



# Office of Court Services

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## Juvenile Probation Standards Workgroup

September 16, 2022

### Meeting Minutes

The Juvenile Probation Standards workgroup met on September 16, 2022, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Office of Court Services, Room 873. Magistrate Carolyn Foley chaired the meeting.

**1. Members present. The following members of the Committee were present in person:**

- Jenny Bauer, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen Superior Court
- Vicki Becker, Elkhart County Prosecutor
- Heather Malone, Huntington County Probation
- Greg Peters, Allen County Probation
- Joel Wieneke, Indiana Public Defender Council

**Members present. The following members of the Committee were present via Zoom:**

- Judge Mary DeBoer, Porter Circuit Court
- Judge Jill Wesch, Vermillion County Circuit Court

**Members absent.** The following members of the workgroup did not attend the meeting:

- Nick Ackerman, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation

**Guests Present:** Leslie Dunn

**Staff:** Angela Reid-Brown, Colleen Saylor

**2. Welcome.** Magistrate Foley welcomed everyone in person and virtual attendance.

**3. Approve August Meeting Minutes:** Workgroup members were provided a copy of the Minutes prior to today's meeting. Heather Malone made a motion to approve the minutes; Judge Wesch seconded the motion. Workgroup members approved the August 19, 2022 meeting minutes unanimously.

**4. Sub-Committee Reports.** Magistrate Foley shared that all the subcommittees had met since the last meeting and asked for a member of each to report on their progress.

- **Risk Assessment/Conditions of Probation.** This subcommittee met August 26, 2022 and Heather shared that they were taking a step back from the Risk Assessment portion of the focus as there is another workgroup devoted to that issue specifically; The Screening and Assessment workgroup is chaired by Shannon Chambers and Judge Trevino. Judge Wesch is also a member and she and Shannon will be helping to coordinate between the groups. Members discussed the differing styles of conditions that exist across the state and agreed to collect some samples to share amongst the group for further discussion. Members report some difficulties in accessing documents in Teams and Colleen will email out all documents to all members as well as touch base with IT to see if the situation can be resolved. There are currently some examples of both conditions of supervision and case plans which have been collected and will be disseminated to all members. The subcommittee has not scheduled another meeting at this time.
- **Case Planning.** This subcommittee met August 31, 2022. Jenny shared that in discussions it appeared there was some dissatisfaction with the current case plan in INCite. One of the issues raised was the timing of when it is completed and ability to allow for meaningful family engagement. She also pointed out that changes made to the case plan will impact other stakeholders and successful implementation will require getting everyone on board. She recommended that efforts be made to get their input and hopefully their support throughout the process. Members agreed it would be helpful to run drafts through the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee (JJIC) and local members of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). Members agreed to search out case plan examples to share with the group and identified that although most counties utilize the case plan in INCite, there are a handful of larger counties that use Quest.

Jenny reported that while some counties have embraced the Incentives and Sanctions template provided by IOCS, there are other counties that may require more support and guidance for implementation. Magistrate Foley pointed out that a contributing factor to Allen County's success was the strategic invitation of members with differing levels of buy-in to work on the implementation board. Members discussed the use of Carey Guides and Brief Intervention Tools (BITS), which are guided intervention/skill practice worksheets staff can use with clients to address certain behaviors and case plan goals. Jenny had checked into the data regarding how many counties have a license to use the Carey Guides and Bits. She found that 71 or 72 counties have a license. It was discussed that while some counties may have had training and a license, they may not have institutionalized the use of the program. Greg shared that their department continues to provide monthly training for Carey Guides and Bits; members discussed the varying resources from county to county while offering a solution of having some larger counties include those with fewer resources in their training.

Jenny shared that there have been several webinars recently focused on case planning; one with a speaker from New Hampshire shared how they had pared their conditions of probation down to five things, one of which was to participate in the creation of their case plan and follow through with it. Another had a person with lived experience who talked about how the probation officer needs to become part of the child's village. There were also great tips of having the probation officer see themselves as a coach rather than a referee to be able to guide and support the youth and celebrate the successes. Jenny planned to reach out to obtain additional information and resources to share with the group. The subcommittee has not scheduled another meeting at this time.

**Out-of-Home Placement/DOC Commitment.** This subcommittee met August 29, 2022 and again on September 12, 2022. The members had a rough start to a draft which was provided to workgroup members prior to the meeting. Magistrate Foley shared they were cognizant of the differing level of resources from county to county and used the wording "where possible" to retain flexibility. The subcommittee stressed this was just a 1<sup>st</sup> rough draft and welcomed input from others. The members have had some difficulty with the last item (e) and shared some viewpoints on wanting to minimize "justice by geography"; where a child is placed in confinement or DOC for a technical violation of probation because the jurisdiction is unable to provide the necessary services in the community. National research is consistent in recommending against confinement for technical violations.

Another viewpoint was a concern that by restricting judicial discretion there may be additional barriers created to confining a child, in order to provide treatment, who has continued to struggle with following the rules and cooperating with therapy.

Concern was voiced that if more allotment is made for broad discretion without providing specific guidance it establishes an opportunity for resistance to change. There was discussion surrounding how to find balance for a child who has displayed a history of non-compliance to be in a place where they receive necessary treatment while not placing them in confinement. It was suggested that if true case planning took place with individualized case plans and family engagement it may result in fewer youth being confined or committed to DOC. With all the reforms already undertaken within the state, the number of youth committed to DOC has dramatically decreased. To decrease this number further will require more intensive work and will be more difficult. Members agreed this needs further discussion.

- 5. Identify areas of overlap.** Michelle Goodman is the IOCS staff person for the Screening and Assessment Workgroup which will overlap with the Risk Assessment/Conditions subcommittee. In addition to the members who serve on both groups providing feedback, Jenny agreed to touch base with Michelle. Magistrate Foley shared that the chair and co-chairs of each workgroup met and will continue to meet in order to facilitate ongoing collaboration. Leslie Dunn encouraged members to reach out to any group they felt would be helpful as well as staff if they have questions. As subcommittees continue to

meet it would be helpful to consider who else needs brought into the conversation and either touch base with them or invite them to a meeting.

- 6. Additional Discussion.** An update was provided on the Youth and Family Advisory Board and members were encouraged to consider what areas would be most beneficial to ask them to provide input.

Having a representative from DCS and specifically a probation service consultant involved to assist in making sure whatever recommendations are made remain in compliance with the correlating federal statutes was discussed. Angela works closely with DCS and is keeping track of these items to ensure compliance with all requirements.

- 7. Schedule Subsequent Meetings.**

Juvenile Probation Standards Work Group Meetings for 2022:

October 20, 2022	1:00 – 3:00 PM
November 10, 2022	1:00 – 3:00 PM
December 8, 2022	1:00 – 3:00 PM