

Pretrial Release Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m. (EST)

Zoom

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Judge Mark Spitzer called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Persons in attendance were as follows:

Committee Members: Judge Julie Cantrell, Bernice Corley, Judge Jason Custer, Judge Mary Ellen Diekhoff, Hillary Hartoin, Christine Kerl, Judge Dan Moore, Chris Naylor, Judge Mark Spitzer, and Magistrate Matthew Symons

Staff: Shelby Bear, Jamie Bergacs, DaVina Crawford, Senior Judge Tom Felts, Maja Grgic, Zach Johnson, Brett Jones, Chad Long, Diane Mains, Lora Moeller, Kevin Riley, David Sexton, Reilly Sommers, and Nicole Wesling

2. Approval of November 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November 15, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved.

3. 2025 Legislation

Diane Mains presented the 2025 pretrial legislative update. She provided a synopsis of the following bills: HB 1566, SB 324, SB 410 and SB 470. At this time SB 324 is the only bill scheduled to be heard. The Committee discussed SB 324 and the implications of this bill. Diane will continue to monitor the pretrial related legislation.

4. Data Subcommittee Update

Hillary Hartoin reported that statewide problem cases are now down to 9%. Additionally, the no new violent crime rate is now available. This measure can now be collected as it is built into the public safety rate; violent crime is defined in statute. The Committee discussed requiring the pretrial data report to be submitted to the local JRAC. Committee members were in favor of this requirement, but it would require a Pretrial Services Rules amendment. Revisions to the data manual have been made and presented to the Committee for approval. The Committee approved the revised manual.

5. **Coordinators Subcommittee Update**
Hillary Hartoin reported that the Coordinator Subcommittee is becoming more active and is meeting bi-weekly. The goal is to add more content to the meetings by bringing in guest speakers. Most recently Zach Johnson presented on the new certification procedure and Dr. Lowder has also attended and presented. The meetings are open to everyone now and if the coordinator is not available another staff member may attend. Hillary reported that consistently 40-50 people are in attendance.
6. **Education Subcommittee Update**
Chad Long reported that Traci Collyard resigned from IOCS and they are planning on posting that position in the coming weeks. In the meantime, the Committee may contact Chad until a more permanent staff person is selected to staff the Education Subcommittee. Chad reported that New Director Orientation is scheduled for February 3, 2025; however, no one has registered. New Pretrial staff orientation will be held on March 13, 2025; seven are registered. The Justice Services Conference is scheduled to be held April 15-17, 2025; registration will be open at the end of March. Additionally, Judge Spitzer indicated they are looking to secure funding for the Pretrial Summit to take place in May 2026. At this time, they are in the very early stages of planning and may draw from this Committee for content and assistance.
7. **Certification Update**
Zach Johnson reported since the last committee meeting that IOCS has issued one new certification to Putnam County. There are a total of 32 certified programs and 11 programs are in the planning stages.
8. **Adjourn**
Judge Spitzer adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

2025 Meeting Dates:

- February 21- via Zoom
- May 9- in-person 251 N. Illinois Street, Suite 800- IOCS Office
- August 15- via Zoom
- November 7- via zoom

Pretrial Release Committee
Legislative Update Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m. (EST)
Zoom

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Judge Mark Spitzer called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Persons in attendance were as follows:

Committee Members: Judge Julie Cantrell, Bernice Corley, Judge Jason Custer, Hillary Hartoin, Christine Kerl, Judge Dan Moore, Judge David Najjar, Judge Mark Spitzer, and Magistrate Matthew Symons

Staff: Shelby Bear, Jamie Bergacs, DaVina Crawford, Maja Grgic, Zach Johnson, Brett Jones, Diane Mains, Kevin Riley, Reilly Sommers, and Nicole Wesling

Guest: Jesstina Duncan

2. Approval of January 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the January 24, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

3. 2025 Legislation Update

Diane Mains presented the 2025 pretrial legislative update. She indicated that HB 1566, SB 410 and SB 470 were not heard. Diane presented a synopsis of SB 324, which is now in the house. This bill requires violent arrestee bail hearings in court within 48 hours of arrest and mandates the use of electronic monitoring devices for certain pretrial defendants. The bill also refers to a default bail schedule and indicates third-parties who are not closely related to a repeat violent arrestees may not post bail in excess of the minimum bail required. The Committee discussed the various implications of this bill and concerns. Committee members were encouraged to contact legislators and talking points from the meeting were sent to Committee members.

