



Local JRAC Workgroup

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC)

Justice Christopher Goff, Chair

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2026

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council's Local JRAC Workgroup met on April 10, 2026, at 9:30 AM ET, at the Office of Judicial Administration, Tech Training Room (755) (251 N. Illinois St., Ste. 700, Indianapolis, IN 46204). Justice Christopher Goff chaired the meeting.

Members in attendance: Sheriff Jeff Balon, Chris Biehn, David Bottorff, Bernice Corley, Elizabeth Darlage, Justice Christopher Goff – Chair, Doug Huntsinger, Anthony Williams (as proxy for Angela Morris), and Hon. Mark Spitzer.

Supreme Court staff in attendance: Michelle Goodman, Angie Hensley, Catheryne Pully, David Sexton, and Reilly Sommers.

Guests: Angie Estes, Steve Luce, and Denise Symdon (via Zoom).

I. Welcome

Justice Goff opened the meeting and welcomed members. He introduced Porter County Sheriff Jeff Balon, President of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association, who was joining the workgroup for the first time.

II. Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2025

David Bottorff motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Judge Spitzer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Technical Assistance Update

Chris Biehn and Denise Symdon provided an update on technical assistance efforts. The Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) is currently working with 14 counties and expects to add LaPorte County in the near future. Pending their review of 2025 annual report submissions, CEPP intends to make contact with 15-20 additional counties to discuss technical assistance.

The workgroup engaged in a detailed discussion regarding the future of technical assistance and how it can be sustained. Members discussed transitioning toward a more sustainable model that leverages IOCS staff to provide ongoing support in addition to CEPP. There was also interest in expanding regional summits, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, and facilitating stronger connections between counties to share best practices. Justice Goff emphasized that technical assistance should remain responsive to local needs, particularly for individuals who require supervision and treatment but are not appropriate for commitment to the Department of Correction.

IV. 2025 Annual Report

Chris Biehn provided an update to members on submissions of the 2025 Local JRAC annual report. Approximately 42 Local JRACs have submitted their 2025 annual report surveys. He noted that the counties that have demonstrated the most progress in their Local JRACs are the ones actively engaged in technical assistance. He reported on some initial findings from annual report submissions. Funding reductions remain the most common concern identified by counties and are having a direct impact on staffing, programming, and overall system capacity. Counties also continue to report uncertainty regarding the governance and use of opioid settlement funds. Additionally, many counties reported high proportions of pretrial populations within local jails, in some cases comprising the majority of the jail population.

V. Communications Workgroup

Michelle Goodman provided an update on the Communications Workgroup. The workgroup held its initial meeting on March 17. The workgroup includes ten representatives from multiple agencies and Denise Symdon has been assisting the workgroup as part of CEPP's technical assistance to State JRAC. The workgroup is focusing on the multi-dimensional communication strategy portion of the JRAC Strategic Plan. Going forward, the workgroup will consider what information is distributed to which Local JRAC officers and stakeholders; what information should be distributed to Local JRACs through professional associations and partner agencies; and what information should be maintained on the JRAC website. The workgroup's next meeting is Monday, April 13.

VI. Other Business

There was no other business brought before the workgroup.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 AM ET. The workgroup's next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2026, at 9:30 AM ET, at the Office of Judicial Administration Tech Training Room (251 N. Illinois St. Ste. 700, Tech Training Room (755), Indianapolis, IN 46204)

Respectfully submitted,

David Sexton
Indiana Office of Court Services