

## MINUTES

### Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee (JJIC)

February 7, 2025

via Microsoft Teams

1. **Attendees:**

- a. JJIC Members: Alicia Gooden, Kelsey Hanlon, Holly Harvey, Ryan King, Kaarin Lueck, Lori K. Morgan, Aaron Negangard, Dan Pappas, and Graham Polando, Chair.
- b. IOCS Staff: Mindy Pickett (committee staff), Jamie Devine, Leslie Dunn, Colleen Saylor, and Nancy Wever.
- c. Guests: Steve Galvin, Jurist in Residence and Hon. Dana Kenworthy.

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the December 6, 2024, committee meeting were approved.

3. **Committee Purpose and Name Change:** Mag. Polando reported that the committee was asked to look at its name and purpose statement to make sure it aligns with what the committee is doing and does not overlap with the Child Welfare Improvement Committee's (CWIC) work. Leslie Dunn clarified that both CWIC and JJIC will continue to exist as CWIC is required for federal grants. Mindy Pickett clarified that JJIC should discuss both child welfare and delinquency issues. The committee discussed the term "juvenile justice" and agreed that it does lend itself to being interpreted as delinquency focused and the committee agreed it should be removed from the name. The committee provided some recommendations for the committee's name and suggestions on what the purpose should be, i.e. advise judicial officers and other judicial conference committees on juvenile law issues, etc. The name and purpose statement will be updated prior to the committee selection process this Spring.

4. **Foster Parent Listening Session:** Senior Judge Galvin, Jurist in Residence, informed the committee that the jurists in residence, Hon. Dana Kenworthy, and IOCS staff recently participated in a foster parent listening session and he wanted to inform the committee of some of the concerns. One of the concerns raised was that foster parents feel like they are not being heard in court. Senior Judge Galvin indicated one way to address that is to provide education to the judges on foster parents' role in the court process. He indicated he would be speaking about it at the new juvenile judge's orientation in March. Additionally, DCS has talked about revising its foster parent education to provide more legal training. The committee members discussed their practices regarding motions to continue and agreed that clear communication is important. There will be more listening sessions in the future and the committee is open to hearing additional feedback and assisting with any educational needs.

5. **Other business:**

- a. Update re: T.R. 76 Rule Proposal: In January Mag. Polando and Mindy went to the rules committee to present the change of judge trial rule revision proposal. The rules committee reviewed the proposal and asked that JJIC look at 3 areas: 1) the cases the rule impacts, 2) the good cause language and 3) the deadline in which the request needs to be made. Once there is revised language it will go back to the rules committee. Committee members discussed what "for cause" means and what that should look like in the rule. Mag. Polando agreed to work on revised language and the committee will finalize it at the March committee meeting.
- b. 2025 Legislative Session: Mindy reported on the status of a few key bills this session. Committee members discussed the impact of H.B. 1605 on juvenile courts. Judge Hanlon reported that it is

her understanding the bill is going to be amended to address the waiver language and motions to continue under the trial rules.

- c. Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Update: Hon. Dana Kenworthy gave an update on each of the workgroups. In particular, she reported that grant applications were recently submitted and are being evaluated. However, there is still plenty of funding available.
- d. 2026 Meeting Dates: The committee confirmed the February 6, 2026, meeting date.

**2025 MEETINGS:** March 7, May 2, August 1, and October 3 (in-person)

**2026 MEETINGS:** February 6

## MINUTES

### Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee (JJIC)

March 7, 2025

via Microsoft Teams

1. **Attendees:**

- a. JJIC Members: Alicia Gooden, Kelsey Hanlon, Holly Harvey, Ryan King, Kaarin Lueck, Lori K. Morgan, Dan Pappas, and Graham Polando, Chair.
- b. IOCS Staff: Mindy Pickett (committee staff), Jamie Devine, Leslie Dunn, Colleen Saylor, and Nancy Wever.
- c. Guests: Senior Judge Steve Galvin, Jurist in Residence, Hon. Dana Kenworthy, and Judge Kenton Kiracofe.

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the February 7, 2025, committee meeting were approved.

3. **Finalize T.R. 76 revisions:** Mag. Polando and Judge Hanlon revised the change of judge rule proposal and modeled the "bias and prejudice" language on the criminal rule and added a 14-day timeframe. Committee members reviewed the latest draft and approved sending it to the Rules Committee.

