm in the Jury Assembly. This is being hosted by Court Services and Deb Nickerson, particularly for attorneys who are representing these youth to review registries, evaluations, what it looks like in treatment and what it looks like on probation.

Vern shared that Elgin Township is hosting a "State of Mental Health in the township" event on February 28th from 9am – 3pm. It is free and will include community partners for youth to older adults. Have to pre-register to attend. Lunch is provided. It offers an opportunity for those who are not aware of resources to learn. Vern will send Julia a flyer once finalized.

7. Trends/Legislative Updates/Other updates

Legislative updates distributed

8. Adjournment – 1:00 pm

Next JJC Board of Directors Meeting: March 3rd, 2026 at 12:15pm, Juvenile Justice Center Training Room