4. Adjourn

Judge Spitzer adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

2025 Meeting Dates:

- May 9- in-person 251 N. Illinois Street, Suite 800- IOCS Office
- August 15- via Zoom
- November 7- via zoom

Pretrial Release Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m. (EST)

251 N. Illinois St., Suite 800

Indianapolis, IN

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Judge Mark Spitzer called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Persons in attendance were as follows:

Committee Members: Judge Julie Cantrell, Bernice Corley, Courtney Curtis, Hillary Hartoin, Christine Kerl, Judge Dan Moore, Judge David Najjar, Judge Mark Spitzer, and Magistrate Matthew Symons

Staff: Chris Biehn, Jamie Bergacs, DaVina Crawford, Maja Grgic, Zach Johnson, Chad Long, Diane Mains, Lora Moeller, Catheryne Pully, Kevin Riley, David Sexton, and Reilly Sommers

Guest: Jesstina Duncan

2. Approval of March 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March 11, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Education Requirement

Chris Biehn brought to the attention of the Committee feedback IOCS has received from pretrial agencies regarding the bachelor's degree requirement for pretrial officers. He reported that this requirement is particularly challenging for rural counties. The Committee discussed options, including maintaining the current requirement, removing it for officers but continuing to require it for coordinators, or removing it for both officers and coordinators. Concerns were raised about the potential impact on salaries, promotional opportunities, and maintaining professional standards. Members discussed the possibility of creating a new position with defined supportive functions (e.g., IRAS administration, report writing, limited compliance monitoring) that could allow experienced individuals without a degree to contribute meaningfully. Hillary Hartoin will contact the National Association

of Pretrial Agencies (NAPSA) for input on national standards and education requirements.

4. Intentional Pretrial Study

Chris Biehn presented a request to allow participation in the Intentional Pretrial Study to fulfill the process evaluation requirement for certified jurisdictions. Hillary Hartoin provided an overview of the study, which is tracking supportive pretrial services in 11 counties, conducted in partnership with Dr. Lowder and Troy Hatfield. Chris indicated that although the first deliverable is expected soon, funding beyond May 26, 2025, remains uncertain. The Committee unanimously approved allowing participation in the Intentional Pretrial Study to fulfill the process evaluation requirement for certified jurisdictions.

5. (Un)Warranted Ideas42

Judge Spitzer introduced (Un)Warranted Ideas42 to the Committee to seek interest in receiving more information from them regarding the effectiveness of court reminders in reducing failure-to-appear (FTA) rates. Ideas42 offers technical assistance at no cost to jurisdictions interested in evaluating or improving their court reminder systems. The committee expressed interest in exploring strategies to reduce FTAs and supported inviting a representative from Ideas42 to present at the August meeting. Judge Spitzer will coordinate the arrangements.

6. Rule Amendments

Jamie Bergacs requested the Committee's approval to establish a workgroup to review and propose amendments to the Pretrial Services Rules. Areas of focus to include expiration date for letters of intent, education requirements, and JRAC data reporting. A motion to form a workgroup to review the Pretrial Services Rules was made and approved. Committee members volunteered to serve on the workgroup. Jamie will coordinate the first meeting and facilitate the process moving forward.

7. Final 2025 Legislative Update

Diane Mains and Judge Spitzer discussed SEA 324, noting it has been significantly scaled down from its original version but still presents concerns. The bill requires individuals accused of certain violent offenses to remain in custody until they appear before a judge and mandates money bail. It also includes provisions for electronic monitoring, for those charged with domestic

- violence, prior unrelated violent offenses, or prior invasion of privacy, with both mandatory and discretionary language. The Committee will continue to monitor the bill's implications.
8. **Data Subcommittee Update**
Hillary Hartoin was congratulated for being named a Behavioral Health Champion for 2025 by 4C Health. Hillary reported that the Data Subcommittee has been busy, but not as active. Training materials, including cheat sheets and PowerPoints, have been updated to reflect changes in new data points. A three hour on-demand training will be available once the recorded session is fully edited and posted to the Supreme Court's training site. Hillary also noted that the Subcommittee is working through how to handle ICE holds.
 9. **Coordinators Subcommittee Update**
Hillary Hartoin reported the Coordinators Subcommittee meets bimonthly and collaborates with Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research (APPR) and NAPSA to incorporate educational elements, with a focus on keeping Indiana at the forefront of pretrial practices. Meetings average 30–40 attendees, with regular participation from IOCT, IOCS, and Dr. Lowder. Members have expressed interest in resuming occasional in-person meetings and discussed coordinating with conferences to secure space for these meetings.
 10. **Education Subcommittee Update**
Chad Long reported new staff orientation was held on March 13, 2025, with 13 attendees. New coordinator orientation will take place on August 4, 2025, and new staff orientation will take place on September 25, 2025. The 2025 Justice Services Conference (JSC) was held April 15–17, 2025, and featured three plenary sessions and 46 breakout sessions, with a total of 1,197 attendees. Planning is underway for the 2026 JSC which will tentatively take place April 28–30, 2026. The format has not yet been determined, but evaluations are being taken into consideration. Chad indicated that additional training opportunities are available, including 14 webinars and multiple field trainings scheduled through the end of 2025.
 11. **Certification Update**
Kevin Riley reported since the last committee meeting that IOCS has issued three certifications. Currently there are a total of 33 certified programs and 11 programs are in the planning stages, three of which recently submitted a letter of intent.

