

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2024

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on December 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Capital Center in Indianapolis. Justice Christopher Goff chaired the meeting.

1. Members present. The following members attended the meeting:

- Christine Blessinger, designee for commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction
- Chris Biehn, designee for chief administrative officer of Office of Judicial Administration
- Judge Mark Spitzer, designee for president of Indiana Judges Association (video)
- Sydney Moulton, proxy for president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Devon McDonald, executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Doug Huntsinger, designee for Governor
- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Kellie Bittorf, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
- Angela Morris, president of Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- David Bottorff, executive director of Association of Indiana Counties
- Carolyn Travis, proxy for chair of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Derrick Mason, designee for chair of Indiana Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys
- Adam Carter, proxy for Sen. Rodney Pol, ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director
- Rebecca Buhner, interim director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Steve Luce, proxy for president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Sen. Brett Clark, proxy for chair of the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee.

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

- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee

- Rep. Mitch Gore, ranking minority member of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee

3. **Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Dr. Brad Ray, Senior Justice and Behavioral Health Researcher- RHI International (video); Denise Symdon, Center for Effective Public Policy (video); Lora Moeller, Jamie Bergacs, Reilly Sommers, Zach Johnson, and Shelby Bear, Indiana Office of Court Services; Angie Hensley and Brittany Kelly, Office of Judicial Administration; Lucas Harvey, Indiana House of Representatives; Angie Estes and Liz Darlage, Indiana Department of Correction; Catrinka Prestly, Division of Mental Health and Addiction; Scott Hohl, Marion County Community Corrections.
4. **Staff.** Jennifer Bauer, Catheryne Pully, April Dubree, Michelle Goodman, David Sexton, and Georgia McCart attended as staff from the Office of Court Services.
5. **Welcome and introductions.** Justice Goff welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked April Dubree for her service to the Council. He wished her well on her last day with the Supreme Court as she leaves to pursue a new opportunity.
6. **Approval of minutes.** The Advisory Council unanimously approved the revised September 6, 2024, meeting minutes by roll call vote on motion and second by Doug Huntsinger and Devon McDonald. The following abstained from the vote: Brett Clark, Kellie Bittorf, Becky Buhner, and Daniel Glass.
7. **Recovery Works Independent Study.** Dr. Brad Ray, Senior Justice and Behavioral Health Researcher at RTI International, presented an overview of his recent evaluation of DMHA's Recovery Works Program. He explained that the evaluation history includes Phase One (one-year follow-up of clients enrolled November 2015-through March 2016—7.7% incarceration rate and 13.8% recidivism rate), Phase Two (two-year follow-up at the Marion County Jail—20% recidivism to DOC and 40% recidivism rate to jail) and the recent evaluation of integrated statewide data from the Management Performance Hub (three-year follow-up of 2016 cohort of Recovery Works clients). According to Dr. Ray, Recovery Works clients are less likely to be involved in justice systems post-enrollment compared to pre-enrollment. The Council discussed recidivism rates and opportunities to educate judges and supervision staff about violation responses.
8. **Indiana Criminal Justice System Annual Evaluation.** Devon McDonald thanked agencies for contributing data and information for the annual evaluation of Indiana's criminal justice system. He also thanked Jenny Bauer and Michelle Goodman for their input and feedback. Mr. McDonald noted that in accordance with updated legislative requirements, this tenth annual report shifted from evaluating criminal code reform and evaluates both the status of Indiana's criminal justice

system and impacts of current trends, while maintaining perspective on previous criminal code reforms. The report recommends improving criminal justice system data, addressing staff shortages, supporting mental health and substance use programs (during and post-incarceration), increasing focus on reentry and community supervision services, and supporting local JRACs.

The Council approved the Annual Criminal Justice Evaluation Report by unanimous roll call vote on motion and second by Doug Huntsinger and Devon McDonald.

9. Workgroup Reports.

a) Local JRAC Workgroup. Chris Biehn and Denise Symdon reported the following:

- i. State JRAC Strategic Plan—the members reviewed the draft strategic plan and will discuss at the February meeting.
- ii. Technical assistance through the Center for Effective Public Policy—the first round of technical assistance is wrapping up and several counties have on-going assistance; two counties expressed interest in receiving assistance; CEPP and staff plan to review annual reports to identify counties that could benefit from assistance.
- iii. Local JRAC Annual Reports—the 2024 report is ready for Council review of the survey questions.

b) JRAC Report Workgroup. Michelle Goodman reported the following:

- i. Judicial LIT—the workgroup is continuing to work on the Judicial Local Income Tax report; Floyd County will be the only county in the 2025 report.
- ii. SEA 179—IOCS will send the indigency determinations survey to judges in January 2025.
- iii. SEA 9 electronic monitoring reports—88 Q3 reports have been submitted and IOCS staff is conducting follow-up with the 3 outstanding counties; IOCS staff is preparing for the Q4 reporting cycle and requested moving the deadline to February 14 to aid in preparing the final report; Q2 report is ready for JRAC approval.
 1. Q4 deadline changed to February 14 and Q2 EM Report approved by roll call vote on motion and second by Angela Morris and Steve Luce.
- iv. EM Report Legislative Proposal—Sen. Brett Clark will carry the workgroup's legislative proposal.

c) Racial Equity Workgroup. Steve Luce reported that the workgroup met with Dr. Lowder on December 2. They discussed the status of her work on the racial equity project and agreed to invite Dr. Julian Rucker (University of North Carolina) to attend the January meeting and assist with a survey of criminal justice professionals related to racial disparities. In addition, the workgroup discussed data points and will work with Marion County as a pilot with the next phase of metrics. The next workgroup meeting is January 17, 2025.

10. Member Updates.

a) Indiana Judges Association. Judge Spitzer reported that IJA is preparing the 2025 session of the Indiana General Assembly. He noted that bail will be an issue.

b) Mental Health America of Indiana. Steve McCaffrey reported that MHAI's Mental Health and Addiction Symposium took place December 13th and was sold out again. MHAI is preparing for the 2025 legislative session.

c) Association of Indiana Counties. David Bottorf reported that AIC is preparing for the 2025 legislative session.

d) State Budget Agency. Daniel Glass reported that SBA is waiting for a new director to be appointed. He noted that the 2025 revenue forecast came out, with numbers better than expected.

e) Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers. Sydney Moulton reported that the Indiana Council commissioned a return on investment report from Blue & Co. to evaluate the savings from crisis services. Since implementing crisis services there has been savings of \$80M for hospital admissions and \$45M for jails. In addition, the pilot sites for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) will be effective January 1, 2025. The Indiana Council thanks DMHA for their hard work to make that happen.

f) Indiana Department of Correction. Chris Blessinger reported that DOC's Angie Estes was featured in BJA's recent "Practice in Action" newsletter. The article highlighted DOC's project to administer the Correctional Program Checklist for Community Supervision Agencies (CPC-CSA). With funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Indiana DOC partnered with University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute to evaluate the fidelity of the state's community corrections programs to evidence-based recidivism reduction practices. DOC and UCCI visited 76 community corrections programs across the state over an 18-month period to administer the checklist. The report included free- or low-cost improvement recommendations. In addition to administering the CPC-CSA, DOC doubled its efforts to support all 76 community corrections programs by contracting with UCCI to provide follow-up training and technical assistance.

g) Division of Mental Health and Addiction. Becky Buhner reported that DMHA partnered with Brittany Kelly and Brad Ray on a JCOIN grant to support certified peer support professionals as Court Navigators in two pilot sites. She also reported that the CCBHC demonstration starts in January 2025 with eight of our 24 CMHCs. The Mental Health Referral Program held its first public hearing on the rule on December 16 and received comments so there will be another hearing in the next few months. This came out of the 2023 session allowing local JRACs to develop mental health programs within their jails using DMHA certified providers. Ms. Buhner also requested that Council members let DMHA know if there are items that should be included in the next iteration of the recovery works evaluation.

h) Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties. Kellie Bittorf reported that IACCAC will provide training opportunities in 2025.

i) Indiana Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys. Derrick Mason reported that HB 1049 was filed for the 2025 session of the General Assembly. The bill would

provide scholarships for law school students who agree to serve as a deputy prosecutor or deputy public defender for 5 years after graduation.

j) Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council. Chris Naylor reported that IPAC hosted its winter training conference last week. The conference highlighted Cass County's Local JRAC.

k) Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee. Senator Clark reported that he and Sen. Freeman look forward to the 2025 session of the General Assembly and partnership with JRAC.

l) Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana. Angela Morris reported that POPAI will host training for new chief probation officers in March along with the Spring Management Institute.

m) Indiana Sheriffs' Association. Steve Luce reported that half of jails are using Medically Assisted Treatment with grants from the Division of Mental Health and Addiction and the governor's office. He also reported that ISA is collaborating with DOC on jail standards and is studying officer health and wellness with a grant from the Criminal Justice Institute. He further reported that Tippecanoe Sheriff Bob Goldsmith will be the next ISA president.

11. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bauer
Office of Court Services