4. **Follow up on T.R. 60 – Juvenile Delinquency appellate statistics:** At a previous meeting the committee looked at post-conviction relief for juveniles under T.R. 60 and the possibility of making changes to the trial rules based on a request from the Rules Committee. As a part of that discussion committee members indicated they would be interested in seeing statistics regarding the number of juvenile delinquency appeals. Judge Kenworthy shared some numbers regarding criminal and juvenile cases filed and appealed the last few years. The appeal rate for 2022 and 2023 varied at approximately .05-.08% of cases.

5. **Birth Parent Listening Session Feedback:** Senior Judge Galvin reported that recently there was another listening session this time it was with birth parents whose CHINS cases had closed. He indicated that the overarching theme is that there is a lack of understanding of the child welfare system and the roles that various stakeholders play. Some possible recommendations based on the feedback include: 1) the court making sure it is a welcoming environment, 2) ensuring communication is clear and consider providing handouts that the parents can take home with them to read at a later date, 3) appoint counsel and make sure contact information is shared (i.e. provide a business card)), 4) set expectations with counsel that they communicate with their clients face to face before hearings, and 5) hold stakeholder meetings. Committee members discussed various practices in their counties that are working, including utilizing system navigators, utilizing facilitation or mediation, and providing attorney contact information in court orders.

6. **Other business:**

- a. 2025 Legislative Session: Mindy provided a brief update regarding the session indicating that this week the bills switched between House and Senate and that session is expected to wrap up mid to late April.
- b. Committee name and purpose update: Mindy reported that Chief Justice Rush approved the new name of the committee, Juvenile Advisory Committee and new purpose statement as follows: "The Juvenile Advisory Committee is composed of members of the judiciary with juvenile jurisdiction over child welfare and/or delinquency cases. The Committee acts as a liaison

to state and local agencies working with juveniles and to other judicial officers, offering guidance and recommendations on proposed policies, initiatives, and procedures that impact children within Indiana's child welfare and delinquency court systems. Additionally, the Committee reviews and advises on legislative matters impacting juvenile law and juvenile courts." The committee selection process starts this spring, and the new name will be updated for that process and will start to be utilized soon.

- c. Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Update: Judge Kenworthy gave an update on each of the workgroups. In particular, she reported that 24 grant applications were received this quarter. There is language proposed in legislation to revise the grant formulas to allow for more opportunities to utilize the \$55 million that is still available. All of the workgroups are continuing to make progress and the YJOC is working on a strategic plan to determine an implementation plan moving forward.
- d. 2026 Meeting Dates: The committee confirmed March 6, 2026, as an additional meeting date.

**2025 MEETINGS:** March 7, May 2, August 1, and October 3 (in-person)

**2026 MEETINGS:** February 6, March 6

## MINUTES

Juvenile Advisory Committee

May 2, 2025

via Microsoft Teams

1. **Attendees:**

- a. Members: Kelsey Hanlon, Holly Harvey, Ryan King, Kaarin Lueck, Lori K. Morgan, Aaron Negangard, Dan Pappas, and Graham Polando, Chair.
- b. IOCS Staff: Mindy Pickett (committee staff), Jamie Devine, and Leslie Dunn.
- c. Guests: Hon. Dana Kenworthy, Judge Kenton Kiracofe and Tracy Hopkins, DCS.

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the March 7, 2025, committee meeting were approved.

3. **Federal Program Improvement Plan (PIP) Update:** Tracy Hopkins, DCS provided an update on the program improvement plan (PIP). She gave a brief explanation of the Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) process and PIP process. There is a PIP dashboard available to ascertain what activities are in progress and which haven't been started. Quarter 1 activities include a proactive permanency hearing pilot, information sharing, quality hearing pilot, foster care recruitment and risk and safety conversations. The final risk and safety definitions were circulated to the committee. Quarter 2 activities will include improving data integrity for safety decision making, DCS and probation permanency staffing, improving customer service to foster parents, etc. Feedback is welcomed and may be shared with Tracy or anyone from DCS.

4. **Administrative Rule 14 Comment:** The committee discussed the proposed rule out for public comment. Several of the committee members submitted their own comments to the rule. Committee members agreed to submit a comment from the committee that opposes the proposed rule, supports the current interim AR 14, and supports the use of Zoom or other technologies in certain circumstances. Specifically, the committee has concerns with the statement regarding "proceedings where the credibility of the witnesses is not in dispute" and the ability to monitor case participants who may have substance abuse or domestic violence issues.

