

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2023

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on April 14, 2023, at 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Capital Center in Indianapolis. Justice Christopher Goff chaired the meeting.

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

- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- Christine Blessinger, designee 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
- Sheriff Randy Retter, president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Troy Hatfield, 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
- Judge Mark Spitzer, designee for president of Indiana Judges Association
- Zoe Frantz, president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Devon McDonald, executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Shelby Thomas, proxy for Governor
- Dr. Kory Cary, proxy for executive director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana
- Ashley Steven, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties

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

- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Sen. Aaron Freeman, chair of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- 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
3. **Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Liz Darlage, Angie Estes, and Dalton Haney from the Indiana Department of Correction; Steve Luce from the Indiana Sheriffs' Association; Rachael Ehlich from the governor's office; and Paul Tricou from the Indiana Senate.
 4. **Staff.** Jenny Bauer, April Dubree, Michelle Goodman, and Angie Hensley attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.
 5. **Approval of minutes.** Mark Spitzer moved to approve the January 27, 2023, meeting minutes and Bernice Corley seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
 6. **Workgroup Reports.**
 - a) **Racial Equity Workgroup.** Bernice Corley reported the Office of Judicial Administration is finalizing the contract with Dr. Lowder for the research project. The participating counties are Vigo, Porter, and Marion. Dearborn and Ohio Counties will not participate in the next phase of the project due to the limited amount of available data. The workgroup meets next on May 4th.
 - b) **Local JRAC Workgroup.** Justice Goff reported that the Workgroup met April 10 to discuss the Local JRAC annual report and share information from the newly formed Local JRAC subgroup. The next meeting is scheduled for June 23. Michelle Goodman reported the annual reports were due March 31 and IOCS has received 88 reports covering 90 counties. Ms. Goodman also highlighted some of the information from the reports: 40 Local JRAC's are using the county community corrections advisory board and 46 are using local policy teams. The workgroup plans a deeper dive into the reports to decide what elements should be accessible on the JRAC website. Mary Kay Hudson reported the Local JRAC subgroup is looking at technical assistance opportunities with the Center for Effective Public Policy. The subgroup will work on a solicitation process for intensive technical assistance, the online workspace with limited technical assistance, and limited on-demand technical assistance on a specific topic. Ms. Hudson stated that she anticipates four counties will pilot the online workspace with an additional four counties receiving intensive technical assistance.

c) JRAC Report Workgroup. Michelle Goodman reported the Report Workgroup last met in November with the SEA 9 subgroup continuing to meet. The Q1 report form and instructions were sent to Local JRAC contacts recently and the reports are due by May 30. JRAC is required by statute to publish the data quarterly and provide an annual report to the General Assembly and Judicial Conference. Ms. Goodman distributed a document with draft narrative for the quarterly SEA 9 State Report and asked for feedback from members by May 1.

d) EBDM and JRAC. Justice Goff introduced the topic of the Evidence Based Decision Making Initiative as part of JRAC. Mary Kay Hudson reported that the workgroup has been discussing the idea of refreshing Indiana's activities from EBDM. She reported the EBDM State Team made a lot of progress, which included a strategic plan, statutory changes to expand JRAC membership and responsibilities, and pretrial diversion. She stated that there is still work to be done on data, funding, change targets, and system mapping. The members discussed the value of revisiting the EBDM process, especially updating the strategic plan, returning to reports on Recovery Works and DOC population, and renewed focus on change targets. Justice Goff suggested adding EBDM as a dedicated agenda item for future meetings.

7. Legislative Discussion. Mary Kay Hudson reported the governor signed SB 445 in early April. The bill is effective July 1 and authorizes JRAC to conduct a workload study on electronic monitoring, but the bill does not provide funding for such a study. Ms. Hudson also reported SJR 1 on bail passed the House in early April with amendments and was returned to the Senate. Michelle Goodman reported SB 417 authorizes a county to impose a local income tax rate for county staff expenses for the state judicial system. The House passed the bill and returned it to the Senate with amendments. The members also discussed funding for SB 1 on mental health and whether a letter from JRAC supporting sustainable, dedicated funding would be appropriate. Steve McCaffery moved to draft a letter to Rep. Steuerwald that shows support for full and sustainable funding of Indiana's new crisis response system. Andrew Cullen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously— executive branch agencies abstained from the vote (DOC, SBA, CJI, DMHA, governor's office). Mary Kay Hudson will circulate the draft letter to members.

