State of Indiana

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council
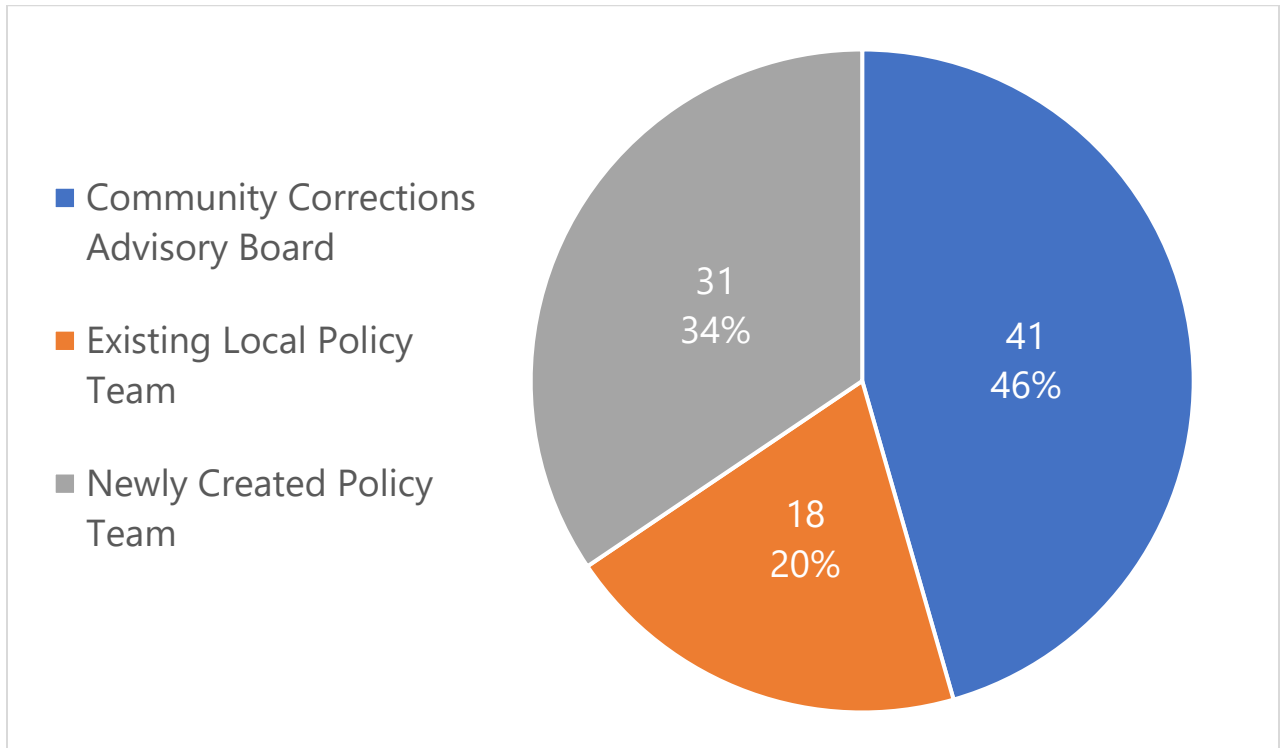

Local JRAC 2022 Annual Report Summary

Introduction

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council, as described in Ind. Code § 33-38-9.5 is responsible for assisting Local Justice Reinvestment Advisory Councils (Local JRACs) established on July 1, 2021, by Ind. Code § 33-38-9.5-4.

Local JRACs are required to promote the use of evidence-based and best practices in the areas of community-based sentencing alternatives and recidivism reduction; review, evaluate, and make recommendations about local practices (community-based corrections and jail overcrowding); compile reports as directed by the State JRAC; and communicate with the State JRAC to establish and implement best practices and to ensure consistent collection and reporting of data.

The 2022 Local JRAC Annual Report Summary reflects Local JRACs' work coordinating data-driven criminal justice improvements. It outlines Local JRACs' structure, activities, performance, engagement, and accomplishments during 2022 and outlines their 2023 focus areas. Additionally, Local JRACs identified opportunities for State JRAC to further aid Local JRACs' development and local initiatives. By informing stakeholders and supporting advancements in collaborative strategies, this report aims to foster continued evidence-based progress across Indiana communities.

Local JRAC structure:

Pie chart legend:
- Community Corrections Advisory Board — 41, 46%
- Existing Local Policy Team — 18, 20%
- Newly Created Policy Team — 31, 34%

Local JRAC meeting frequency:

93% of Local JRACs meet quarterly or more often than quarterly.

