

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2025

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on June 27, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. in the Capital Center in Indianapolis. Justice Christopher Goff chaired the meeting.

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

- Chris Blessinger, designee for the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction
- Chris Biehn, designee for the chief administrative officer of Office of Judicial Administration
- Judge Mark Spitzer, designee for president of Indiana Judges Association
- Sydney Moulton, proxy for the president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Doug Huntsinger, executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Courtney Curtis, proxy for the 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
- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- Howard Simms, proxy for interim director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Steve Luce, proxy for the president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Rep. Mitch Gore, ranking minority member of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Derrick Mason, designee for chair of Indiana Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys
- 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
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director

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

- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana
- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee

3. **Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Dr. Evan Lowder, George Mason University (video); Angie Hensley and Brendan O'Connor, OJA; Shelby Bear, Georgia McCart, Rose Walker, Maja Grgic, Nicole Wesling, Zach Johnson, Jim Diller, Bobbi Carter, and Noora Al-Nadheri, Indiana Office of Court Services; Liz Darlage, Angie Estes, Dani Glenn, and Dalton Haney, Indiana Department of Correction; Anthony Williams, POPAI; Ashley Stevens, IACCAC.
4. **Staff.** Catheryne Pully, Michelle Goodman, David Sexton, and Reilly Sommers attended as staff from the Office of Court Services.
5. **Welcome and meeting announcements.** Justice Goff convened the meeting by welcoming members. He notified members that beginning July 1, 2025, HEA 1167 modified the Open Door Law regarding live-stream transmission of governing body meetings, which will apply to future JRAC meetings.
6. **Approval of minutes.** The February 28, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved on motion and second by Steve Luce and Mitch Gore.

7. JRAC Workgroup Reports.

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

- i. Local JRAC Annual Reports – the survey for the 2024 report was completed by 76 Local JRACs with 75 responses included within the summary report provided to the Council; a new analysis includes examining rural versus urban areas; key priorities identified include mental health and substance abuse treatment and data collection; primary challenges include funding and stakeholder participation; the reports included highlights and innovations; recommendations from the survey include enhanced training and technical assistance, pretrial services expansion, and mental health and substance abuse treatment; based on the reports the Local JRACs are trending more to focusing on substantive issues instead of the initial organizational activities; the 2024 Local JRAC Annual Report was unanimously approved on motion and second by Bernice Corley and Mark Spitzer.
- ii. Technical Assistance – Center for Effective Public Policy is currently working with fourteen Local JRACs with thirty-seven additional requests for technical assistance received within the annual reports; as a reminder there are three levels of assistance available – workspace access to resources; ad hoc assistance, and intensive assistance.

b) Reports Workgroup. Michelle Goodman reported the following:

- i. Electronic Monitoring Reports – the 2024 annual Electronic Monitoring Report was presented to the Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference and the Youth Justice Oversight Committee at their most recent meetings; the proposed amendments to the report instructions, quarterly report

template, and annual report template were presented to comply with changes from SEA 218 effective July 1st, and staff recommendation; the amendments would remove reporting on false location alerts beginning with Q2 and more concisely summarize the agencies performing electronic monitoring each quarter; the Q1-2025 report was presented for review; the proposed amendments to the instructions and templates and the Q1 report were unanimously approved on motion and second by Angela Morris and Sydney Moulton.

- ii. Judicial Local Income Tax (LIT) Report-the report was presented for approval and includes LIT expenditures for CY 2024, which covers only Floyd County; the report includes additional text within the instructions provided in the appendix in response to a question; also SEA 1-2025 repeals this LIT effective January 1, 2028, so this report will sunset as well; the report was unanimously approved for submission on July 1st on motion and second by Kellie Bittorf and David Bottorff.
- iii. Indigency Report – report on Indigency Determination Study was provided for review and an overview was provided on the key elements; Mr. Mason requested an additional recommendation to include an estimation on the cost of private counsel; after discussion on the request, the report was unanimously approved to include the additional recommendation on motion and second by Mitch Gore and Mark Spitzer.

IOCS staff members were thanked for their time contributing to the work on these reports. With completion of this study, the Reports Workgroup will no longer be meeting since the remaining tasks can be overseen by the Council and the staff agency.