12. Other Business

- Summit update

Judge Spitzer reported that while 2026 remains a potential target year for the Summit, funding issues must be resolved before planning can proceed. Chris Biehn noted that there have been discussions about pairing the Summit with the Justice Services Conference and exploring partnerships with other organizations.

13. Adjourn

Judge Spitzer adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

2025 Meeting Dates:

- August 15- via Zoom
- November 7- via zoom

Pretrial Release Committee Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2025

9:30 a.m. EDT

Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Judge Mark Spitzer called the meeting to order and introduced new committee members: Zoey Frantz, proxy Sydney Moulton, Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, Inc.; Superintendent Anthony Scott, Indiana State Police; and Ashley Stevens, Rush County Pretrial Services Coordinator

Persons in attendance were as follows:

Committee Members: Judge Mark Spitzer, Judge Julie Cantrell, Hillary Hartoin, Judge Mary Ellen Diekhoff, Superintendent Anthony Scott, Judge Jason Custer, Judge David Najjar, Ashley Stevens, Sydney Moulton, and Bernice Corley

Staff: Jamie Bergacs, Diane Mains, Shelby Bear, Chris Biehn, David Sexton, Kevin Riley, Zach Johnson, Reilly Sommers, DaVina Crawford, Maja Grgic, Nicole Wesling, Brett Jones, Rose Walker, Lisa Thompson, Gaye Strickland, and Senior Judge Tom Felts

Guests: Jesstina Duncan, Anne Stotler and Alissa Fishbane

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 9, 2025, meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Pretrial Dashboard Demonstration

Chris Biehn introduced the Indiana Pretrial Outcome and Performance Measures dashboard and provided a demonstration. He explained its purpose for local JRACs and detailed figures for an example county. Chris reported Phase 2 is on hold due to developer availability. Access level is still under discussion. It was explained that some counties lack necessary applications, creating cost and access challenges.

4. Rule Amendments Update

Jamie Bergacs reported on the initial meeting of the rules workgroup. The workgroup discussed adding expiration dates to letters of intent, requiring Pretrial Services agencies to share their data with their local JRAC, and amending the education requirements for pretrial staff. The workgroup is meeting again to

further discuss the education requirement. It is anticipated that the proposed rules revisions will be presented to the Committee at the November meeting.

5. Bail Commission Update

Judge Spitzer reported that the Bail and Release Review Commission will be meeting on October 1, 2025. The Commission will be discussing setting a mandatory minimum bail for repeat violent offenders, procedural trailing language to accompany preventative detention, and a statewide bail schedule. Judge Spitzer will be presenting to the Commission. Committee members shared concerns about proposals to increase bail amounts.

6. Intentional Pretrial Supervision

Hillary Hartoin presented the Annual Progress Report for the Intentional Pretrial Supervision Study. To address the lack of empirical evidence on effective supervision, the Intentional Pretrial Supervision Model was developed to guide Indiana and national practices. In Year 1, the project successfully refined, scaled, and implemented the model, engaged 12 counties to align practices, and launched a randomized controlled trial across 10 counties. Deliverables included a comprehensive manual, county-specific protocols, virtual trainings, a practice and policy review brief, and an implementation guide to support future statewide adoption. In the first quarter of Year 2, they will continue to monitor study recruitment and randomization procedures, triage intervention and protocol questions with counties, prepare to begin client interviews, and refine program and training materials.

7. (Un)Warranted Ideas42

Anne Stotler and Alissa Fishbane from IDEAS42 presented behavioral science strategies to improve court appearance rates indicating there is a focus on text reminders, simplified summons forms, and behavioral insights. A study they conducted showed a 13% decrease in missed court dates with redesigned forms. Indiana can collaborate at no cost. Members asked for clarification on IDEAS42's funding, which comes from foundations and private investors. Judge Spitzer to work with IDEAS42 and IOCT on next steps.

8. Data Subcommittee Update

Hillary Hartoin reported the data subcommittee has been discussing the importance of making better use of existing data and adding meaningful context without increasing staff workload. The subcommittee also has been considering ways to use data to drive more effective and informed conversations, both internally and with external stakeholders. Members agreed that counties need to

be better equipped with clear, accessible information to enhance communication and decision-making at the local level.