8. Member reports.

- a) **Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties.** Ashley Stevens reported IACCAC is watching the budget bill in the legislature and preparing for their spring conference in May.
- b) **State Budget Agency.** Grant Geiss reported that the Senate's budget came out on April 13. The State Budget Agency is scheduled to release the new revenue forecast in the next week.
- c) **Indiana Judges Association.** Judge Mark Spitzer reported that IJA is watching bills in the General Assembly. The IJA executive committee is scheduled to meet on April 18.
- d) **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.** Devon McDonald reported CJJ is watching the budget bill in the General Assembly, with funding for HEA 1359-2022 of particular interest. He also reported that the new jail data system has been implemented in almost one-third of the state, including several large counties. He believes data will be available to report at a JRAC meeting during the summer.
- e) **Department of Correction.** Chris Blessinger reported adult recidivism dropped below 30% for the first time (29.7%) and juvenile recidivism is also down. She also reported DOC funded community supervision grants are due by April 28. In addition, Ms. Blessinger reported that Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kristen Dauss announced her departure from DOC.
- f) **Indiana Sheriffs' Association.** Sheriff Randy Retter reported there are 47 newly elected sheriffs. ISA is also watching the budget bill and supports full funding for mental health bills.
- g) **Association of Indiana Counties.** David Bottorff reported AIC is watching bills related to funding of the courts and moving away from property tax funding.
- h) **Office of Judicial Administration.** Mary Kay Hudson reported the Youth Justice Oversight Committee continues to meet and is receiving workgroup reports. She stated the Committee is interested in replicating YJOC at the local level, similar to Local JRACs.
- i) **Governor.** Shelby Thomas reported the governor's office opened a \$25M grant opportunity for local substance abuse disorder responses on February 1. Local communities submitted 70 proposals requesting \$93M. The governor's office is reviewing the applications and will announce the first two awards on May 1, with more following later in May and early June. She also announced registration is open for the inaugural Indiana Mental Health and Addiction Conference, hosted by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health and Addiction, in partnership with Mental Health

America of Indiana. The conference will take place in Indianapolis on June 27-28.

- j) Indiana Public Defender Council.** Bernice Corley reported the Public Defender Council is hosting a regional training in Lawrenceburg on April 21. The training event will cover how defense counsel can work with peer recovery specialists to better meet the needs of clients with substance use disorders. Justice Goff and Doug Huntsinger are scheduled to attend the training as special guests. In addition, IPDC is hosting its annual meeting of public defenders in Carmel on June 9.
- k) Department of Mental Health and Addiction.** Dr. Kory Carey reported that an update on Recovery Works is available and will be sent to members. Public Advocates in Community Re-entry (PACE) has been the state administrator for Recovery Works since early 2022 and is tracking referral trends and demographics. Dr. Carey highlighted that approximately 7,000 new Recovery Works referrals were received in the first quarter and Vanderburgh County continues to be the highest referring county. Dr. Carey also reported DMHA will evaluate outcomes from the five jails piloting use of peer recovery specialists as part of the Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support program (IRACS) and discuss funding for expansion of the program. In addition, the Recovery Works team has been working on collaborating with jails to increase inmate referrals for substance use and mental health services.
- l) Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers.** Zoe Frantz reported the Indiana Council supports full funding for mental health and is concerned that the Senate proposed only \$30M of the \$130.6M requested by the governor. She suggested contacting Senators about the need for sustainable full funding of the new 988 system. Ms. Frantz also suggested collaborative multi-disciplinary training on the new crisis response system.
- m) Mental Health America of Indiana.** Steve McCaffrey reported that funding for SB 1 is MHAI's top priority. He stated that sustainable, ongoing funding is necessary for SB 1 to be effective. MHAI is concerned that an appropriation will not provide sufficient ongoing funding.

- 9. Next Meeting Date.** The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Office of Court Services