

The Illinois Dept. of Juvenile Justice announces a new partnership with NYAP to provide wraparound services to youth in Central Illinois

As part of its 21st Century Transformation Plan, the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) today announced a partnership with National Youth Advocate Program, Inc. (NYAP) to provide community-based services to youth in Central Illinois. Founded in 1978, NYAP is a private, not-for-profit community-based service provider for youth and families, who currently provides over 66 types of services in ten states. Through this partnership, NYAP will provide services to youth in Champaign, Macon, Sangamon, Peoria, and Vermillion counties.

This new partnership is part of DJJ's 21st Century Plan for Transformation, announced by Governor Pritzker and Lieutenant Governor Stratton on July 31, 2020. The NYAP partnership brings their signature Contact and Never-ending Improvement (CANEI) program to youth residing in Central Illinois and enables DJJ to offer a continuum of support to youth and families in this region—before, during and after release from DJJ commitment. Youth will be connected

to programs offering community service, and will receive holistic supports as well as linkages to services, including individual and family psychotherapy, mentoring, case management, and educational and vocational support.

“We are thrilled to launch this partnership with NYAP to bring these much-needed services to Central Illinois communities,” said DJJ Director Heidi Mueller. “The CANEI program model of intensive, holistic wrap-

around services has proven to help youth and families achieve significantly better outcomes than traditional incarceration models. Partners like NYAP are critical to DJJ's 21st Century Transformation, and key to providing our

young people the support in their own communities that will help them develop into safe, healthy and positive adults.”

CANEI is a 26-week, strength-based treatment program that facilitates life skill development and fosters compassion and empathy with others. Through intensive home and community-based services, group-based sessions, life skills training, and completion of a service-learning project, CANEI youth transform themselves by cultivating a sense of self, purpose, and responsibility. The CANEI program also includes access to emergency, licensed foster care services and family stabilization.

“We are honored to partner with Director Mueller and Illinois DJJ to serve one of our state's most vulnerable populations”, said NYAP Corporate Vice President and IL Executive Director Viviane Ngwa. “Giving opportunity youth and all youth impacted by the juvenile justice system another chance to fulfill their life's goals and missions is what this journey's partnership with DJJ is all about.”

The partnership with NYAP is part of the Transformation Plan goal to invest resources in communities most impacted by the juvenile justice system. Forty percent of youth committed to IDJJ originate from Central Illinois, but none of them are currently able to be housed or receive transitional services in the region. The addition of NYAPs services to the Central Illinois region allows DJJ to more equitably and effectively serve youth and families in this region by providing needed services and interventions in youth's homes and communities of origin.

To learn more about the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice's plan for Transformation, please visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/idjj/Pages/default.aspx>.

The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was created by statute in 2006 with the mandate of safely housing and rehabilitating youth committed to its custody. The mission of DJJ is to promote community safety and positive youth outcomes by building youth skills and strengthening families.



Lawmakers pass follow-up criminal justice bill addressing police concerns

By Raymon Troncoso Capitol News Illinois

Introduced by Chicago Democratic Sen. Elgie Sims, an amendment to House Bill 3443 would act as trailer legislation for the SAFE-T Act, a major criminal justice reform backed by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus that was signed into law by Gov. JB Pritzker in February. That measure mandated body cameras and changed use-of-force guidelines for law enforcement, created a new police certification system, expanded detainee rights and ends the use of cash bail in Illinois.

Unlike the SAFE-T Act, Sims' new legislation has the support of the Illinois Association of Chiefs

of Police and the Illinois State Police and amends some controversial portions of the act that were opposed by law enforcement.

In a statement posted to its website, the IACP approved of the amendment's changes relaxing rules around body cameras, removing some use-of-force restriction language and extending deadlines for new training standards.

It passed the Senate 42-17, but in the House, Rep. Justin Slaughter, D-Chicago, who negotiated most of the major provisions in the SAFE-T Act alongside Sims, ran into opposition from fellow Chicago Democratic Rep. Curtis Tarver.

Tarver called the trailer legislation a “piss-poor bill,” and rejected the idea that it was a Black Caucus amendment because Slaughter did not present it to the entire Black Caucus before he and Sims introduced the legislation.

The legislation ultimately passed 79-36, with multiple Republicans voting in favor of the measure and Tarver voting as the sole dissenting Democrat. A brief parliamentary hold was put on the bill, but as of Wednesday it had been lifted, clearing the way for it to head to the governor.

“The SAFE-T Act [is] a bold momentous transformational initiative that makes Illinois a national leader in criminal justice

reform, and a model for other states to follow,” Slaughter said. “I beg of you, respect the hard work of the stakeholders that came together on a product where there are no winners or no losers on a bill, where no one gets everything that they want. As a sponsor of this bill I'm absolutely honored to work with all the stakeholders and proud of our efforts.”

The changes
A provision in the SAFE-T Act prevented officers accused of misconduct or involved in a shooting, or who have used force which resulted in bodily harm, from using footage from their body camera or recordings from other officers when writing reports of the incident.

HB 3443 keeps that provision in place, but adds language that allows an officer, with a supervisor's approval, to file a supplementary report for which they can access body camera footage.

Deadly force provisions are also changed.

The SAFE-T Act instituted limits on when an officer may use deadly force to two scenarios – when

they believe deadly force is needed to prevent death or harm to themselves or another person; or when an individual who “just” committed a violent felony and cannot be caught at a later time is attempting to escape, is likely to cause great harm to another person and only deadly force can stop them.

The amendment removes the word “just”, requiring only that a violent felony was committed in general. The amendment also removes the requirement that a dangerous individual “cannot be apprehended at a later date,” leaving the restrictions that an officer must believe only deadly force is able to stop the suspect and that the suspect is likely to greatly injure another person.

As a counterbalance to the removed language, the amendment adds that the officer's ability to use deadly force ends when the threat of “bodily harm to the officer or another” ends.

Chokeholds, which are considered deadly force under the SAFE-T Act, are defined as any direct pres-

sure to the throat, windpipe or airway. The amendment carves out an exception for contact with an individual's neck “that is not intended to reduce the intake of air.” An example listed is a “headlock” which can be wrapped around a suspect's forehead or chin.

A provision on law enforcement misconduct is also changed to be more lenient under the amendment. In order for an officer to be charged with law enforcement misconduct, a Class 3 felony, the officer must have knowingly and intentionally misrepresented or withheld knowledge of the facts of a case with the intent to obstruct the prosecution or defense of an individual, under the amendment.

The IACP also noted a lack of state funding for the body camera mandate and the fact that the attorney general can issue penalties to individual officers, rather than penalties for their departments and municipalities, for civil infractions, as “major issues unaddressed” in the trailer bill.

“The Illinois Chiefs support the trailer bill. It addresses many of our serious concerns with the SAFE-T Act, and law enforcement will be much better off with these changes,” the statement from the IACP concludes. “We remain concerned about unresolved and unaddressed issues, but in recent months we have strengthened a process of negotiating honestly and in good faith with legislators about criminal justice reform.”

Sims released a statement after his amendment passed the Senate.

“Public safety has always been the number one priority of the SAFE-T Act and our goal remains the same— to create safer communities. That's why, when negotiating these changes, we again included input from advocates, law enforcement officials and various stakeholders,” he said.

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