

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2021

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met by video conference on April 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Justice Christopher Goff chaired the meeting.

- 1. Members present.** The following members of the Council were present:
 - Bernice Corley, executive director of the Indiana Public Defender Council
 - Chris Naylor, executive director of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
 - Jay Chaudhary, director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
 - Sheriff Brett Clark, president of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association
 - Christine Blessinger, designee for the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction
 - Mary Kay Hudson, designee for the chief administrative officer of the Office of Judicial Administration
 - Devon McDonald, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
 - Amber Finnegan, president of the Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
 - Troy Hatfield, president of the Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
 - Kirsten Haney, designee for the State Budget Director
 - David Bottorff, executive director of the Association of Indiana Counties
 - Derrick Mason, designee for the chair of the Indiana Public Defender Commission
 - Sen. Karen Tallian, ranking minority member of the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
 - Rep. Wendy McNamara; chair of the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
 - Doug Huntsinger; designee for the governor

- 2. Guests.** Steve Luce, executive director of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association attended the meeting as a guest.

- 3. Staff.** Jenny Bauer, April Dubree, Angie Hensley-Langrel, and Michelle Goodman attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.

4. Approval of minutes. Amber Finnegan made a motion to approve the February 26, 2021 meeting minutes and Karen Tallian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Legislative Report.

a) HB 1068 on local justice reinvestment advisory councils. Justice Goff reported that Gov. Holcomb signed HEA 1068 on April 8th. Most of the provisions of the bill are effective July 1, 2021, with two key provisions effective upon passage. Justice Goff lead the Council in a discussion of Section 6 which directs JRAC to conduct a review of community corrections code provisions and make recommendations to improve operations with evidence-based practices. JRAC is also directed to submit a report to the Department of Correction by December 1st. Justice Goff announced he will chair the code review and asked for volunteers to serve on the review workgroup. The following members volunteered: DOC representatives, Doug Huntsinger, Troy Hatfield, Kirsten Haney, Amber Finnegan, Bernice Corley, Chris Naylor, Steve Luce (and possibly a sheriff with a community corrections program), Jay Chaudhary, Judge Spitzer, and Mary Kay Hudson. David Bottorff stated he will ask a county commissioner to participate in the workgroup. The Office of Court Services will schedule a workgroup meeting in May. Mary Kay Hudson asked Council members to send topics for discussion to help with agenda planning.

Justice Goff also announced the governor's office has provided IOCS with funds to support training and technical assistance for local JRAC groups. He asked the workgroup to identify short-term and long-term training and technical assistance opportunities and report recommendations at the June meeting. Justice Goff thanked Doug Huntsinger and the governor's office for the funding.

b) Other bills of interest.

- **HB 1199 on driving privileges**—Bernice Corley highlighted the great collaboration with IPAC. Chris Naylor said there are opportunities for training as the provisions are implemented.
- **SB 368 on juvenile justice**—Sen. Tallian reported that the juvenile justice bill passed and is at the governor's desk. She also reported that HB 1202 on sentencing did not pass.
- **Budget**—Rep. McNamara reported that the state budget allocates \$250,000 for the Council of State Governments to study juvenile justice

reform and provides DOC funding for stab vests. Devon McDonald reported ICJI received a \$7 million budget allocation for law enforcement training grants and requested ideas on how to administer. He plans to develop a survey to gauge interest and priorities. Sheriff Clark suggested law enforcement training on crisis intervention and mental health first aid. Amber Finnegan suggested law enforcement training on the sequential intercept model. Derrick Mason reported the Public Defender Commission budget includes an additional \$2 million per bi-ennium for at-risk youth and families and requested ideas. David Bottorff reported the state budget includes opioid settlement money to FSSA for substance use and mental health and wondered if it could be used for jails and pretrial.

- 6. NIC EBDM Update.** Angie Hensley-Langrel reported the EBDM workgroup met on March 23rd. The workgroup plans to interview state and local team members for a case study on sustainability. The workgroup also plans to gather and centralize historical documents for member review. The workgroup has a June deadline to complete this work and review the final case study.
- 7. Racial Equity Workgroup.** Bernice Corley reported that the Racial Equity Workgroup met two times to inventory state agency data available by race and learn about unconscious bias in decision points and national arrest trends. Steve Luce reported that the group is having difficult conversations and data is the key to successfully meet the group's goals. Mary Kay Hudson reported that two counties applied for Supreme Court grants to review race and equity in their local criminal justice systems, one of which was a request to fund a research project with Dr. Evan Lowder. In addition, Dr. Evan Lowder recently provided guidance to Lisa Thompson and Dave Williams regarding reporting of race data gathered in Odyssey and INCite. Ms. Hudson will contact Dr. Lowder to gauge her availability and interest in working with JRAC's racial equity work group.
- 8. JRAC Data Sharing MOU.** Mary Kay Hudson reported that JRAC needs to update the data sharing memorandum of understanding with member agencies. IOCS staff will revise the MOU and distribute to members for review.
- 9. Member reports.**
 - a) Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana**—Troy Hatfield reported that he is the new POPAI president. POPAI conducted a training for new chief probation officers in March via Zoom. POPAI is planning for an in-person annual meeting in French Lick in September. Mr. Hatfield also reported that POPAI will award its annual scholarship at the upcoming

Justice Services Conference. He thanked past president Adam McQueen for his service as POPAI president.