5. **2025 Legislative Session:** Mindy provided a brief update regarding the end of session and created a list of relevant bills that will be circulated to committee members via email following the meeting.

6. **Other business:**

- a. Youth Listening Session: Judge Kenworthy indicated that there was a recent listening session with youth that she and the jurists in residence participated in. She reported that young people are frustrated by the lack of case inclusion and decision making and reported that they want to be in the courtroom and interact with the people and the judges. There were some youths that did like attending virtually so that they didn't have to miss school or extracurricular activities. Judge Kenworthy explained that the youth often did not understand the judge's role in the case and felt there was a lack of accountability for DCS. There is going to be a session at the juvenile conference in June summarizing all of the listening sessions conducted and provide feedback and best practices.

- b. Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Update: Judge Kenworthy provided a brief update on YJOC and indicated that changes in leadership in the executive branch have led to membership changes. The YJOC has moved from establishing recommendations to implementation. The workgroups are assessing next steps and some workgroups may disband. The legislative changes regarding grants will allow for more flexibility in distribution of grant funds.
- c. 2026 Meeting Dates: The committee confirmed May 1, 2026, as an additional meeting date.

**2025 MEETINGS:** August 1, and October 3 (in-person)

**2026 MEETINGS:** February 6, March 6, May 1

## MINUTES

### Juvenile Advisory Committee

August 1, 2025

via Microsoft Teams

1. **Attendees:**

- a. Members: Alicia Gooden, Holly Harvey (Chair), Ryan King, Kaarin Lueck, Lori K. Morgan, Dan Pappas, Joann Price, and Graham Polando.
- b. IOCS Staff: Mindy Pickett (committee staff), Jamie Devine, and Leslie Dunn.
- c. Guests: Hon. Dana Kenworthy, Senior Judge Stephen Galvin

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the May 2, 2025, committee meeting were approved.

3. **Introductions:** Committee members welcomed new member, Joann Price, Lake County and new chair, Holly Harvey, Monroe County and gave brief introductions including what they have done recently for their well-being.

4. **DCS Reorganization:** The committee members were provided with a copy of the "DCS Awaken" map that details the field and legal restructure. There was brief discussion on how the restructuring could have an impact on courts, i.e. different legal counsel, field decisions, etc.

5. **HEA 1605 Implementation:** Committee members discussed foster parent participation in hearings and the legislation's impact on timelines. Judge Harvey indicated that she is incorporating the feedback received from the listening sessions into her practices. Some members reported seeing more notices to parties being e-filed and indicated they plan to make a clear record of foster parent participation either in the hearing and/or through the written order.

6. **SEA 281 Implementation:** Mindy explained the main points of the bill and indicated that the technology for mobile portals for law enforcement officers likely will not be available until Summer 2026. She encouraged committee members to comply with the law and provide records to law enforcement if permissible and when requested. Prosecutors should now have access to all juvenile records statewide. The committee discussed whether juvenile records include CHINS and delinquency records and agreed that juvenile records include all juvenile records. If counties are encountering any issues they can reach out to IOCS for assistance.

7. **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – release of records:** A brief explanation of the act that was enacted in 2022 was provided, including that there are enhanced background checks for individuals age 18-20 when seeking to purchase a firearm. Mindy indicated that some courts have received requests for juvenile records from the FBI. She outlined the possible records statutes that may allow courts to provide records. If records cannot be provided that should be conveyed to the requestor as soon as possible.

8. **Other business:**

- a. Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Update: Judge Kenworthy provided a brief update on YJOC and the status of the grants, including possible ideas for funding including telehealth services at local libraries. She encouraged workgroup members to look at the available grants and programs that have already been awarded grants on the ICJI website. Judge Kenworthy

also reported that a new shelter care facility for youth opened up, the Marion County Youth & Family Resource Center.

- b. October 2025 meeting and 2026 Meeting Dates: The committee agreed to keep the October 3, 2025 meeting in-person and confirmed August 7, October 2, and December 4, 2026, as additional meeting dates.

**2025 MEETINGS:** October 3 (in-person)

**2026 MEETINGS:** February 6, March 6, May 1, August 7, October 2, and December 4