



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes from December 11, 2025

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on December 11, 2025, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C. Mark Fairchild chaired the meeting.

Members Present:

The following members of the Committee were present in person:

- ☐ Dana Kenworthy, Chair
- ☒ Dr. Matthew Aalsma, Indiana University School of Medicine
- ☒ Stephen Balko, Indiana Department of Education
- ☒ Judge Marshelle Broadwell, Marion Superior Court 7
- ☐ Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation
- ☐ Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Correction
- ☒ Judge Darrin Dolehanty, Senior Judge
- ☒ Mark Fairchild, IOCS, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
- ☒ Tracy Fitz, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- ☐ Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen Superior Court
- ☐ Judge Faith Graham, Tippecanoe Superior Court 3
- ☐ Elizabeth Houdek, Indiana Public Defender Council
- ☒ Doug Huntsinger, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- ☒ Waylon James, Indiana Department of Child Services
- ☐ Judge Ryan King, Ripley Circuit Court
- ☐ Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- ☒ Catheryne Pully, Indiana Office of Court Services
- ☒ Magistrate Amy Richison, Huntington Circuit and Superior Courts
- ☐ Sarah Sailors, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- ☒ Nancy Wever, IOCS, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
- ☐ Kia Wright, Voices, Inc.

Members Attended Via Zoom:

Mag. Carolyn Foley, Terrie Decker, Elizabeth Houdek, Shannon Chambers, Judge Faith Graham, Kia Wright

Members Absent:

Hon. Dana Kenworthy, Nichole Phillips, Judge Ryan King, Sarah Sailors

Staff:

Leslie Dunn, Payton Lester, Blane Cook, Colleen Saylor, Chris Biehn, Megan Horton, Mindy Pickett, Shelby Price, and Sadia Maqsood from the Indiana Office of Court Services.

Welcome and Introductions:

Mark Fairchild welcomed members.

Approval of Minutes from October 9, 2025 Meeting:

Senior Judge Dolehanty moved to approve the October 9, 2025, minutes as written; Doug Huntsinger seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC) Update—Mark Fairchild:

The Executive Director of the CISC, Mark Fairchild, provided an update on their work. The CISC will have one piece of youth justice related legislation; there is no bill number yet. Senator Donato is the author, no co-signers yet. The legislation sets a floor for visitation expectations for youth in detention, which is two in-person and two electronic or telephonic visits per week at a minimum. Most detention centers said that this aligned with current procedures; however, some indicated there may be staffing and administrative considerations in making this happen. Mark will be tracking juvenile justice-related legislation; members can reach out to him if they have any legislation they are concerned about.

CISC approved a new strategic plan. There are no major substantive changes impacting the YJOC role or processes. It formalizes that the YJOC is listed as part of the CISC structure so YJOC can make recommendations that are escalated up CISC for further action and approval. The Juvenile Justice and Cross-Systems Youth Task Force of the CISC has some work that may overlap with YJOC. CISC mapped that out and they are changing the focus of this task force to multi-system youth to avoid duplication. Recommendations on policy or legislation focused solely on juvenile justice will come to YJOC rather than the re-focused JJ&CSY Task Force. Both YJOC and CISC have data workgroups that we may merge to streamline.

OJA Reports: Detention Tool Overrides and Diversion Report and Secure Detention Report—Chris Biehn:

Chris Biehn, Director of Justice Services at IOCS, gave a PowerPoint presentation about two reports that OJA is required to file each year as a part of the legislation that created the YJOC. For the **Secure Detention Report**, IOCS sent out a fifteen-question survey to all 92 counties. The report includes 73 of the 92 counties and we just received three additional responses. All responding counties indicated that they use the statute to determine if a youth should go to secure detention and state that they are holding a detention hearing within 48 hours. Three counties hold the hearing within 24 hours. Most counties, 96%, have alternatives to detention that they can use such as electronic monitoring, home detention, shelter care, and conditional release.

The barriers to detention are “no facilities,” funding, nobody to provide alternatives, and staffing issues in rural counties. Judges are concerned about the inability to detain youth in secure detention; 82% of counties report capacity problems such as lack of facilities, behavioral concerns (youth with higher needs), and offense restrictions (detention centers not accepting certain types

of cases). Counties have requested the ability to place youth across state lines without using the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), which is not legal. Counties have reported having to place youth at great distances from their home county; 75% of responding counties have to travel over 100 miles and 44 counties have to travel 150 miles or more, creating significant burdens. Only 13 counties have local access to detention centers. There is a significant desert (lack of facilities) in southwestern Indiana.

