

# Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

### June 3, 2022

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on June 3, 2022, at 1:00-3:00 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:

- 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
- Troy Hatfield, president of Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- David Bottorff, executive director of Association of Indiana Counties
- Derrick Mason, designee for chair of Indiana Public Defender Commission
- Judge Mark Spitzer, designee for president of Indiana Judges Association
- Zoe Frantz, president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee (by video)
- Bill Wilson, proxy for president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Devon McDonald, executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

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

- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- Sen. Mike Young, chair of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana
- 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
- Doug Huntsinger, designee for governor

**3. Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Kristin Banschbach and Liz Darlage (Department of Correction), Madeline Carter and Cindy McCoy (Center for Effective Public Policy by video), Amber Fystro (House of Representatives), Susan Bentley (Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana).

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

**5. Approval of minutes.** Mark Spitzer moved to approve the March 11, 2022, meeting minutes and David Bottorff seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**6. Workgroup Reports.**

**a) Racial Equity.** Bill Wilson reported the Racial Equity Workgroup continues its work on the racial equity research project with Dr. Lowder. Mary Kay Hudson added that the workgroup is collaborating with the Supreme Court's Commission on Equity and Access in the Court System (Court Case Processes Workgroup) to share resources and information. The Workgroup meets next on July 12.

**b) Local JRAC.** Justice Goff reported the workgroup is working to be responsive to the needs of Local JRACs and looking at how delivery of behavioral health services interplays with the criminal justice system. Mary Kay Hudson reported the workgroup has received 87 annual reports from Local JRACs and is currently following up with the last 5 counties. The workgroup also compiled a list of Local JRAC members. At the May 16 meeting, the workgroup discussed the behavioral health focus groups, the Local JRAC session at the Justice Services Conference, technical assistance opportunities for locals, and outreach.

**7. Behavioral Health Initiatives.** Mary Kay Hudson reported the Supreme Court's behavioral health summit is scheduled for October 21 in Indianapolis. Circuit Court Judges and Local JRAC leaders received a letter from Chief Justice Rush inviting them to send multi-disciplinary teams to the summit. The behavioral health focus group meetings began on May 31. The facilitated meetings with

Porter, Hendricks, and Bartholomew Counties will discuss access to behavioral health services and produce a report to guide legislative efforts. Mimi Carter reported the meetings are off to a good start.

- 8. Legislative tasks.** Justice Goff reported that the Indiana General Assembly directed JRAC to conduct new reviews and reports by the end of the year. Michelle Goodman reported IOCS staff recommends convening one workgroup for the HEA 1075 and SEA 9 reports. Justice Goff welcomed volunteers.
  - a) HEA 1075 on commissions and committees.** Michelle Goodman reported HEA 1075 directs JRAC to study the composition of membership on community corrections boards and recommend how to reduce membership. The report is due by November 1.
  - b) SEA 9 on electronic monitoring standards.** Michelle Goodman reported SEA 9 directs JRAC to review electronic monitoring and home detention statutes and recommend standards by December 1. She also reported that IOCS and IOCT have already begun reviewing these reporting provisions as a starting point to identify topics where policy or guidance may be needed and outlining key implementation steps to help the workgroup with this portion of the work.
  - c) HEA 1359 on juvenile law matters.** Justice Goff reported that while JRAC does not have a task related to HEA 1359, he believes it would be beneficial to keep this Council up to speed on items related to this new legislation. Mary Kay Hudson reported that Chief Justice Rush appointed Justice David as chair of the new Juvenile Oversight Committee. The Court is in the process of appointing members and the first meeting is scheduled for June 29. Ms. Hudson expects the Oversight Committee to establish workgroups. Rep. McNamara thanked everyone for their involvement to make better outcomes for youth.
- 9. Member reports.**
  - a) Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties.** Bill Watson reported IACCAC is planning a leadership training for chief probation officers and community corrections directors in partnership with POPAI.
  - b) Office of Judicial Administration.** Mary Kay Hudson reported IOCS will meet with DOC next week to review grant applications. IOCS has funding for pretrial and problem-solving courts, including \$1 million from the governor's office for family recovery courts. She reported that county requests for

pretrial funding from DOC and IOCS totaled \$7 million. She suggested that JRAC could suggest additional funding during the legislature's 2023 budget session.

- c) Association of Indiana Counties.** David Bottorff reported the AIC annual meeting of county councils is scheduled for June 24-25. ISA's Bill Wilson is a scheduled speaker.
- d) Indiana Sheriffs' Association.** Bill Wilson reported ISA received grant funding to conduct statewide assessments of infectious diseases in jails. The two-year grant will help build bridges between sheriffs and local health departments.
- e) Indiana Public Defender Commission.** Derrick Mason reported there is a need for a central listing of criminal justice-related job openings. He suggested posting these job openings on the Local JRAC webpage.
- f) State Board of Accounts.** Grant Geiss reported the Attorney General's office is working to distribute Indiana's portion of the national opioid settlement money.
- g) Department of Correction.** Christine Blessinger reported DOC received 261 requests for the 2023 grant-funding cycle totaling \$87.4 million. DOC will meet with the Office of Court Service to review the grant applications. Ms. Blessinger also reported DOC will hold stakeholder meetings with IOCS, IPAC, and DMHA to discuss the findings and recommendations in JRAC's 2021 Community Corrections Code Review report. She further reported DOC is planning a kick-off for the BJA grant with the University of Cincinnati. The grant project will help DOC implement UC's Correctional Program Checklist to evaluate the effectiveness of community corrections agencies.
- h) Indiana Judges Association.** Judge Spitzer stated IJA is interested in how the opioid settlement money will be distributed. David Bottorff reported the state will receive \$506 million, but the exact amount for local governments is still to be determined. Counties will need to create two funds for abatement.
- i) Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana.** Troy Hatfield thanked IACCAC for the new partnership on leadership training.

**j) Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers.** Zoe Frantz reported ICCMHC is working on initiatives to move forward and distributed a handout on how community mental health centers benefit local communities. She also reported Indiana has partnered with Kentucky to request a Medicaid waiver on incarcerated persons. She further reported that ICCMHC can help make connections with CMHC's for Local JRAC groups.

**k) Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council.** Chris Naylor reported IPAC participated in the recent Local JRAC panel at IOCS's Justice Services Conference. He also stated that IPAC is happy to be a part of the new Juvenile Oversight Committee.

**10. Other business.** Justice Goff recognized that this was Kristen Banschbach's last meeting as she is leaving her job at DOC. He thanked her for her work with DOC and JRAC.

**11. Next Meeting Date.** The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 29 at 1:00 p.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
Office of Court Services