

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2025

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on October 31, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Capital Center in Indianapolis. Justice Christopher Goff chaired the meeting.

1. Members present. The following members attended the meeting:

- Chris Blessinger, designee for the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction
- Chris Biehn, designee for the chief administrative officer of Office of Judicial Administration
- Judge Mark Spitzer, president of Indiana Judges Association
- Zoe Frantz, president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Doug Huntsinger, executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Kellie Bittorf, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
- Angela Morris, president of Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- David Bottorff, executive director of Association of Indiana Counties
- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council (by video)
- Howard Simms, proxy for director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Rep. Mitch Gore, ranking minority member of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Derrick Mason, designee for chair of Indiana Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys
- Sen. Brett Clark, proxy for chair of the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Adam Carter, proxy for ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana

2. Members absent. The following members did not attend the meeting:

- Sheriff Robert Goldsmith, president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Danny Price, governor's designee

3. **Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Angie Hensley and Brendan O'Connor, OJA; Lora Moeller, Shelby Bear, Georgia McCart, Indiana Office of Court Services; Denise Symdon, Center for Effective Public Policy; Liz Darlage, Angie Estes, Brianna Newton, and Dalton Haney, Indiana Department of Correction; Anthony Williams and Lindsey Villalpando, POPAI; Scott Hohl, IACCAC; Carolyn Travis, Indiana Senate; Julia Sant'Anna, Indiana House of Representatives; Sydney Moulton, Becky Buhner, Division of Mental Health and Addiction; Robert Ohlemiller.
4. **Staff.** Catheryne Pully, Jennifer Bauer, Michelle Goodman, David Sexton, and Reilly Sommers attended as staff from the Office of Court Services.
5. **Welcome and meeting announcements.** Justice Goff convened the meeting by welcoming members. He reminded members that the meeting was being live-streamed and asked members to speak in the direction of a microphone during discussion.
6. **Approval of minutes.** The June 27, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote on motion and second by Doug Huntsinger and Angela Morris.
7. **JRAC Workgroup Reports.**
 - a) **Local JRAC Workgroup.** Chris Biehn reported the following:
 - i. Technical Assistance – The Center for Effective Public Policy is currently working with twenty-one Local JRACs on technical assistance. In addition, CEPP has completed technical assistance work with twenty counties and is facilitating ad hoc work with Lake County on data collection. As part of their work in Floyd County, CEPP staff will be co-facilitating two workshops in November 2025 at the Floyd County Local JRAC Mental Health and Addiction Summit.
 - ii. Local JRAC Annual Reports – the survey for the 2025 report is in process and suggestions for content are welcome; the 2025 surveys will be due by March 31, 2026.
 - b) **Reports Workgroup.** Michelle Goodman reported that the Local JRACs are currently in the process of submitting Q3 electronic monitoring data, which is due by Nov. 29th. A reminder was sent this week, and we currently have 39 submissions. There was a technology issue with the engagement builder platform, and it was fixed. The SEA 9-Q2 Report was presented for the council's review and approval. The Advisory Council unanimously approved the report by roll call vote on motion and second by Judge Mark Spitzer and Angela Morris.
 - c) **Disparate Outcomes Workgroup.** Chris Biehn reported the workgroup last met in May and has completed its work. He also reported that he met with Dr. Evan Lowder to discuss how to tie up the project. Dr. Lowder suggested following up

on the initial individuals in the initial disparate outcomes study. Mr. Biehn noted that this would require funding.

d) Data Workgroup. Angie Hensley reported that the data workgroup last met October 23, 2025. The Data Workgroup first met on June 20th and have met bi-monthly since. The next meeting is scheduled for December 11. The workgroup has reviewed the strategic plan and will be completing a data survey for the organizations represented to create a high-level network diagram of existing data by the end of the year. The workgroup is also supporting the Problem-Solving Courts performance measures project and asking that group develop a data dictionary as they update the current required performance measures. In addition, data dictionaries have been requested from agencies represented on the workgroup to identify gaps. A collaborative space will be created for members in Teams to share and update information.

8. Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers Update. Becky Buhner and Zoe Frantz provided an update on Indiana's certified community behavioral health centers. Ms. Buhner reported that Indiana's new crisis response system provides someone to call, someone to respond, and somewhere to go. The CCBHC demonstration began in January and the eight CCBHC pilot sites provide required services. DMHA's goal is to screen 80% of the clients at CCBHC sites for the social determinants of health. The CCBHC's have served 44, 290 unique individuals to date. DMHA's long-term vision is to provide CCBHC state-wide coverage. The Advisory Council members discussed data available on 988 and 911 calls, Medicaid funding, and institutional care.

9. Funding Impact Discussion. Kellie Bittorf and Angela Morris reported that the legislature's cut to the Department of Correction's funding appropriation affects community corrections agencies and probation departments. Justice Goff suggested that this issue should be discussed by the Local JRAC Workgroup. The Advisory Council members discussed the DOC funding formula, county investment into community supervision programs, reduction in county revenue caused by SB 1, and a state-funded model for local criminal justice systems.

10. Creation of Communications Workgroup. Michelle Goodman reported that JRAC's strategic plan authorized the creation of the Communications Workgroup to develop a comprehensive communication strategy to share key information, resources, and best practices with all JRAC stakeholders. Ms. Goodman will chair this workgroup, which will work closely with and report to the Local JRAC Workgroup regarding substantive content. Ms. Goodman asked members to recommend individuals from their offices or membership groups who can lend their expertise to the workgroup.

11. Other business.

- a) Operation green light.** David Bottorf reported that this Veteran's Day is the fifth anniversary of Operation Green Light. The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs to show support for veterans by lighting their buildings green from November 4-11, 2025. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported.
- b) Mental Health and Addictions Summit.** Steve McCaffrey reported that Mental Health America of Indiana will host the 2025 Indiana Mental Health and Addiction Symposium on December 12. The symposium will feature a fireside chat featuring the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) Director Sarah Sailors. The conversation will highlight key initiatives driving Indiana's mental health and addiction strategy, explore ongoing progress in expanding access and improving outcomes, discuss lessons learned from recent statewide programs and partnerships, and identify opportunities for continued collaboration across providers, policymakers, and community stakeholders. Mr. McCaffrey invited Advisory Council members to attend the summit.

12. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bauer
Office of Court Services