Local JRAC resource review:

56% of Local JRACs completed a review of or are in the process of reviewing all the following resources:

- A Framework for Evidence-Based Decision-Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems
- Sustaining the EBDM Model: The Indiana Story
- Judicial Task Force Final Report on State Courts' Response to Mental Illness
- Indiana Behavioral Health Commission Report
- Leading Change Guide for State Court Leaders

Local JRAC Developmental Activities:

Activity	Percentage of Local JRACs completing or in the process of completing the activity.
By-laws	74%
Adopted Systemwide vision and mission statement	69%
Adopted Operating norms	77%
Defined team roles and responsibilities	79%
Developed a system map outlining the justice system process steps and key decision points	67%
Completed a local Sequential Intercept Model (map of MH/SUD services)	60%
Developed a resource inventory of recidivism reduction interventions	51%
Developed a common set of system improvement goals/change targets	50%

Local JRAC Performance Measurement and Quality Improvement:

Activity	Percentage of Local JRACs completing or in the process of completing the activity
Reviewed/evaluated local jail crowding since the last annual report	69%
Identified baseline data needed for system review and developed a plan to begin collecting that data	27%
Agreed on set of systemwide local performance measures	11%
Developed a systemwide strategic plan or system-level logic model	21%

Developed a quality assurance process for the fidelity of program implementation	28%
Developed strategies to collect and analyze performance measurement data	43%
Developed strategies to use data and performance measures to improve identified criminal justice issues	36%
Engaged in a research project aimed at evaluating criminal justice system performance (e.g., local university partner, county planner)	20%

Local JRAC Community Engagement:

Activity	Percentage of Local JRACs completing or in the process of completing the activity
Local stakeholders *jointly* developed a deliberate strategy to educate the local community (i.e., representatives of various interest groups as well as citizens at large) about relevant crime and risk reduction research and efforts underway to apply these findings locally	26%
Local stakeholders have started the implementation of the local education strategy	91%
Local stakeholders have implemented a deliberate strategy to actively engage community representatives in local criminal justice planning efforts (aside from conducting community education)	78%

Local JRAC General Questions:

The extent to which your Local JRAC is effective in working as a high-functioning team:

Rating	All Local JRACs	Local JRAC as CCAB	Local JRAC as Existing Policy Team	Local JRAC as New Policy Team
Highly effective	35	17	8	10
Generally, but not consistently	17	9	4	4
Some improvement needed	18	7	5	6
A lot of improvement needed	13	4	1	8
Not started yet	7	4	0	3

The extent to which your Local JRAC is effective in making decisions that impact the system as a whole:

Rating	All Local JRACs	Local JRAC as CCAB	Local JRAC as Existing Policy Team	Local JRAC as New Policy Team
Highly effective	35	18	8	9
Generally, but not consistently	16	5	3	8
Some improvement needed	15	7	4	4

A lot of improvement needed	10	4	1	5
Not started yet	14	7	2	5

The extent to which your Local JRAC is effective in establishing a shared vision, mission, and values:

Rating	All Local JRACs	Local JRAC as CCAB	Local JRAC as Existing Policy Team	Local JRAC as New Policy Team
Highly effective	31	10	9	12
Generally, but not consistently	20	10	4	6
Some improvement needed	20	12	3	5
A lot of improvement needed	6	2	1	3
Not started yet	13	7	1	5

The extent to which your Local JRAC is effective in understanding current criminal justice system operations in a detailed way (e.g., completed a system map):

Rating	All Local JRACs	Local JRAC as CCAB	Local JRAC as Existing Policy Team	Local JRAC as New Policy Team
Highly effective	27	19	5	3
Generally, but not consistently	16	7	4	5
Some improvement needed	27	8	7	12

A lot of improvement needed	5	1	1	3
Not started yet	15	6	1	8

The extent to which your Local JRAC is effective in developing performance measures and benchmarks:

Rating	All Local JRACs	Local JRAC as CCAB	Local JRAC as Existing Policy Team	Local JRAC as New Policy Team
Highly effective	9	6	2	1
Generally, but not consistently	6	3	2	1
Some improvement needed	26	15	6	5
A lot of improvement needed	11	1	2	8
Not started yet	38	16	6	16

The extent to which your Local JRAC is effective in collecting and analyzing data:

Rating	All Local JRACs	Local JRAC as CCAB	Local JRAC as Existing Policy Team	Local JRAC as New Policy Team
Highly effective	10	7	1	2
Generally, but not consistently	11	6	3	2
Some improvement needed	23	8	8	7

A lot of improvement needed	17	7	0	10
Not started yet	29	13	6	10

The extent to which your Local JRAC is effective in understanding and effectively implementing the risk reduction literature throughout the justice system:

Rating	All Local JRACs	Local JRAC as CCAB	Local JRAC as Existing Policy Team	Local JRAC as New Policy Team
Highly effective	10	7	2	1
Generally, but not consistently	15	8	3	4
Some improvement needed	26	8	7	11
A lot of improvement needed	11	5	0	6
Not started yet	28	13	6	9