Dr. Aalsma asked if most counties are willing to take youth from other counties. Nancy Wever responded and said yes, they do. Facilities often couch their response as capacity but they may have a bed and may not want to take a particular child. Lake County says that they will not accept out-of-county kids, but they do. Nancy encourages judges to call their fellow judges directly and ask; this has been successful. Magistrate Richison noted that capacity is often due to staff ratios that are required.

The **Detention Tool Overrides and Diversion Report** was not driven by a survey; it is based on data pulled from INCite. However, there were some diversion questions on the survey. 79 counties completed the Indiana Youth Assessment System (IYAS) detention tool; 13 counties have no data in the system because they did not use the IYAS tool. Data shows that 78% of youth successfully complete diversion. IYAS scores reflect that detention rates align with assessed risk levels, demonstrating effective tool utilization. The PowerPoint on the Report contains additional data.

Workgroup Updates

Grants Process Workgroup:

Doug Huntsinger of the Grants Process Workgroup shared a statutorily required report that they created regarding the three YJOC grant programs. They are asking for YJOC to approve the report. The report shows the new funding formula and performance measures. It also outlines changes that the Grants Process Workgroup and ICJI have made to streamline the process for applicants. Magistrate Richison asked if their data would include cases in which the youth have a direct file. Nancy Wever said they could try but there are jurisdictions where the juvenile courts are not involved at all. Magistrate Richison would like this information included. Doug said they are looking at individual data on youth served so they can connect it to other data, but they are still trying to figure out how to do that. Magistrate Richison asked for the workgroup to amend the definition of recidivism to include direct files. Doug Huntsinger asked for approval of the report. Tracy Fitz moved to accept the report and Catheryne Pully seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Grants Report was approved with this amendment. As they move forward, the workgroup will continue to monitor the process and progress and make adjustments as needed.

Data Workgroup:

Dr. Aalsma reported that they have been working since January to wrap up Phase 1 involving data quality improvement (missing data and data inconsistencies) for twenty-four counties. The final report for Phase I has been shared with the workgroup and will be shared with YJOC at the next meeting. They have a separate report on diversion data; it is fraught with more data inconsistencies due to local differences. They did a survey and interviews to get some of the information. There are a lot of areas for improvement at the early end on data that is collected. They are considering how to determine if youth are successful. Chris Biehn noted that in 2026, there will be a question on the probation quarterly report on diversion, which has not existed before. They will collect types of diversion and outcomes for recommendations moving forward. Phase 2 involves working with five counties more intensely.

Behavioral Health Workgroup:

The Chairs, Sarah Sailors and Magistrate Anah Gouty, were not present. Mindy Pickett, IOCS staff for the workgroup, provided the report. The documents YJOC approved at their last meeting are now available on the website and a Wednesday Weekly message went out recently. Their next step is meeting with the Grants Process Workgroup to identify gaps and how they can collaborate on the behavioral health grants. One other task was looking at telehealth; they are drafting a short document on telehealth to explain what it is and how it can best be used with juveniles.

Diversion Workgroup:

Tracy Fitz said they are ready to go live with their Diversion Resource Toolkit. They added a notice advising people how to add new programs into the directory. They want to find a way to highlight the programs that are doing well. Tracy asks for approval for the Diversion Toolkit to go live. Magistrate Richison moves to approve; Nancy Wever seconds. Members all agree the Diversion Toolkit should go live on the website and the link to Toolkit should be provided to ICJI and provided to grant applicants.

Transitional Services Workgroup:

Magistrate Foley stated that their transitional services best practices guides are being reviewed by Judge Kenworthy and they hope to present them at the next YJOC meeting.

Wrap-Up /Closing:

Nancy Wever shared that the Youth Justice Conference will be October 28-29 at the Embassy Suites in Plainfield; it is open to the entire state, not just JDAI counties. They want the conference to be relevant to everyone and she asked members to reach out to her with any suggestions. Mark Fairchild stated that Youth Day at the Statehouse is coming up on President's Day, February 16, 2026, and we are all invited to attend. They have 500 youth who attend; it is nice to have this connection with the youth. He will share the link.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C
Thursday, April 9, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C
Thursday, June 11, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A
Thursday, August 13, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A
Thursday, October 8, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A
Thursday, December 10, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A