- c) **Disparate Outcomes Workgroup.** Bernice Corley reported the workgroup has not met recently and asked Dr. Lowder to present information on the outcomes from the relative disadvantage tool. Dr. Lowder presented on the prospective study to examine relative disadvantages and the outcomes at this phase of the research. The research includes 609 cases after linking the completed tools to outcome data and includes two main approaches to evaluate key factors and time frames to identify any disparities at the pretrial stage. Generally, the research shows limited evidence of racial disparities and there are some areas where further review would be necessary to address any disparities identified. After reviewing the research results, Dr. Lowder indicated the next phase was to examine case disposition and sentencing outcomes.
- d) **Data Workgroup.** Chris Biehn reported the workgroup held its initial meeting after confirming membership. Angie Hensley will be serving as the chair with the next meeting on August 22nd.

- 8. Pretrial Dashboard Demonstration.** Chris Biehn and Brendan O'Connor presented the initial version of the pretrial dashboard which focuses on reporting the key performance indicators approved for the certified pretrial agencies. The data is populated from the Supervised Release System (SRS) and only includes outcomes for individuals that completed the pretrial phase of their case. They showed variations on the outcomes and highlighted areas they are working on for the next release, including no new violent crimes while on supervision. The data displayed was consistent with results seen nationally and shows that pretrial supervision is effective. There was a brief discussion on ongoing research evaluating supervision strategies to see the impacts, but that project is dependent on the availability of additional funding. The council agreed this type of information can help inform conversations at both the state and local levels and help make any local system improvements. The OJA staff working on this dashboard were thanked for their work and continued efforts.
- 9. IOCS Grant Recommendations.** Angie Hensley reported that the Problem-Solving Court and Pretrial Grant funds were reduced by 5% for 2026. IOCS received 129 Problem-Solving Court applications requesting over \$9.6M in funding and plans to award \$6,208,857 to the 129 PSCs. IOCS received 39 Pretrial applications requesting over \$5.2M in funding and plans to award \$3,861,312 to 37 pretrial agencies.
- 10. IDOC Grant Recommendations.** Chris Blessinger and Liz Darlage reported that they received \$84.6 million in grant requests with only \$64.2 million allocated to 158 programs. Due to the reduced funding available, some programs will not receive funding under these grants. Award notices will be sent on June 30.

The Council discussed the need to identify other funding opportunities recognizing the fiscal impacts from multiple levels (Federal, State, and Local) to limit the impacts on necessary evidence-based programs. This will also require realignment of services. They also discussed continuing to work with those funders that have the greatest ability to support specific focus areas (e.g., treatment resources from DMHA, etc.).

11. Member Reports.

- a) Indiana Sheriffs' Association.** Steve Luce reported on ISA's visit to Marion County Justice Center regarding the use of AI technology. He reported that immigration issues are a top concern and there is a need to address continued concerns with the abstracts and DOC billing processes.
- b) Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers.** Sydney Moulton reported that in the first six months of the CCBHC pilots there is considerable progress and promising work being done. DMHA will look to expand to new sites. Also, the CMHC conference is on July 1st focusing on youth populations.

- c) **Indiana Department of Correction.** Christine Blessinger reported that DOC is continuing to address the billing issues to the local sheriffs.
- d) **Indiana Judges Association.** Mark Spitzer reported that IJA is continuing to review judicial resources after HEA 1144 to identify a more principled method to allocating resources and ensuring more input during the process.
- e) **Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties.** Kellie Bittorf reported the reduction in available funding is impactful to their programs and services, but they are looking for more ways to collaborate with other partners. IACCAC and POPAI are partnering for future training opportunities in the future.
- f) **Indiana Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys.** Derrick Mason reported that the Commission received twenty-three applications for the misdemeanor reimbursement pilot and approved nine counties, which include Clark, DeKalb, Floyd, Lawrence, Perry, Pulaski, Steuben, Vigo, and Wabash. Due to budget cuts, they approved less than the allotted number of counties and for a shorter duration.
- g) **General Assembly.** Carolyn Travis reported that the Legislative Council made their interim study assignments and the Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code will review current trends but had no additional study assignments.
- h) **Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana.** Angela Morris reported that POPAI is participating in the summer assembly with IACCAC and their fall conference is being planned. She also echoed concerns about the reduction in financial resources.
- i) **Association of Indiana Counties.** David Bottorff reported that AIC included an article in their magazine regarding the funds the counties receive from court fees to help educate their members.

12. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center. This meeting will also be live streamed to comply with the Open Door Law.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Goodman
Office of Court Services