

# Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2022

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on March 11, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center in Indianapolis. Justice Christopher Goff chaired the meeting.

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

- Michael Moore, proxy for executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Christine Blessinger, proxy for the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction
- Mary Kay Hudson, designee for chief administrative officer of Office of Judicial Administration
- Grant Geiss, designee for State Budget Director
- Bill Watson, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
- Susan Bentley, proxy for president of Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- David Bottorff, executive director of Association of Indiana Counties
- Andrew Cullen, proxy for chair of Indiana Public Defender Commission
- Doug Huntsinger, designee for governor
- Judge Mark Spitzer, designee for president of Indiana Judges Association
- Zoe Frantz, president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana

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

- Sen. Mike Young, chair of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Sheriff Jeff Campos, president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Devon McDonald, executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Sen. Rodney Pol, ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee

- Rep. Ragen Hatcher, ranking minority member of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
  - Jay Chaudhary, executive director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
3. **Guests.** Office of Court Services intern Reilly Sommers attended the meeting as a guest.
  4. **Staff.** Jenny Bauer, April Dubree, Angie Hensley, and Michelle Goodman attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.
  5. **Approval of minutes.** Doug Huntsinger moved to approve the February 4, 2022, meeting minutes and Mark Spitzer seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
  6. **Workgroup Reports.**
    - a) **Racial Equity.** Steve Luce reported the Racial Equity Workgroup continues to prepare for the racial equity research project with Dr. Lowder. The project solicitation letter was sent on January 21<sup>st</sup> to Bartholomew, Grant, Hamilton, Hendricks, Marion, Monroe, Porter, and Vigo Counties. The deadline for these counties to express interest was February 18<sup>th</sup>. Hamilton, Hendricks, Marion, Monroe, Porter, and Vigo replied with interest in the project. The workgroup will meet on April 7<sup>th</sup> to select counties for the project and plan next steps with Dr. Lowder.
    - b) **Local JRAC.** Justice Goff reported the mental health summit is scheduled for October 2022. The workgroup is working with the National Center for State Courts and the Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) on the summit's approach with local JRAC's. Angie Hensley reported the Local JRAC Workgroup met on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The workgroup pushed back webinar #3 to develop as an ongoing technical assistance resource, with CEPP assisting with development. Ms. Hensley also reported the Local JRAC website continues to be updated with resources, with a link to NCSC resources on behavior health added soon. The workgroup will meet with CEPP soon to work on technical assistance strategies for Local JRAC's. There are now eighty-two counties listed on the Local JRAC directory. Local JRAC annual reports are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>.
  7. **Legislative updates.** Justice Goff invited Council members to discuss legislative matters from the 2022 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

- a) **HEA 1004.** Christine Blessinger reported HEA 1004 was the Department of Correction bill. The bill updates community corrections provisions, allows judges to commit persons convicted of level 6 offenses to DOC, and establishes the new crime of criminal violation of a lifetime parole condition as a level 6 felony. Ms. Blessinger stated Level 6 felons sent to DOC for treatment will be placed in appropriate programs. She also stated DOC does not see any capacity issues with level 6 felons returning to DOC.
- b) **HEA 9 & HEA 1075.** Bill Watson reported the Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties and the Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana worked with Sen. Walker to lessen the fiscal impact of SEA 9 on electronic monitoring standards. The bill requires JRAC to review statutes on electronic monitoring and home detention and provide recommendations by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Watson also reported HEA 1075 as originally drafted would have removed members from community corrections advisory boards. The bill now requires JRAC to report to the legislative council before November 1 on how to reduce membership of advisory boards.
- c) **HEA 1222.** Doug Huntsinger highlighted HEA 1222 on FSSA matters, on behalf of Jay Chaudhary. The bill amends the required composition of mobile crisis teams that provide behavioral health services in conjunction with the 9-8-8 suicide prevention hotline. The bill also requires FSSA to establish a plan to expand the use of certified community behavioral health clinics and allows FSSA to apply for a Medicaid waiver to provide behavioral health services to a committed offender held by the department of correction.
- d) **HEA 1359.** Mary Kay Hudson reported on HEA 1359 on juvenile law matters. The bill creates a statewide juvenile justice oversight body and directs Chief Justice Rush to appoint members and the chair. The bill focuses on development of plans for statewide juvenile justice data, risk and needs assessments, behavioral health services, and probation standards.
- e) **SB 180.** Mark Spitzer reported the Indiana Judges Association followed HB 180. The bill would assign interim study of a requirement for court appointed attorneys in certain juvenile cases. The bill passed out of the house but did not receive a hearing in the House. The bill could be an expense for courts if brought up in the 2023 legislative session.
- f) **SEA 284.** Zoe Frantz reported the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers advocated for telehealth services in SEA 284. The bill expands the definition of “practitioner” for purposes of behavioral health

services to include school psychologists, behavioral health professionals, and behavior health analysts.

- g) HEA 1193.** David Bottorff reported on HEA 1193 on opioid litigation. The bill extends the deadline for a political subdivision to opt back into an opioid litigation settlement. Mr. Bottorff encouraged JRAC to work on this with Local JRAC's. He stated the Association of Indiana Counties is working on a presentation and will encourage counties to use the settlement money for treatment.

**8. Member reports.**

- a) Office of Judicial Administration**—Mary Kay Hudson reported Court Technology will attend the May meeting to demonstrate the new jail management system. Grant, Elkhart, and Martin Counties will serve as pilots for the new system.
- b) Association of Indiana Counties**—David Bottorff thanked Justice Goff for speaking at the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in February.
- c) Indiana Sheriffs' Association**—Steve Luce reported ISA applied for grant funding to conduct statewide jail assessments. The assessments will review recidivism and suicide rates. He thanked the Council for supporting the application.
- d) Indiana Public Defender Commission**—Andrew Cullen suggested JRAC review the shortage of lawyers in Indiana and work on ways to address the issue. Justice Goff will add this as a future agenda item.

- 9. Next Meeting Date.** The next Council meeting is scheduled on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

- 10. Adjournment.** The Council adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
Office of Court Services