

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2021

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on November 30, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. 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:

- Amy Karozos, proxy for the executive director of the Indiana Public Defender Council
- Chris Naylor, executive director of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Megan Little, proxy 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 (appeared by video)
- 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
- Derrick Mason, designee for the chair of the Indiana Public Defender Commission
- Doug Huntsinger, designee for the governor
- Steve Luce, proxy for the president of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Judge Mark Spitzer, designee for the president of the Indiana Judges Association

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

- Jay Chaudhary, executive director of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- 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
 - Steve McCaffrey, president and chief executive officer of Mental Health America of Indiana
- 3. Guests.** Kristen Banschbach and Liz Darlage from the Department of Correction, and Amber Fystro from the Indiana House of Representatives attended the meeting as guests.
- 4. Staff.** Jenny Bauer, April Dubree, Angie Hensley, Michelle Goodman, David Sexton, Jamie Bergacs, 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.** Doug Huntsinger moved to approve the August 8, 2021, meeting minutes and Steve Luce seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 6. Workgroup Reports.**
- a) Community Corrections Code Revision.** Justice Goff reported the community corrections code revision workgroup completed the report that is due to the Department of Correction on December 1. He stated the review exercise shows how far Indiana has come in this area. He thanked the workgroup for its hard work and thanked Michelle Goodman for assembling the report. Megan Little stated DOC appreciates the review of the community corrections code provisions and looks forward to achieving the goals outlined in the report. The JRAC members discussed the report and suggested minor edits. Judge Spitzer moved to approve the report and Doug Huntsinger seconded. The CC Code Review Report was approved unanimously.
 - b) Racial Equity.** Mary Kay Hudson reported the Racial Equity Workgroup signed the contract with Dr. Evan Lowder for research on racial disparities in the criminal justice system. The workgroup is working on logistics for the study, with letters going out soon to eight counties. She noted Local JRAC's can weigh in on participation in the study.

c) **Local JRAC.** Angie Hensley reported the first Local JRAC webinar on November 1st went well and over 200 local stakeholders attended the webinar. She thanked the JRAC members who submitted videos and appeared for the live Q&A session. Ms. Hensley will report on the webinar evaluations at the next meeting. She also reported the second webinar is scheduled for December 15 and will feature options for local JRAC models. Ms. Hensley also announced Jefferson County will pilot the information gathering tool. The plan is for this information to serve as the first report to State JRAC.

7. **CJI/JRAC Annual Report.** Devon McDonald reported the 2021 CJI/JRAC annual report is complete and getting the finishing touches for submission. He highlighted criminal filings are back to pre-pandemic levels and the top ten offenses have stayed the same over the last few years. Mr. McDonald also reported that pretrial detainees are still driving jail numbers and deserves a deeper dive. CJI would like to change the format of the report next year to include case studies to tell a broader story beyond data points.

8. **Member reports.**

a) **Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties**—Amber Finnegan reported this is her last meeting as IACCAC president. Bill Wagner from Vigo County Community Corrections is the incoming president. She stated she appreciated the learning experience and was honored to be part of JRAC. Ms. Finnegan also reported the IACCAC fall training institute was November 15-18.

b) **Indiana Public Defender Commission**—Derrick Mason highlighted IPDC's report on Indiana's attorney shortage and the issues of counsel at first appearance. He suggested JRAC review how other jurisdictions encourage attorneys to join the public sector and address the topic.

c) **Department of Correction**—Megan Little reported DOC is gathering signatures on the last few community supervision grant contracts.

d) **Office of Judicial Administration**—Mary Kay Hudson reported Court Technology's jail management system will be piloted by Grant, Elkhart, and Martin counties. Donna Edgar is the project manager and offered to attend a JRAC meeting to demonstrate the system.

e) Indiana Sheriffs' Association—Steve Luce reported ISA is working hard on mental health treatment for jail inmates, with the pilot sites showing good results. He also reported Indiana is half-way through the \$2.5M opioid grant.

f) State Budget Agency—Briony Towler reported Andy Cummins replaced Kirsten Haney in the Public Safety Division. He will attend JRAC meetings when Ms. Towler is unavailable.

9. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is January 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

10. Adjournment. The Council adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Office of Court Services