

# Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

### October 29, 2021

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on October 29, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Capital Center South Tower in Indianapolis, Indiana. Justice Christopher Goff chaired the meeting.

**1. Members present.** The following members of the Council attended the meeting:

- 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
- 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
- Briony Towler, designee for the State Budget Director
- David Bottorff, executive director of the Association of Indiana Counties
- Andrew Cullen, proxy for the chair of the Indiana Public Defender Commission
- Doug Huntsinger, designee for the governor
- Steve McCaffrey, president and chief executive officer of Mental Health America of Indiana

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

- Judge Mark Spitzer, designee for the president of the Indiana Judges Association
- Sheriff Brett Clark, president of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Sen. Mike Young, ranking majority member of the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee

- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
  - Rep. Ragen Hatcher, ranking minority member of the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
  - Rick Crawley, interim CEO of the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- 3. Guests.** Kristen Banschbach from the Department of Correction, State Public Defender Amy Karozos, Dustin Renner from the Association of Indiana Counties, and Amber Fystro from the Indiana House of Representatives.
- 4. Staff.** Jenny Bauer, April Dubree, Angie Hensley-Langrel, Michelle Goodman, David Sexton, Jamie Bergacs, Lora Moeller, Rachel McKee, Nancy Wever, and Janelle Johnson attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration. Michelle Shorter attended as staff from Justice Goff's chambers.
- 5. Approval of minutes.** Jay Chaudhary moved to approve the August 8, 2021 meeting minutes and Doug Huntsinger seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 6. Workgroup Reports.**
- a) Community Corrections Code Revision.** Justice Goff reported the community corrections code review report is due to the Department of Correction by December 1<sup>st</sup>. He thanked Kristen Banschbach and Michelle Goodman for their work. Mary Kay Hudson also thanked Ms. Goodman for her work on the report and noted the report identifies opportunities and stresses the need to work with local agencies. Justice Goff stated the workgroup will present the report at the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - b) Racial Equity.** Bernice Corley reported the Racial Equity Workgroup is working with Dr. Evan Lowder to finalize the contract for research on racial disparities in the criminal justice system. The workgroup will invite counties to participate in research project once the contact with Dr. Lowder is finalized.
  - c) EBDM/Local JRAC.** Justice Goff thanked Kristen Banschbach and Amber Finnegan for leading the early activities of the EBDM workgroup. The workgroup's name was changed in September to Local JRAC with Justice Goff as chair. Justice Goff reported the first deliverable for the Local JRAC Workgroup is the November 1 webinar on local JRAC's. He also highlighted the local JRAC website developed by Court Services and the Office of Judicial Administration. Angie Hensley reported the workgroup

met five times since August with a focus on guidance and support for local stakeholders. She thanked Doug Huntsinger and the governor's office for funding to support consultants from the Center for Effective Public Policy. Ms. Hensley also reported the Local JRAC website will have a directory of local contacts and information on how JRAC fosters improved public safety. She further reported 260 participants from 81 counties registered for the Nov. 1 webinar. The workgroup meets next on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- 7. Grant Funding.** Kristen Banschbach reported DOC announced the community supervision grant awards in September. DOC will fund 262 programs in CY 2022 at a total of \$72.9 million, with \$10 million in returned funds from the last grant cycle. DOC filled 84% of the application requests and 51% of the applicants received an increase in funding. She reported that some requests were not funded because the entity was ineligible or not certified. She directed members to the DOC website to view the grant report. DOC is currently in the contract phase for the 2022 funding. The next application cycle is scheduled for March. Ms. Banschbach also report DOC received a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant award to work with the University of Cincinnati on validating UC's correctional program checklist tool for use by community corrections agencies. DOC will announce the grant award in an upcoming press release.
- 8. Retirement of Senator Tallian.** Justice Goff reported Sen. Karen Tallian is retiring from the Indiana Senate after serving northern Indiana for 16 years. He thanked Sen. Tallian for her engagement in JRAC meetings.
- 9. Pretrial preventive detention.** Justice Goff reported the issue of preventive detention was raised by Chris Naylor at the August meeting. He reported the Judicial Conference Pretrial Committee was asked to review the issue. Mary Kay Hudson reported the committee met in early October and noted the issue of preventive detention was discussed by the EBDM State Team and covered in presentations by Tim Schnacke. The committee agreed the issue needs further discussion and created a workgroup. The Pretrial Committee's workgroup will review the necessity of a constitutional amendment and the practical applications of eliminating money bail. Bernice Corley reported the Indiana Public Defender Council's board discussed this issue recently and plans to educate public defenders. Chris Naylor reported the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council is in the early stages of examining the issue.

## 10. Member reports.

- a) **Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council**—Chris Naylor requested data from pretrial pilot counties be shared with JRAC. Mary Kay Hudson reported outcome data is available from several of the pretrial pilot counties and can be presented at a future meeting. Mr. Naylor also reported technical assistance for counties implementing pretrial services will be important moving forward. Justice Goff suggested a recorded webinar could be posted on the Court Services website. Additionally, Mr. Naylor reported the number of murder offenses and felony offenses has increased.
- b) **Mental Health America of Indiana**—Steve McCaffrey reported the new Behavioral Health Commission provides JRAC an opportunity for connection on behavioral health issues. Justice Goff suggested the Commission should partner with the Deadwood Group and 988 roll-out planning.
- c) **Association of Indiana Counties**—David Bottorff reported AIC is following federal legislation on CARES ACT funding and preparing for the 2022 session of the Indiana General Assembly.
- d) **Indiana Public Defender Commission**—Andrew Cullen suggested JRAC do a proclamation to recognize Sen. Tallian’s service to JRAC. He reported the Public Defender Commission surveyed counties on “counsel at first appearance” and presented the results to the Corrections and Criminal Code Study Committee. The Study Committee recommended more funding for public defenders, misdemeanor authorization, and higher reimbursement rates for regional public defender agencies. The Public Defender Commission will bring its proposed legislation to the next JRAC meeting. Chris Naylor suggested JRAC should revisit the 2019 Jail Overcrowding Task Force report and endorse the recommendations.
- e) **Office of Judicial Administration**—Mary Kay Hudson reported OJA met with Court Technology’s Lisa Thompson and Dave Williams regarding local JRAC reporting requirements. Ms. Thompson and Mr. Williams suggested adapting the 1006 report for locals upon request and supplying raw line level data. Ms. Hudson also reported Court Technology is working on a new jail management system.
- f) **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute**—Devon McDonald reported the annual report on juveniles under adult court jurisdiction was released today. The CJI research division is currently working on the annual 1006 report. Mr. McDonald also reported the victim notification project is underway with DOC managing the project. The new system will replace SAVIN and can be used by any sheriff free of charge. He explained the

system will give point in time data and should be live sometime in Spring 2022. He further explained the victim notification project is separate from Court's Technology's jail management system project, but the two new systems will interface.

- g) Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties**—Amber Finnegan reported the IACCAC fall conference is scheduled for November 15-18 with a theme of "Roads to Recovery".
- h) Probation Officers Professional Association**—Troy Hatfield reported POPAI looks forward to the racial equity research project.
- i) State Budget Agency**—Briony Towler reported SBA is preparing for the 2022 session of the Indiana General Assembly and working to wrap up federal coronavirus relief funds.

**11. Next Meeting Date.** The next Council meeting is November 30 at 1:00 p.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

**12. Adjournment.** The Council adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
Office of Court Services