

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2021

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met by video conference on June 4, 2021, 1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.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
- Steve Luce, proxy for the 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
- Judge Mark Spitzer, designee for the president of the Indiana Judges Association
- 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. Christopher Drapeau, State Suicide Prevention Director, and Mimi Carter, Center for Effective Public Policy, attended the meeting as guests.

3. **Staff.** Jenny Bauer, April Dubree, and Angie Hensley-Langrel attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.
4. **Approval of minutes.** Doug Huntsinger made a motion to approve the April 23, 2021 meeting minutes and Karen Tallian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Workgroup Reports.**
 - a) **Community Corrections Code Revision.** Justice Goff reported he chairs the CC Code Revision work group. The workgroup met in late May and plans to meet three more times to produce a report for DOC.
 - b) **Racial Equity.** Bernice Corley reported a small group of the Racial Equity Workgroup met with Dr. Evan Lowder about ways she could assist the workgroup. Dr. Lowder will submit a proposal to the workgroup and then meet to discuss. The workgroup will meet later in June.
 - c) **EBDM.** Amber Finnegan reported the EBDM workgroup met to discuss the legislation on local JRAC's and review the implementation proposal from the Center for Effective Public Policy. The workgroup recommended JRAC approve the proposal and also recommended that EBDM continue as a workgroup. Justice Goff asked the members to vote on the CEPP proposal and continuation of the EBDM Workgroup. The members approved the recommendations unanimously. The members also discussed the need for a description of local JRAC obligations. Justice Goff asked the EBDM Workgroup to draft a high-level description for approval by email before the August meeting.
6. **988 & Crisis Response.** Jay Chaudhary reported that Indiana's 988 program presents a transformational opportunity that will benefit from local stakeholder buy-in. Christopher Drapeau, State Suicide Prevention Director, presented information on the 988 infrastructure plan. He explained that "988" will be the new number for suicide prevention, replacing the current 10-digit number. The vision of state suicide prevention will broaden to "improve quality of life for as many Hoosiers as possible"—the quality-of-life focus will require inter-agency and inter-group coordination. DMHA received a grant from Vibrant to develop roadmaps to address coordination, capacity, funding, and communication strategies. DMHA is drafting the 988 implementation plan and will finalize the plan by the end of the year to ensure Indiana is ready to go live on July 16, 2022. Dr. Drapeau stated that the new "crisis now model" aligns services toward a common goal of treatment instead of arrest. This will result in decreased use of jail and emergency rooms/inpatient units. The key task for mobile crisis teams

will be to determine when to bring in law enforcement. Dr. Drapeau also stated that he is available to present information on 988 and crisis response to stakeholder groups.

- 7. Coronavirus Funding.** Justice Goff reported that a small group met recently to discuss coronavirus relief funds from the U.S. Treasury. The American Recovery Act funding is available to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger and more equitable economy. David Bottorff shared documents from the National Association of Counties and the U.S. Treasury on guidance for state and local fiscal recovery funds. He reported Indiana counties will receive a total of \$1.3 billion in two installments. There is a formula to determine lost revenue and the funding is different from the CARES Act. Mr. Bottorff also reported that the lost revenue has a county-wide focus on non-reverting funds. He suggested that local justice partners make a coordinated pitch for funding.
- 8. JRAC Data Sharing MOU.** Mary Kay Hudson reported that the previous MOU between JRAC and the State EBDM Team expired and needs re-execution. She and Michelle Goodman met with the Criminal Justice Institute to discuss and learned that CJI is having internal discussions about available data. Ms. Hudson recommended holding the re-execution of the MOU until CJI is ready. Devon McDonald stated CJI will become owners of a substantial amount of criminal justice-related data with implementation of the new victim notification system. This could affect how the MOU works.
- 9. Member reports.**