9. Coordinators Subcommittee Update

Hillary Hartoin reported the coordinators subcommittee continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis. Ongoing turnover and funding challenges have impacted staff morale. Judges emphasized the importance of reaffirming the value of pretrial work and encouraged continued support for coordinators in carrying out these essential responsibilities.

10. Education Subcommittee Update

Brett Jones reported that pretrial staff orientation is scheduled for next month. There are currently six participants enrolled in the online portion of the orientation who will need to complete the in-person portion. Brett also highlighted upcoming educational opportunities and webinars which Committee members can register for on the IOCS Training and Education website.

11. Certification Update

David Sexton reported 44 active pretrial services agencies; 32 certified, 11 in the planning stage, and one, Marion County, pending closure on August 29, 2025. Since the last committee meeting, five Pretrial Services Agencies were issued three-year certifications, including Gibson County, Owen County, Cass County, LaPorte County and Rush County.

12. Other Business

Judge Spitzer noted upcoming budgeting and funding challenges.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- November 7, 2025 – via Zoom

Pretrial Release Committee Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2025

9:30 a.m. EDT

Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Judge Mark Spitzer called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Persons in attendance were as follows:

Committee Members: Judge Mark Spitzer, Judge Julie Cantrell, Judge Daniel K. Moore, Judge David Najjar, Hillary Hartoin, Judge Mary Ellen Diekhoff, Ashley Stevens, Magistrate Matthew Symons, Bernice Corley, Judge Jason Custer, Courtney Curtis, and Sydney Moulton

Staff: Jamie Bergacs, Lora Moeller, Chris Biehn, Brett Jones, Shelby Bear, Nicole Wesling, Maja Grgic, Kevin Riley, Zach Johnson, DaVina Crawford, and Rose Walker

Guests: Jesstina Duncan

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The August 15, 2025, meeting minutes were amended to include Judge Diekhoff's attendance. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

3. Rule Amendments Update

Jamie Bergacs presented proposed changes from the Rules Subcommittee. Key updates include adding definitions for "criminal justice" and "human services" to clarify staff qualifications, adding an 18-month expiration for letters of intent to seek certification, and expanding staff qualifications for pretrial coordinators and staff to address hiring challenges. Additional changes require annual reports to be submitted to Local JRACs. The committee approved referring the amended Pretrial Services Rules to the Board of Directors for review and public comment.

4. Ideas 42 Update

Judge Spitzer provided an update on collaboration with Ideas 42, an organization assisting with behavioral science-informed language for court notices and reminders to improve appearance rates. The initiative is progressing with

recommendations under review. It was reported the project is cost-free from Ideas 42, aside from minor internal adjustments.

5. Bail Commission Update

Judge Spitzer summarized discussions from the October 1, 2025, Indiana Bail Commission meeting. The commission discussed a potential statewide bail schedule, mandatory holds for violent offenses, and statutory language for preventative detention if the proposed constitutional amendment passes. While no specific language was adopted, stakeholders emphasized preserving judicial discretion and due process. Legislative movement is expected in the next session.

6. Data Subcommittee Report

Hillary Hartoin reported ongoing efforts to enhance pretrial data reporting. The subcommittee is working on adding contextual data points to help coordinators better interpret reports. Hillary shared the following current statewide performance metrics

- No New Violent Crime Rate: 99.02%
- Appearance Rate: Mid-90s
- Safety Rate: High-80s

The committee granted approval for the data subcommittee to develop an annual report template to assist agencies with consistent reporting.

7. Coordinators Committee Update

Hillary Hartoin shared that coordinator meetings have regained momentum. Attendance is improving and efforts are underway to provide ongoing education through guest speakers from NAPSA, and other organizations. Plans include an in-person meeting during the Justice Services Conference in April of 2026 to foster engagement and professional development.

8. Education Subcommittee Report

Brett Jones reported that fall orientation for new pretrial staff concluded successfully, with four participants. Preparations are underway for spring orientation and the Justice Services Conference scheduled for April 29–30, 2026, with all pretrial sessions planned for the first day.

9. Certification Update

Shelby Bear announced that Indiana currently has 43 pretrial services agencies, with 32 certified and 11 in the planning stages. No issues were reported, and certification efforts are proceeding smoothly.

10. 2026 Meeting Dates

Jamie Bergacs proposed the 2026 meeting schedule as follows: February 6, May 15 (in-person), August 21, and November 13. Staff will send Zoom meeting invitations closer to each meeting date.

11. Other Business

There was no additional business raised.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.