



Office of Court Services

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Juvenile Probation Standards Workgroup

March 9, 2023

Meeting Minutes

The Juvenile Probation Standards workgroup met on March 9, 2023, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 p.m. at the Indiana Office of Court Services, Room 873. Magistrate Carolyn Foley chaired the meeting.

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

- Nick Ackerman, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Jenny Bauer, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation
- Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen Superior Court

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

- Vicki Becker, Elkhart County Prosecutor
- Judge Mary DeBoer, Porter Circuit Court
- Greg Peters, Allen County Probation
- Joel Wieneke, Indiana Public Defender Council

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

- Heather Malone, Huntington County Probation
- Jill Wesch, Fountain County Chief Deputy Prosecutor

Guests Present:

- Mark Fairchild, Executive Director, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
- Leslie Dunn (via Zoom), Deputy Director, Children & Families Division, IOCS

Staff: Colleen Saylor

1. **Welcome.** Magistrate Foley welcomed everyone in attendance.
2. **Approve December Meeting Minutes:** Workgroup members were provided a copy of the Minutes prior to today's meeting. Nick Ackerman made a motion to approve the minutes; Shannon Chambers seconded the motion, the minutes from the February 16, 2023, meeting were approved.

3. Update on Youth and Family Advisory Work Group meeting: The 1359 Youth and Family Work Group report was emailed to the Juvenile Probation Standards Work Group members prior to the meeting. Members shared they felt the participants were very thoughtful in their discussions and their passion for the improvement of youth and family engagement was evident. Those that presented shared their observations:

- **Good response**
- **Very engaging**
- **Mixture of some young adults but majority were older**
- **Focus on increasing community connection**
- **Identifying resources for the family that are available locally prior to making recommendations**
- **Interest in PO's having more training, focused on specific areas**
- **Clear and repeated communication – youth and families are often in a daze initially and not absorbing what they are being told**
- **PO self-care**

Members went over each recommendation to determine where items may have been addressed already in the standards or might be helpful to add to the commentary

1. [Increasing training time - 20 hours a year for Continuing education that includes](#)
 - a. [Trauma](#)
 - b. [Culturally competent communication](#)
 - c. [Youth Mental health first aid](#)
 - d. [Positive youth development](#)
 - e. [Personality testing to determine strengths and areas of growth](#)
 - f. [Increased measurement/evaluation of how POs are implementing the training in practice with clients](#)

With regard to this recommendation, members agreed that will all the changes that will be coming at POs with 1359 they likely will receive more than the currently required 12 hours in the next few years. They also felt that with the additional requirements it might be best to not raise the actual standard requiring additional hours at this time. It was discussed that the full implementation of 1359 will require a significant amount of additional training, and this might be an opportunity to set up some focused-on demand trainings that can be accessed when the PO's have the time to complete them allowing more flexibility. Once there is an increased amount of training opportunities available, then it may make sense to increase the requirement. Consensus was that additional hours will not be recommended at this time, but the recommendations will be forwarded to the Education Division to consider when planning yearly training opportunities.

2. [Family Navigator should be mandatory for all Probation departments to increase communication on Probation/Court process and help families navigate the Juvenile Justice System.](#)

Members shared they felt the family navigator program sounded good but wasn't something that should be included in the standards. There was also discussion that adding this additional person to the mix may diminish the opportunities for the PO to increase rapport and trust if the navigator is the one having those conversations with the youth and family to explain the process and answer questions instead of the PO.

3. **Positive youth development: Partnering with schools and community-based organizations should be mandatory. This increases trust and expands capacity for wraparound services**

Members agreed that this recommendation is currently covered in the draft standards but may not have been able to be conveyed adequately in the limited time available for the presentation.

4. **Mentors should be mandatory for each child placed on Probation – increasing funding for counties with less resources to provide access**

This was also an area members felt had been addressed in the standards already, perhaps not exactly as they have it written but conceptually.

5. **Probation standards should include exposure to pro-social experiences like business owners to inspire and cultivate passions of youth**

Members expressed they felt this recommendation would fall more under programming not standards

6. **Incentives:**

- a. **Based in trust and rooted in individual passions of youth**
- b. **Tied to early release – Youth should be able to earn decreased probation time, decreased fees, and community supervision. Incentives should also include monetary methods to assist in rising cost of basic needs**
- c. **Probation department need to create a better way to celebrate the wins of youth-that is not through formal Court hearing**

The proposed standards include a section under the Youth Formal Supervision Conditions that does address promoting a clear pathway to early release and successful completion as well as commentary throughout which focuses on the youth and family engagement to increase rapport and trust between the PO and youth and family.

7. **Self-Care for PO's should be more intentional**
 - a. **Encouraging mental health resources provided by benefits**
 - b. **Quarterly Affinity groups for POs to have a safe space to share experiences and resources.**

Shannon shared she is part of a group working on a “Shield” training that focuses on self-care for juvenile justice providers. They are hoping to have this available on the Indiana Courts Education Network later this year.

4. **Draft to Probation Committee and Judicial Conference Board of Directors:** Members reviewed the current draft which had been sent to the Probation Committee. There were a few areas that were still needing clarification and members had discussion surrounding how best to word them. Ultimately it was agreed the section on the Indiana Youth Assessment Systems needed to align with the [Policy for Indiana Youth Assessment System](#) wording and the use of any complimentary tools would go under the subsequent standard. Members agreed on the changes to make sure the proposed areas were consistent in the use of “youth” and gender-neutral pronouns as well.

4.1 Indiana Youth and Risk Assessment Systems -- Departments shall use the Indiana Youth Assessment System (IYAS) and the Indiana Risk Assessment System (IRAS) and corresponding INCite applications in accordance with all policies adopted by the Judicial Conference of Indiana. *These tools shall be made available to the court, prosecutor, and defense counsel prior to the initial hearing on the case.*

4.2 Complimentary Assessment Tools – Departments may use complimentary assessment tools to assist in developing individualized case plans when specific risk, need, or responsivity factors are identified by an IYAS/IRAS assessment. Departments may also use complimentary assessment tools to identify additional risk, need or responsivity factors.

At the Probation Committee meeting on March 10, 2023 Magistrate Foley and Jenny will present the tasks that have been assigned to the Juvenile Probation Standards Work Group to complete and the specific standards that are meeting those task guidelines.

5. **First Draft of Final Report:** Members reviewed the first draft and indicated they felt it looked good. The conclusion is not yet done but may be good place to include details regarding the separate groups that have had the opportunity to review the proposed draft and provide input.
6. **Further Discussion:** Members discussed sending a thank you to the Youth and Family Advisory Work Group for allowing them to present and providing feedback. All agreed, Colleen will draft this and get it to Magistrate Foley for review.
7. **Timeline/Future Meetings:**

- 3/10/23 Probation Committee
- 4/6/23 First Draft of Report due to YJOC
- 4/12/2023 Youth Justice Oversight Committee meeting
- 4/18/23 Judicial Conference Board of Directors
- 4/20/23 April Juvenile Probation Standards Workgroup meeting
- 5/5/23 Probation Committee
- 5/10/2023 Youth Justice Oversight Committee meeting
- 5/11/23 May Juvenile Probation Standards Workgroup meeting
- 6/8/23 June Juvenile Probation Standards Workgroup meeting
- 6/14/2023 Youth Justice Oversight Committee meeting
- 6/18/23 Judicial Conference Board of Directors for approval