 - a) Indiana Public Defender Council**—Bernice Corley reported the Public Defender Council is working with the Department of Education to develop training to educate attorneys and social workers on resources available for juveniles in the justice system. The Public Defender Council is also hosting a trauma training series with DCS and DMHA, with 500 attendees at the first event representing court staff, judges, legislators, and DOC.
 - b) Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council**—Chris Naylor reported that IPAC recently conducted its spring training seminar, with a session on resuming jury trials in a pandemic. Upcoming trainings are the child support conference and the annual summer conference. The summer conference will feature an EBDM roundtable.
 - c) Division of Mental Health and Addiction**—Jay Chaudhary reported DMHA is reviewing its federal stimulus funding, state budget appropriation, and opioid settlement money to see how the funds interact and plan how to best maximize use of the funds. He will present the plan

at an upcoming meeting. He also reported that competency restoration continues to be an issue for DMHA because of staffing issues at state psychiatric hospitals. DMHA is exploring HEA 1127 for assistance.

- d) Indiana Sheriffs' Association**—Steve Luce reported that David Bottorff attended the recent monthly sheriffs' conference call as a guest to discuss the American Recovery Plan and the opioid settlement. The jail data contract was awarded to Moser Consulting, with Aaron Garner as the project director. The project is scheduled to be complete by October 1. ISA is also watching federal policing legislation and communicating with Indiana's congressional representatives. ISA is hosting three legislative roundtables in Fulton County, Hendricks County, and Orange County. Mr. Luce also reported that the Racial Equity group discussed the Live Scan digital fingerprint machines. He would like JRAC to discuss a plan to help sheriffs maintain the machines.
- e) Indiana Department of Correction**—Chris Blessinger reported that DOC released the community corrections grant applications. The application deadline is July 9. DOC continues to administer COVID-19 vaccines to offenders in facilities to 5,300 inmates and 2,400 second vaccines and is working on a policy to reinstate visitors and volunteers.
- f) Office of Judicial Administration**—Mary Kay Hudson reported OJA distributed grants for pretrial programs, family recovery courts, veterans treatment courts, and other problem-solving courts. OJA is back in the field for certification reviews and conducting in-person training. Ms. Hudson also reported that OJA is staffing a committee on juvenile jail removal, formed in response to the provisions of SEA 368.
- g) Indiana Criminal Justice Institute**—Devon McDonald reported CJI is working on data points with the vendor for the new jail data/victim notification system.
- h) Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties**—Amber Finnegan reported 115 community corrections directors attended the IACCAC spring directors conference. The conference included a session on servant leadership. Ms. Finnegan also reported community corrections agencies are working on DOC grant applications and collaboration plans.
- i) Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana**—Troy Hatfield reported the POPAI fall conference is scheduled for September 8-10 in French Lick. POPAI will contact Dr. Drapeau about a 988 session.
- j) State Budget Agency**—Kirsten Haney reported SBA is gearing up for the fiscal year close-out and new appropriations. She thanked David Bottorff and Devon McDonald for their help with federal coronavirus relief funds.

- k) Association of Indiana Counties**—David Bottorff reported 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.
- l) Indiana Judges Association**—Judge Spitzer reported IJA is looking to return to in-person court activities and is collaborating on strategies to return to normal.
- m) Indiana Public Defender Commission**—Derrick Mason reported the General Assembly assigned interim study topics to the Public Defender Commission. The Commission plans to conduct a survey to gather information on the impact of attorneys at criminal initial hearings. Mr. Mason also reported that the Commission can reimburse at 40% for attorney appearances at felony initial hearings.
- n) Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee**—Sen. Tallian reported there is a continuing legal education session next week on legislative update for criminal-related bills. She also reported that the approved summer study topics are on cost/fees in juvenile prosecutions, juvenile life without parole, the public defender system, and jurisdiction over adults who commit sex offenses as juveniles. Sen. Tallian is a member of the study committee on public defenders.
- o) House Courts and Criminal Code Committee**—Rep. McNamara reported the Council of State Governments is in phase II of the juvenile justice system review. CSG will complete the review by November.
- p) Governor**—Doug Huntsinger reported Scott County commissioners voted recently to end the county's syringe service program. The governor's office is communicating with community partners to support continuing efforts to fight the drug epidemic. Mr. Huntsinger also reported he recently attended the opening of a "Recovery Café" that serves Gary and Merrillville. The governor's office plans to partner with DMHA on the state's behavioral health workforce challenges.

10. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is August 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Office of Court Services