The extent to which your Local JRAC is effective in developing risk reduction skills among those working directly with people in the criminal justice system:

Rating	All Local JRACs	Local JRAC as CCAB	Local JRAC as Existing Policy Team	Local JRAC as New Policy Team
Highly effective	24	15	5	4
Generally, but not consistently	16	6	6	4

Some improvement needed	21	8	4	9
A lot of improvement needed	11	3	1	7
Not started yet	18	9	2	7

The extent to which your Local JRAC is effective in ensuring that agencies implement and routinely carry out fidelity and quality assurance practices:

Rating	All Local JRACs	Local JRAC as CCAB	Local JRAC as Existing Policy Team	Local JRAC as New Policy Team
Highly effective	14	8	3	3
Generally, but not consistently	13	9	2	2
Some improvement needed	25	9	7	9
A lot of improvement needed	11	4	2	5
Not started yet	27	11	4	12

Please outline your Local JRACs accomplishments during 2022:

- Held regular quarterly meetings and established membership, bylaws, mission/vision statements, and ground rules for many newly formed JRACs. This helped formalize and organize the groups.

- Completed system mapping exercises to visualize the local criminal justice system and identify gaps, needs, and opportunities for improvement. Many used the Sequential Intercept Model framework.
- Sent team members to attend the statewide Mental Health Summit in October 2022 to learn about resources and strategies for addressing mental health issues.
- Partnered with local service providers like mental health centers, hospitals, and treatment facilities to improve access to services and coordination of care.
- Implemented new programs and services such as crisis intervention teams, jail-based addiction treatment, competency restoration, pretrial services, community supervision programs, etc.
- Reduced jail populations through pretrial services, diversion programs, treatment, and community supervision options.
- Collected and reviewed data on jail population, recidivism, and supervision outcomes to guide policy decisions.
- Pursued grant funding opportunities to support programs and initiatives.
- Developed strategies and plans for using Opioid Settlement funds allocated to the county.
- Enhanced communication and collaboration between criminal justice stakeholders through the JRAC meetings and workgroups.

In summary, most local JRACs focused on foundational activities like establishing the group structure and processes, assessing local needs/resources, and building relationships between partners in 2022. Some began implementing new programs and policies as well. Overall, JRACs made progress in coordinating evidence-based criminal justice strategies tailored to their local communities.

Please outline your Local JRACs planned activities/action items for 2023:

- Complete or refine system mapping exercises focusing on mental health and substance use intercept points. Create Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) maps.
- Develop mission/vision statements, bylaws, ground rules, operating norms, roles, and responsibilities to establish structure and processes for the JRAC groups.
- Identify data to be collected, improve data sharing between agencies, and develop performance measures and benchmarks to monitor outcomes.
- Expand mental health and substance use disorder programming such as crisis intervention training (CIT), jail-based treatment, competency restoration, pretrial services, diversion programs, etc.
- Pursue grant funding opportunities to support new initiatives.
- Develop strategies for using Opioid Settlement funds allocated to the county.
- Enhance communication, collaboration, and information sharing between criminal justice stakeholders.
- Educate stakeholders and community on evidence-based practices in the justice system.
- Evaluate programs and services to ensure quality implementation of evidence-based practices.
- Develop plans to address jail overcrowding.
- Implement problem-solving courts (mental health, drug, veterans, etc.)

In summary, the focus areas for 2023 include formalizing JRAC structure and processes, enhancing data collection and analysis, expanding mental health/substance use services, improving stakeholder coordination, and pursuing targeted system improvements based on local needs. Many local JRACs are still in the early developmental stages and will work on foundational activities before tackling specific reform initiatives.

What can the State JRAC do to further support your Local JRAC efforts?

- Provide training, education, and technical assistance on system mapping, data analysis, performance measures, evidence-based practices, mental health resources, pretrial services, etc.
- Share best practices, sample documents, templates, and model programs from other counties to help guide local JRAC development.
- Clearly communicate expectations, timelines, and reporting requirements from the State JRAC.
- Define key terminology like recidivism consistently across the state.
- Facilitate better data sharing between state agencies and local JRACs.
- Offer funding through grants and other means to support local coordinators, data analysts, service programs, etc.
- Host an annual summit for networking and training.
- Provide a framework or roadmap for local JRAC formation, planning, and activities.
- Highlight research on evidence-based criminal justice practices.
- Advocate at the state level for policies and funding that support local reform efforts.
- Send state representatives to attend local JRAC meetings when needed.
- Allow flexibility and autonomy for counties to address unique local needs.

In summary, local JRACs are looking for guidance, resources, funding, training, data access, and networking opportunities from the state level to support their development, planning, and implementation of evidence-based criminal justice system improvements. Clear communication of expectations, along with sample documents and models, would be helpful. Ongoing technical assistance and partnerships are desired to build local capabilities and drive reform.