



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Data Work Group

Minutes from March 10, 2026 Data Work Group Meeting

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Data Work Group met on March 10, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. Dr. Matt Aalsma chaired the meeting.

1. Attendance

Members Present:

- Dr. Matt Aalsma, Indiana University School of Medicine, Co-Chair
- Chris Biehn, Indiana Office of Court Services, Co-Chair
- Kristi Bruther, Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center
- Hon. Paul Felix, Indiana Court of Appeals
- Traci Lane, Madison County Juvenile Probation
- Melanie Pitstick, Marion County Juvenile Probation
- Hon. Sarah Mullican, Vigo Circuit/Superior Court 3
- Colleen Saylor, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Corajean Medina, Department of Child Services
- Kaitlyn Christian, Management Performance Hub
- Morgan Leuner, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Bri Youn, Indiana Youth Institute

Members Absent:

- None

OJA Staff Present:

- Nick Ackerman, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Beca Stockman, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI

Guests Present:

- Hon. Dana Kenworthy, Indiana Court of Appeals & YJOC Chair
- Katie Schwartz, Indiana University School of Medicine
- Steve Brown, Indiana University School of Medicine

2. Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2026 Meeting

Committee members were provided with a copy of the February 10, 2026 meeting minutes prior to today's meeting. Colleen Saylor made a motion to approve the minutes;

Melanie Pitstick seconded the motion. The work group members unanimously approved the February 10, 2026 meeting minutes.

3. Discuss Proposed Merger with CISC Data Work Group

The members revisited the topic of a potential merger with the CISC Data Work Group, which was raised at the February meeting. Members shared mixed feedback following further discussions. Some participants expressed openness to the merger provided the group's current work could continue to move forward, while others raised concerns about combining the groups due to differences in scope and focus. Nancy Wever noted that the CISC Data Work Group addresses a broader, multidisciplinary range of data requests, while the YJOC group has a more specific focus and substantial work of its own to complete. After discussion, Dr. Matt Aalsma suggested revisiting the possibility of a merger in one year while allowing the current group to continue its work in the meantime. The group agreed with this approach.

4. Update on Pilot Counties & Process Improvement

Dr. Aalsma provided an update on the Indiana University (IU) Data Quality Initiative and the ongoing pilot project with six counties. The project has moved into Phase 2, which focuses on improving data quality and data collection processes. The IU Team has been meeting with pilot counties to better understand local data entry practices, processes, and needs. Early findings indicate that achieving statewide consistency will be challenging due to the complexity of the data environment and the variety of systems used across jurisdictions, including SRS, OMS, and other platforms. Counties also vary widely in how they enter and manage data within those systems.

Katie Schwartz presented an overview of lessons learned to date. The IU Team noted that they initially expected to build upon existing training materials but have discovered that comprehensive statewide training resources for SRS do not currently exist. As a result, the team has relied heavily on JDAI data dictionaries and statutory definitions while working to understand the relationships among various data systems. Several members noted that some documentation does exist, including a Quest user manual, local policies guiding data entry, and various cheat sheets available on INcite. However, these materials tend to be inconsistent, locally developed, or process-focused rather than providing standardized definitions.

Members discussed the value of developing clearer and more standardized guidance for data entry. Colleen Saylor described the usefulness of Odyssey cheat sheets that outline how specific data fields are used for reporting and analysis. Melanie Pitstick noted that while internal policies guide staff on how to enter data, counties would benefit from broader, statewide guidance and training materials. Participants also emphasized the importance of ensuring that staff understand the definitions behind the data fields they are entering, as terms such as "referral date" may be interpreted differently across jurisdictions.

The IU Team shared feedback from pilot counties indicating some skepticism about the sustainability of data quality initiatives. Several counties reported that previous efforts to improve data quality had not resulted in lasting changes, raising concerns about whether new initiatives will be maintained long-term. In response, the project team discussed the need to narrow the scope of the work to focus on areas where meaningful progress can realistically be achieved.

As a result, the Phase 2 effort will focus specifically on improving consistency around the "Referral Recommendation" and "Referral Outcome" variables. Early data analysis has shown significant variation in how counties use these fields, particularly in capturing diversion-related outcomes. The IU Team plans to work toward clearer definitions and standardized guidance for these variables, potentially revising some existing definitions used in reports, such as the Probation Quarterly Report. Work group members emphasized that while the current focus is on SRS data, input from Quest counties will also be considered to ensure consistency across systems.

Next steps include collecting and reviewing any existing cheat sheets or documentation that may assist the IU Team in understanding current practices. The team will also continue coordinating with Lisa Thompson and her staff to better understand how data fields map across systems. Members were encouraged to share additional examples of local data entry practices or issues as they arise so the group can continue refining its recommendations.

Before adjourning, Kristi Bruther asked whether Nick Ackerman and Beca Stockman could attend future meetings to remain informed about the group's work. Members expressed support for their participation as non-voting participants.

5. Next Meeting

The next YJOC Data Work Group meeting will be on **April 14, 2026 from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm** via Zoom.

The next Youth Justice Oversight Committee Meeting is **April 9, 2026 at 10:00 am** at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C, 402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN. There will be a live webcast of this meeting available on the Youth Justice Oversight Committee website: www.in.gov/youthjustice.