

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2026

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on April 17, 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
- Angela Morris, president of Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- David Bottorff, executive director of Association of Indiana Counties
- Sarah Sailors, director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Carolyn Travis, proxy for the chair of the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana
- Jeff Balon, president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Danny Price, governor's designee
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director (via Zoom)
- 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

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
- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- Sen. Rodney Pol, ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee

3. **Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Denise Symdon, Center for Effective Public Policy; Josh Woodward, Office of the Chief Justice; Angie Hensley and Brittany Kelly, Office of Judicial Administration; Lisa Thompson and Megan Morgan, Indiana Office of Court Technology; Rose Walker, Indiana Office of Court Services, Liz Darlage, and Cierra Stanko, Indiana Department of Correction; Scott Hohl, Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties; Becky Buhner, Kelly Welker, Jordan Stover, Cara Scott, Division of Family and Social Services Administration, and Steve Luce, Indiana Sheriffs' Association.
4. **Staff.** 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 February 20, 2026, meeting minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote on motion and second by Doug Huntsinger and Angela Morris.
7. **JRAC Workgroup Reports.**
 - **Local JRAC Workgroup.** Chris Biehn reported the following:
 - i. Local JRAC Annual Reports – The responses to the survey for the 2025 report were due by March 31, 2026. 48 Local JRACs have submitted responses, and the others are still finalizing their responses. The survey review shows that counties who received technical assistance are making more progress than other counties in this work. The top areas of focus in the survey responses include fiscal impacts from SEA 1-2025; reduction in grant funds; decreased funding resulting in reduction of evidence-based programs; and limited availability of housing, transportation, and mental health services. The responses also demonstrate a variety in how opioid settlement funds are being dispersed and use of local data in decision making.
 - ii. Technical Assistance – The Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) is currently working with fourteen Local JRACs on technical assistance and is adding a new county. There are 20 counties remaining who have yet to participate with the technical assistance team. CEPP is working with the Office of Court Services to review the annual reports to further identify areas for technical assistance.
 - **Communications Workgroup.** Michelle Goodman reported that the Communications Workgroup met twice since the last meeting with the initial meeting serving as an overview of JRAC and the strategic plan. The workgroup members are providing feedback on current website content and suggestions

for improving content and outreach. JRAC members were encouraged to provide suggestions as well.

- **Data Workgroup.** Angie Hensley reported that the Data Workgroup last met on April 9, 2026. The workgroup is gathering information for the network diagram and discussing creating a starter kit to help Local JRACs prioritize the five key data points and outline how to use the data for decision making.
- **Reports Workgroup.** Michelle Goodman reported that the materials for the Local Income Tax Report were distributed last week to the counties required to report and responses are due by May 1st. The Local JRACs are currently in the process of submitting Q1-2026 electronic monitoring data, which is due by May 30th. The SEA 9-Q4 and the 2025 Annual Reports were presented for the council's review and approval. The Advisory Council unanimously approved the reports by roll call vote on motion and second by Judge Mark Spitzer and Zoe Frantz.

8. **INjail Update.** Megen Morgan with Indiana Office of Court Technology provided an update on the INjail management system. There are nine counties on the system with thirteen counties in the pipeline. She provided an overview of the onboarding process, which included review of processes, assessment of data quality, data conversion steps, and local staff training requirements. She demonstrated key features and enhancements since the last presentation to JRAC and answered member questions.
9. **Competency Crisis.** Sarah Sailors, DMHA, and Jordan Stover, FSSA, presented information on key topics that impact restoration of competency procedures for criminal defendants and current statistics. The presentation outlined the work in competency restoration, which focuses on managing mental illness to regain ability to participate in the case. There was discussion on the impact of increased referrals on bed space, the impacts of limited discharge pathways, need for more upstream treatment options for those with serious mental illness, and funding sources and limitations. Discussion with members involved key concerns, suggestions, and responding to questions.
10. **Establishing Legislative Workgroup.** JRAC discussed forming a legislative workgroup that could provide a forum for input in key statutory proposals impacting all stakeholder groups, such as restoration of competency as well as other topics. The Council established the workgroup unanimously by roll call vote on motion and second by Zoe Frantz and Steve McCaffery.

11. Member updates.

- **Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana** – New CPO training was provided to eight attendees in March, and planning is underway for the September conference.

- **Division of Mental Health and Addiction** – Becky Buhner is leaving her position at DMHA and going to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; Kelly Welker will take Becky's position at DMHA.
- **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute** – Collaborating on grant with DMHA and the Sheriffs' Association on opioids and jail treatment; working on applications for new grant funding opportunities for Indiana.
- **Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys** – County reimbursements have increased to record levels and increased county participation.
- **Department of Correction** – Community Corrections grant applications were due April 1 and applications are currently under review.
- **Indiana Office of Court Services** – Grant applications were due on April 1, and applications are under review.
- **Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers** – Their justice working group is collaborating with the Court's Office of Behavioral Health to review Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs and identify opportunities for expansion; the workgroup will meet on May 19th; May 7th is their quarterly conference focusing on Federal Medicaid changes and update on Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.
- **Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties** – Planning for their Spring Conference in May with a focus on leadership.
- **Mental Health America of Indiana** – Symposium is scheduled for November 13, 2026.

12. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Goodman
Office of Court Services