

# Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

### March 8, 2024

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on March 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m. at 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
- Sheriff Dan Mawhorr, president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Judge Mark Spitzer, designee for president of Indiana Judges Association
- Troy Hatfield, president of Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- Doug Huntsinger, designee for Governor
- Derrick Mason, designee for chair of Indiana Public Defender Commission
- Zoe Frantz, president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana
- Devon McDonald, executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Scott Hohl, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
- David Bottorff, executive director of Association of Indiana Counties

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

- Howard Simms, designee for executive director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director
- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Sen. Aaron Freeman, chair of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Rep. Mitch Gore, ranking minority member of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Sen. Rodney Pol, ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee

**3. Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Denise Symdon and Richard Stroker from the Center for Effective Public Policy (video); Angie Estes and Dalton

Haney from the Indiana Department of Correction; and Lindsey Villalpando from the Montgomery County Probation Department.

4. **Staff.** Jenny Bauer, April Dubree, Michelle Goodman, Chris Biehn, and David Sexton attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.
5. **Approval of minutes.** The Advisory Council approved the minutes from the December 8, 2023, meeting on motion by Bernice Corley and second by Devon McDonald.
6. **Workgroup Reports.**
  - a) **Local JRAC Workgroup.** Chris Biehn reported that several counties recently submitted applications for the next round of Local JRAC technical assistance—Delaware, Harrison, Johnson, Lawrence, and Monroe. In addition, Mr. Biehn and Mary Kay Hudson recently met with representatives of Marion County’s Local JRAC about their interest in technical assistance. Richard Stroker and Denise Symdon reported that the current technical assistance is going well with Lake County working on change targets and Daviess County requesting a move to intensive assistance. Chris Biehn also reported that the 2023 Annual Report form for Local JRACs is ready for approval and will include a question on the judicial local income tax. The Advisory Council discussed the legislative change to the judicial LIT statute and that it is now limited to expenditures on court reporters, bailiffs, and court administrators. Michelle Goodman reported that the statute still requires OJA to submit an annual report on judicial LIT expenditures by July 1. She noted that Floyd County was the only county to pass a LIT ordinance under the 2023 version of the statute and has not made any expenditures, so there is no information for this first report. The Advisory Council unanimously approved the 2023 Annual Report form on motion by Mary Kay Hudson and second Doug Huntsinger.
  - b) **Annual Reports Workgroup.** Michelle Goodman reported that SB 290 on annual reports by ICJI and DOC passed in the House and returned to the Senate without amendment.
  - c) **Racial Equity Workgroup.** Bernice Corley reported that the workgroup continues to partner with Dr. Evan Lowder and her team at George Mason University on two studies: racial equity metrics and the relative disadvantage tool jail data collection. On the racial equity metrics study, Dr. Lowder’s team has been cleaning administrative data sets for parole, prison, probation, court, jail, police, sentencing, and risk assessment. Once they clean the data for each system, the research team will identify and link the same individuals across the data sets. On the relative disadvantage tool jail data collection study, Dr. Lowder began data collection in the summer of 2023 in Marion, Porter, and Vigo counties. These

counties concluded their 6-month data collection period at the end of February. The workgroup plans to meet in late March or early April.

**d) JRAC Reports Workgroup.** Michelle Goodman reported that IOCS discovered an error in the Q2 electronic monitoring report that required a substantive change. She also reported that the Q3 and Q4 EM reports are ready for approval. The Advisory Council approved the updated Q2 report and Q3 and Q4 reports on motion by Bernice Corley and second by Scott Hohl. Ms. Goodman also reported that the 2023 Annual Electronic Monitoring Report is ready for approval and due by March 15 to the Legislative Council. The report replicated narrative from the quarterly reports and includes conclusions and next steps. The members discussed non-responsive counties and whether they should be identified in reports. The Advisory Council approved identifying non-responsive counties in upcoming reports on motion and second by Scott Hohl and Devon McDonald. The Advisory Council also discussed concerns with misinterpretation of charts showing totals for staffing and officers on pages 17 and 18 alongside the quarterly populations numbers since this data cannot be used to assess workload or caseload. The Advisory Council directed staff to report the quarterly numbers along with the first sentence on page 15 and keep the staffing and officer totals in place. The Advisory Council approved the amended report on motion and second by Mark Spitzer and Doug Huntsinger.

**7. Indiana Evidence Based Decision Making Initiative.** Chris Biehn reported that he presented the pretrial map to the Judicial Conference Pretrial Committee and requested feedback. He also requested feedback from Advisory Council members, noting that the Department of Correction and Indiana Sheriffs' Association have already submitted revisions.

**8. Legislative Discussion.** Zoe Frantz reported that HB 1216 passed today. She explained that the bill is related to cleanup from HB 1006-2023 and allows family members to provide collateral information to support a person's emergency mental health detention. Derrick Mason reported that SB 179 also passed today. The bill requires JRAC to collect information on indigency regarding appointment of council. The Office of Judicial Administration will create a form to collect this information.

**9. Member Updates.**

**a. Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties.** Scott Hohl reported that the American Probation and Parole Association announced its summer training institute will be held in Indianapolis. IACCAC will provide volunteers to help with the institute.

**b. Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana.** Troy Hatfield reported that APPA released requests for proposals for the training institute

in Indianapolis this summer. He also reported that POPAI's annual management institute is scheduled for March 21-22 in Carmel.

- c. Governor's Office.** Doug Huntsinger reported that the Governor's Office is wrapping up Phase I of distribution of Indiana's \$52M opioid settlement money. The governor's office received an additional \$30M from the Family and Social Services Administration this week and will build a plan to distribute. Phase II for the opioid settlement money is currently under discussion.
  - d. Supreme Court.** Justice Goff announced that Mary Kay Hudson will leave IOCS in early April to become chief operating officer at All Rise (formerly known as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals). He thanked her for her service to the Supreme Court and Indiana.
  - e. Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers.** Zoe Frantz reported that ICCMHC is verifying applications for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) as part of the federal CCBHC Medicaid Demonstration. Ms. Frantz also reported that HB 1138 on professional licensing matters allows persons enrolled in the last term of the last year of a social work program to take the examination to become a licensed social worker.
  - f. Indiana Sheriffs' Association.** Sheriff Mawhorr reported ISA is pushing for more medically assisted treatment (MAT) in jails. Currently one-third of jails are using MAT with more moving in that direction.
  - g. Indiana Department of Correction.** Chris Blessinger reported that DOC's CY 2025 community supervision grant announcement is active with applications due by April 12.
  - h. Office of Judicial Administration.** Mary Kay Hudson reported that the Office of Trial Court Technology launched the INjail application in Grant County. She stated that the INjail application will include a public dashboard.
  - i. Indiana Judges Association.** Judge Mark Spitzer thanked Mary Kay Hudson for her service with the Indiana Supreme Court.
  - j. Association of Indiana Counties.** David Bottorf reported \$868M in state funding is available to improve corrections.
- 10. Next Meeting Date.** The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
Office of Court Services