

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2026

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on June 26, 2026, at 10:00 – 11:40 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
- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- 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
- Sen. Brett Clark, 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 (via Zoom)
- Danny Price, governor's designee
- Courtney Curtis, 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
- Sen. Rodney Pol, ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law 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 (via Zoom); Josh Woodward, Office of the Chief Justice (via Zoom); Angie Hensley and Brittany Kelly, Office of Judicial Administration; Lisa Thompson, Indiana Office of Court Technology; Liz Darlage, Angie Estes, Cierra Stanko, Dani Glenn, and Ty Robbins, Indiana Department of Correction; Scott Hohl, Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties; Carolyn Travis, Indiana General Assembly; Amy Karozos, State Public Defender's Office; Lucas White, Indiana State Bar Association; Collin Paquin, Krieg DeVault; and John Benningfield, Thrive.
4. **Staff.** Catheryne Pully, Michelle Goodman, Jenny Bauer, David Sexton, Reilly Sommers, and Rose Walker 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 April 17, 2026, meeting minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote on motion and second by Doug Huntsinger and Mark Spitzer.
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, but the deadline was extended to allow Local JRACs to meet before submitting the surveys. IOCS has received 70 surveys to date. The dominant themes in the responses are funding, data, sustaining problem-solving courts, pretrial expansion, behavioral health integration, treatment access, and CCBHC coordination efforts. The responses also show continuing interest in technical assistance, especially for system mapping and sequential intercept model mapping.
 - ii. Competency Restoration – Justice Goff reported that the funding crisis will bring the topic of competency restoration front and center for Local JRACs. The decrease in funding will affect the number of people who can be served by Problem-Solving Courts. He sees the biggest issue as sustaining local treatment options for defendants who do not need to be institutionalized and looks forward to working with the executive branch.
 - **Communications Workgroup.** Michelle Goodman reported that the Communications Workgroup met on June 25. The workgroup reviewed feedback from the Local JRAC meeting for improving content and outreach. The workgroup will divide its work into three focus areas: orientation and onboarding materials; JRAC website; and funding education.
 - **Data Workgroup.** Angie Hensley reported that the Data Workgroup met on June 5th. The Workgroup is putting together a self-help guide for Local JRACs to use

data to inform their decision-making. The guide includes five data points: jail data, community supervision, DOC commitments, court data, and behavioral health data. Ms. Hensley also reported that the Office of Judicial Administration is working on a data networking app and plans to provide a demonstration at the August meeting. The workgroup will meet next on August 13.

- **Reports Workgroup.** Michelle Goodman reported that the Q1 electronic monitoring report is currently being compiled and will be presented for approval at the August meeting. The Q2 report opens in early July with submissions due by August 29. Ms. Goodman also reported that the Judicial Local Income Tax report was provided in advance of the meeting. The report is required by statute to provide information on Judicial LIT revenues and expenditures. The calendar year 2025 report includes information from Floyd County, which is covered by the terms of the original statute, and Henry County, which is covered by the terms of the amended version of the statute. The report is before JRAC for approval. Upon approval, the report will be submitted to Legislative Council. The Advisory Council approved the Judicial LIT report by unanimous roll call vote.
 - **Legislative Workgroup Report.** Justice Goff reported that the Legislative Workgroup was created by the Advisory Council at the April meeting. The Workgroup's first task is to address the issue of competency. To help guide this work, JRAC has engaged The Leifman Group (TLG), a national consulting firm with deep expertise in competency and justice system reform. As an initial step, TLG will conduct one-on-one stakeholder interviews on July 7th and 8th. They will be conducting virtual interviews with those who are unavailable on the selected dates. These interviews will inform the structure and focus of the broader Legislative Workgroup meetings that follow. The Workgroup has meetings scheduled for August 26 and September 16. Voting member designation and general workgroup participant roles will be clarified in advance of the meetings, with consideration that each organization will have one designated voting member and that proxies are required for voting member absences.
8. **Office of Behavioral Health Update.** Brittany Kelly explained that the Office of Behavioral Health prioritizes behavioral health related needs of Indiana's courts and the litigants they serve. The office connects judicial officers and justice system stakeholders to resources in their communities and provides education on matters of behavioral health. She reported that the Behavioral Health Committee members recently published its inaugural report to provide Indiana's judiciary with practical, court-focused recommendations for addressing behavioral health challenges. She also reported that OBH launched the Kramer Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program Initiative and OBH is available to assist Local JRACs.
9. **DOC Grant Awards.** Liz Darlage reported that due to budget constraints with the community supervision grant awards for 2027, DOC is prioritizing counties that

divert the most felony offenders and could not fund all program requests. The 2027 grant awards total \$52.9 million, which is a decrease from the \$62.4 million awarded in 2026. Ms. Darlage outlined the funding formula in the Indiana Administrative Code and explained that the award amount is based on the General Assembly's appropriation to DOC. Grant award letters will go out in late June, with county budgets submitted in July, and contracts finalized by December. The Advisory Council had a lengthy discussion on funding cuts to programs, providing a unified message to the General Assembly about the effect of budget cuts, and Local JRACs addressing local public safety needs with scarce resources.

10. Member updates.

- **Indiana Sheriffs' Association**— conducted legislative regional meetings; the election cycle will result in 50 new sheriffs in 2027
- **Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers**— recognized Vanderburgh County Sheriff Noah Robinson as justice advocate of the year; the summer quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 8-10 in Fort Wayne
- **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute**— the ICJI trustees approved \$57 million in Victims of Crime Act formula grants at the May meeting
- **Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana** – meeting with IACCAC is in August; the fall training September 9-11 in French Lick.
- **Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council**— all prosecutors are up for elections in November; the election will result in 20-30 new prosecutors
- **Association of Indiana Counties**— providing education to county executives on tax cuts; funding is a priority
- **Division of Mental Health and Addiction**— there are 98 competency restoration patients in state institutions; the crisis continuum dashboard will go live in July; presented opioid settlement funds plan to the legislature
- **Office of Judicial Administration**— the Youth Justice Oversight Committee met in June and discussed data, funding, behavioral health, and detention
- **Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties** – the summer assembly with POPAI is scheduled for August 20-21
- **Indiana Judges Association**— retreat scheduled for July; election will bring new judges in 2027
- **General Assembly**— need data to show why funding is necessary; July meeting on 911 and 988.

11. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Office of Court Services