

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2025

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on February 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m. in the Capital Center in Indianapolis. Justice Christopher Goff chaired the meeting.

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

- Liz Darlage, proxy 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
- Zoe Frantz, president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Jade Palin, interim executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Kellie Bittorf, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
- Lindsey Villalpando, proxy for president of Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- Camden Murrell, proxy for executive director of Association of Indiana Counties
- Doug Huntsinger, Governor's designee
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana
- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- Howard Sims, proxy for interim director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Robert Goldsmith, president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Carolyn Travis, proxy for chair of the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Adam Carter, proxy for ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee

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

- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Rep. Mitch Gore, ranking minority member of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director
- Derrick Mason, designee for chair of Indiana Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys

3. **Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Denise Symdon, Center for Effective Public Policy (video); Dr. Evan Lowder, George Mason University (video); Dr. Julian Rucker, University of North Carolina (video); Shelby Bear and DaVina Crawford, Indiana Office of Court Services; Angie Estes, Indiana Department of Correction.
4. **Staff.** Jennifer Bauer, Catheryne Pully, Michelle Goodman, David Sexton, and Reilly Sommers attended as staff from the Office of Court Services.
5. **Approval of minutes.** January 31, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote on motion and second by Mark Spitzer and Bernice Corley.
6. **Disparate Outcomes Survey.** Dr. Evan Lowder from George Mason University and Dr. Julian Rucker from the University of North Carolina attended the meeting to present the Disparate Outcomes Workgroup's survey on disparate outcomes in the criminal justice system. Dr. Lowder provided an update on the broader research project, highlighting that GMU has been meeting with the State's Management Performance Hub on the availability of statewide criminal justice data. She also highlighted that the relative disadvantage tool piloted in jails in Marion, Vigo, and Porter Counties has garnered 700 responses. The relative disadvantage tool is designed to identify drivers of disadvantage. The research team will report on data linked to the responses at a future meeting.

Dr. Rucker introduced the disparate outcomes survey. He reported that the survey is designed to capture how criminal justice stakeholders think about disparate outcomes and connect beliefs with position in the system. The Council members discussed the survey and requested that questions be added about specific mental health reforms. Ms. Corley will send the specific mental health language to Dr. Lowder and Dr. Rucker for inclusion in the survey. Dr. Lowder explained that the timeline for sending out the survey is early May, after revisions and approval by the university review boards. The Council members also discussed the policy solution questions and agreed to remove this section of the survey. Doug Huntsinger made a motion to move forward with the survey and Bernice Corley seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the motion by roll call vote.
7. **Strategic Plan.** Chris Biehn reported that JRAC started discussions on a strategic plan last year and drafted five objectives. The Local JRAC Workgroup continued work on the strategic plan with a broad goal to "sustain JRAC activities in all Indiana counties" and focus on three main areas for activity: establish a multi-dimensional communication plan strategy specific to JRAC; inform state and local policy decisions by analyzing performance measures and data; and achieve greater consistency in community supervision practices and outcomes across counties. The Workgroup approved the draft plan at their February meeting. Kellie Bittorf

moved to approve the strategic plan and Zoe Frantz seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the motion by roll call vote.

8. Workgroup Reports.

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

- i. Technical assistance through the Center for Effective Public Policy—Dearborn and Ohio Counties completed technical assistance; CEPP is currently working with 10 sites, and 8 new counties are interested.
- ii. Local JRAC Annual Reports—the 2024 survey was sent out; many counties are asking for help using opioid settlement money; the reports are due by March 31.

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

- i. Judicial LIT—2 forms of the report and instructions; the 2023 report form will be sent in mid-March and is due by May 1; report forms and instructions were unanimously approved for distribution by roll call vote on motion and second by Mark Spitzer and Liz Darlage.
- ii. Indigency Survey—report closed on February 21 with approximately 300 responses from trial judges; report due to the Legislative Council by July 1.
- iii. Electronic monitoring reports—Q2 report was updated to correct charts on pages 8 and 13; Q3, Q4, and annual reports ready for approval (Q4 is missing data that was not submitted by the deadline); reports unanimously approved by roll call vote on motion and second by Jade Palin and Mark Spitzer.

9. Member Updates.

a) Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties. Kellie Bittorf reported that IACCAC is following SB 324 on bail and HB 1208 on jail commissary fund. IACCAC is also partnering with POPAI on a summer assembly in August.

b) Senate Corrections and Criminal Law—minority member. Adam Carter reported that Senator Pol has an open door for legislative issues.

c) Office of Judicial Administration. Chris Biehn reported that the Lake County Veterans' Court was recently named one of five national mentor courts by All Rise.

d) Indiana Judges Association. Judge Spitzer reported that IJA is following HB 1059 on warrants and SB 324 on bail and has concerns with both bills. He also raised a question about the lag time between criminal sentencing and when DOC picks up a defendant from a local jail. Liz Darlage will pass this along to DOC.

10. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bauer
Office of Court Services