- b) State Budget Agency**—Kirsten Haney reported the budget passed and SBA now has 45 days to put together the “as-passed” budget. SBA is working on a uniform report for federal funds and will begin work on the next budget.
- c) Association of Indiana Counties**—David Bottorff reported AIC will hold district meetings May to discuss the 2021 legislative session. He also reported that the American Rescue Plan sent \$1.3 billion to Indiana. AIC is waiting for U.S. Treasury guidance on spending. AIC is also discussing with the State the possibility of back-filling funds lost from reduced court activity.
- d) Indiana Judges Association**—No report.
- e) Indiana Public Defender Commission**—Derrick Mason reported that Commission’s budget allocation includes an additional \$4 million for at-risk youth and families. The Commission meets in June to discuss the additional funding and is open to ideas.
- f) Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee**—No report.
- g) House Courts and Criminal Code Committee**—Rep. McNamara reported that the 2021 legislative session was good for criminal justice. Highlights include HB 1006 on law enforcement, high tech crimes unit, and mental health forensic treatment.
- h) Governor**—Doug Huntsinger thanked Sen. Tallian and Rep. McNamara for their work in the General Assembly and noted it was a great session for substance use and mental health. He also reported that the legislature passed a 5-year extension for syringe programs. The governor’s office is hosting round tables to update the strategic plan regarding additional funding.
- i) Indiana Public Defender Council**—Bernice Corley reported the Council’s budget appropriation includes an addition \$1 million for at-risk youth and families. IPDC plans to complement the Public Defender Commission’s programs for at-risk youth and families with training. She encouraged

support of county-based services with access to CARES Act funding. Ms. Corley also reported that IPDC plans to develop training on the driving privileges in HEA 1199.

- j) Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council**—Chris Naylor reported IPAC will conduct in-person trainings in April, May, and June. He also reported the IPAC Board of Directors will conduct the pilot project for high tech crime investigation. He thanked the Supreme Court for the COVID resources website related to court operations and jury trials. Mr. Naylor also noted that efforts should not be duplicated on CARES Act funding.
- k) Division of Mental Health and Addiction**—Jay Chaudhary reported DMHA received additional appropriations for COVID funds and mental health grants. DMHA is working on details for use of the new funds, noting that crisis intervention, criminal justice interface, jail/prison treatment could be initiatives. He stated these initiatives can transform the mental health and substance use systems and will provide details at a later meeting.
- l) Indiana Sheriffs' Association**—Steve Luce reported that 59 counties attended the ISA conference this week. He also reported that ISA awarded the contracts for the victim notification and jail data projects. ISA is managing state opioid funds, with \$700,000 available for MAT in jails. Mr. Luce further reported that ISA is partnering with the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a jail study on opioid use disorder. Sheriff Clark reported that Hendricks County reconvened its EBDM group and the group will function as the local JRAC.
- m) Indiana Department of Correction**—Chris Blessinger reported that DOC has administered the first COVID vaccine to 5,300 inmates and 2,400 second vaccines. DOC has resumed normal programming and looks forward to the community corrections code review.
- n) Office of Judicial Administration**—Mary Kay Hudson reported that she and Donna Edgar presented a session at the ISA conference on the jail management system. The pilot project for the jail management system includes sheriffs' departments in Hendricks, Howard, Vigo, Grant, and Dubois. She stated the system should be in testing by the end of the year and thanked the participating counties. Ms. Hudson also reported the following for the Office of Court Services: the annual Justice Services

Conference is next week in online format; the number of certified problem-solving courts and pretrial programs is increasing; the IOCS budget was sustained for veterans courts, problem-solving courts, and family recovery courts; and IOCS is reviewing its grant cycle for a possible transition to the calendar year.

o) Indiana Criminal Justice Institute—Devon McDonald reported that ICJI is working on details for the new law enforcement training grants. He also reported that the data transformation project will make it easier to share data as ICJI will own the data.

p) Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties—Amber Finnegan reported that IACCAC's spring conference is scheduled for May 12-15. IACCAC is making sure members know about HEA 1068 and is encouraged to start the conversation on local JRAC's. In response to a question on the number of community corrections counties, Ms. Finnegan reported that there are 89 community corrections act counties.

10. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is June 4 at 1:00 p.m. by Zoom. Justice Goff stated future meetings will likely be in person.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Office of Court Services