

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2026

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on February 20, 2026, 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:

- 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
- Doug Huntsinger, executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Ashley Stevens, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
- Anthony Williams, proxy for the 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
- Becky Buhner, designee for the director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Carolyn Travis, proxy for the chair of the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Adam Carter, proxy for ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana
- Steve Luce, proxy for the president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Danny Price, governor's designee (via Zoom)

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

- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director
- 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
- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Zoe Frantz, president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers

3. **Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Angie Hensley and Brittany Kelly, Office of Judicial Administration; Brendan O'Connor, Office of Judicial Administration (via Zoom); Rose Walker, Indiana Office of Court Services; Liz Darlage, Angie Estes, and Cierra Stanko, Indiana Department of Correction; Scott Hohl, Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties; and Madi Knight, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.
4. **Staff.** Catheryne Pully, Michelle Goodman, 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 December 19, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote on motion and second by Steve Luce and Doug Huntsinger, with Bernice Corley abstaining.
7. **JRAC Workgroup Reports.**
 - **Local JRAC Workgroup.** Chris Biehn reported the following:
 - i. Technical Assistance – The Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) is currently working with fourteen Local JRACs on technical assistance. In total, CEPP has worked with fifty-two counties to date with some level of technical assistance. The request form for technical assistance is always open. CEPP also assists State JRAC, and its workgroup as needed.
 - ii. Local JRAC Annual Reports – The survey for the 2025 report will be distributed soon and is due by March 31, 2026. The survey will include additional questions regarding Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, Opioid Settlement funds, and other fiscal questions. Both CEPP and the Reform Alliance have reviewed the survey to provide feedback and identify ways they can continue to support Local JRACs.
 - **Data Workgroup.** Angie Hensley reported that the Data Workgroup last met on February 9, 2026, and continued to work on the data survey, which should be finalized at the March workgroup meeting. The workgroup is continuing to review the strategic plan to identify data points within the annual surveys to help support improved data reporting.
 - **Reports Workgroup.** Michelle Goodman reported that the Local JRACs are currently in the process of submitting Q4 electronic monitoring data, which is due by February 28th. The SEA 9-Q2 Report was presented for an amendment and Q3 Report for the council's review and approval. The Advisory Council unanimously approved the report by roll call vote on motion and second by Bernice Corley and Judge Mark Spitzer.

8. Office of Behavioral Health Update. Brittany Kelly provided an update on the activities of the Office of Behavioral Health. She reported that the initial Behavioral Health Committee report is under review and should be published in Spring of 2026. The Office of Behavioral Health is partnering with DMHA on the use of peer-led navigators and assisted outpatient treatment programs. There are currently 10 counties participating in the AOT programs to improve communication between the courts and treatment providers to improve outcomes for participants. She also referenced work on improving competency procedures. DHMA discussed their work with community mental health centers and CCBHCs on delivery of local services and exploring options for additional resources to improve processes and funding. There was an emphasis on encouraging engagement of Local JRACs as well. There was also a brief discussion on JRAC participating in review of possible legislative requests on these topics. After questions and discussion, Justice Goff thanked Ms. Kelly for her time and presentation.

9. 2025 Criminal Code Reform Evaluation Report. Doug Huntsinger and Madi Knight presented the 2025 Criminal Code Reform Evaluation report. In addition to the new format for presenting relevant information, they highlighted five key recommendation topics:

- Evidence-based mental health and substance use programming
- Justice data ecosystem
- Resources for crisis response
- Staff shortages
- Technical assistance and funding to Local JRACs

After questions, discussion, and suggestions for future content, the members thanked ICJI for their work and appreciated the redesign of the report. Members agreed to invite legislative leaders in the relevant criminal justice committees to present to JRAC on their priorities and goals to have a more engaged dialogue.

10. Member updates.

- **Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana** – Hosting new CPO training and management institute will be held in two weeks.
- **Division of Mental Health and Addiction** – Quarterly financial reviews which includes information on programing and data. All 92 counties are covered by mobile crisis units. There are 24 counties with crisis stabilization units in the state. Now focused on educating law enforcement on these units as a referral source instead of jail. They are working on new dashboards soon and they have launched a provider report dashboard to look at their funding and key data points.
- **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute** – Working on improvements within the agency and improve grant procedures to be more efficient.
- **Department of Correction** – New legislative director is Cierra Stanko.

- **Indiana Judges Association** – Concerned with loss of funding for programming and services with the cuts in DOC grant funds, which impacts the available alternatives to incarceration at the local level and incarceration is a more costly service.
- **Indiana Sheriffs' Association** – Interested in working on Medicaid waiver with DMHA, which was a recommendation of the Mental Health report a few years ago.
- **Indiana Office of Court Services** – A new Judicial Resources Committee of the Judicial Conference was established to work on judicial and system resources. The Youth Justice Oversight Committee data analysis project is underway in partnership with IU School of Medicine to review data quality and improve data collection practices within six counties.
- **Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee ranking minority member** – SB 148 passed in the House Corrections Committee; SB 111 did not get hearing and was not able to be amended into HB 1258.
- **Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties** – Conducting survey on data within community corrections agencies; noted the decrease in DOC grant funding and the anticipated impacts on local programs, services, and staffing. Local JRACs should be engaged in discussing these impacts as well.

11. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Goodman
Office of Court Services