

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2025

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on December 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. – 11:25 a.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, 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
- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Ashley Stevens, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
- Angela Morris, president of Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- Camden Murrell, proxy for the executive director of Association of Indiana Counties
- Howard Simms, proxy for director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Sen. Brett Clark, 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
- Danny Price, governor's designee
- Steve Luce, proxy for the president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association

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

- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- 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
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director

- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
3. **Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Angie Hensley OJA; Angie Estes, Indiana Department of Correction; Anthony Williams, POPAI; Scott Hohl, IACCAC; Julia Sant’ Anna, Indiana House of Representatives.
 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 reminded members that the meeting was being live-streamed and asked members to speak in the direction of a microphone during discussion.
 6. **Approval of minutes.** The October 31, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved on motion and second by Steve Luce and Sen. Clark.
 7. **Presentation on Drug Court Data Project.** Dr. Bray Ray, RTI International, presented an overview of the current data project for drugs courts in Indiana. He explained that the project’s purpose is to improve the current data collection and quality of data to support future standard evaluations in more real time, similar to the dashboards now available for real time overdose tracking for fatality review teams. Dr. Ray provided a one-page information sheet for the project. The project included focus groups with various problem solving court stakeholders and is working with select programs on review data collection processes. After taking questions from members and discussion, Justice Goff thanked Dr. Ray for his time and presentation.
 8. **Reports from JRAC Workgroups.**
 - a) **Local JRAC Workgroup.** Chris Biehn reported the following:
 - i. Technical Assistance – The Center for Effective Public Policy, along with Justice Goff, Chris Biehn, and Brittany Kelly, attended the Floyd County Local JRAC Summit. Additional requests for technical assistance were received, and the request form is continuously available for new requests.
 - ii. Local JRAC Annual Reports – The survey for the 2025 report is being developed and suggestions for content are welcome; key focus areas are on opioid settlement funds, local funding outlook related to SEA 1, mental health services, and data; the 2025 surveys will be due by March 31, 2026.
 - b) **Data Workgroup.** Angie Hensley reported that the data workgroup met on December 11, 2025, and finalized a survey that will be distributed to workgroup members to assist with compiling the data map. The workgroup is also planning to start focusing on how to assist Local JRACs with data under the strategic plan.

9. Other Business. Angie Estes also provided an update from DOC on their project with the Bureau of Justice Assistance on evaluating performance data related to implementation of evidence-based practices. The University of Cincinnati is conducting the validation study.

10. Member Updates.

- **Association of Indiana Counties** – Jamie Bolser is their new Director of Government Affairs.
- **Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana** – Their annual Management Institute is scheduled for March, and the new CPO training will also be held then. POPAI also participated in a recent meeting with AIC, which was helpful.
- **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute** – The youth justice grants will open in January for 60 days. Please note there were changes for program focus areas and there is \$40 million available. The Annual Criminal Justice Report is almost complete. The victim crime act funding will be released in January noting a decrease in available funds.
- **Indiana Judges Association** – Focused on legislation related to preventative detention and SJR 1.
- **Department of Correction** – The timeline for community correction grants is being developed and information will be distributed soon.
- **Adam Carter** on behalf of ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee – The Gun Crime Taskforce added two additional counties – Lake and Porter. There is also work being done to limit solitary confinement for juveniles and improving guidelines for visitation in juvenile facilities.
- **Indiana Office of Court Services** – The Communications Workgroup is still seeking volunteers and plans to start meeting in 2026. IOCS Justice Services grants will mirror the DOC timeline. There are also some one-time awards being distributed soon. The YJOC reports on secure detention policies and detention and diversion are complete, which noted the lack of bed space for juveniles and the gaps in services in some areas of the state. The project with Dr. Ray is beginning phase two with six drug court programs volunteering to participate – Grant, St. Joseph, Marion, Montgomery, Decatur, and Rush. It was announced that Justin Forkner’s last day as CAO is January 9th. Also, in response to HEA 11144, the Judicial Conference established a Judicial Resources Committee.
- **Division of Mental Health and Addiction** - They received a \$432,000 federal award to implement Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs focused on the homeless population and will include OJA’s Brittany Kelly in the project.
- **Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties** – They held their training institute in November, and the keynote address was well

received. The 2026 Leadership Conference is planned for the spring, and they are looking for speakers. They are also working on improving data and data collection.

- **Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers** – Eight sites are serving as Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers and January 29th there will be a webinar to review their work in the past year. They are also working with Brittany Kelly on the AOT program, and the Justice System workgroup is meeting quarterly.
- **Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council** – Winter conference was held last week. Noted that decreased funding from the federal level impacts the ability to support programs and staffing.
- **Sen. Clark** – The recent revenue report is still positive; need to continue discussing SJR 1, death penalty, syringe exchange program, SB 125, and the impact if the Federal Government reclassifies cannabis.
- **Indiana Sheriffs' Association** – Working to support policy development for jails and sheriff deputies as a result of daily assessments on wellness factors. They had a panel discussion on AOT with Brittany Kelly participating.

11. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Goodman
Office of Court Services