



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Minutes from June 29, 2022 Meeting

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on June 29, 2022, from 10:00-12:00 a.m. at the Indiana State Library, Author's Room. Justice Steve David chaired the meeting.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Committee were present:
 - Dr. Matthew Aalsma, Indiana University
 - Stephen Balko, Indiana Department of Education
 - Serrilla Blackmon, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction
 - Judge Marshelle Dawkins Broadwell, Marion Superior Court 16
 - Judge Vicki L. Carmichael, Clark Circuit Court 4
 - Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation and Probation Officers Advisory Board
 - Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Correction
 - Judge Darrin Dolehanty, Wayne Superior Court 3
 - Tracy Fitz, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
 - Magistrate Caroline Foley, Allen Superior Court
 - Judge Faith A. Graham, Tippecanoe Superior Court 3
 - Devon McDonald, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
 - Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation, and the Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
 - Terry Stigdon, Indiana Department of Child Services
 - Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
 - Joel Wieneke, Indiana Public Defender Council
 - James C. Wilson, Circle Up Indy
 - Kia Wright, Voices Corporation

2. **Members absent.** The following members of the Committee did not attend the meeting:
 - Mary Kay Hudson, Indiana Office of Court Services

3. **Staff.** Leslie Dunn, Joseph Fischer, Michelle Goodman, Nick Parker, Shenna Robinson, Colleen Saylor attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration. Julie Whitman attended as Executive Director of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC).

4. **Welcome and Introductions.** Justice David, Chair of the YJOC welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting. The two principal authors of HEA 1359, Senator Michael Crider and Representative Wendy McNamara were present and welcomed everyone and thanked them for their service.

5. **Vision Statement.** A draft vision statement was presented to members for consideration. A member suggested that the word “enhancing” should be used instead of or alongside the word

“developing” when describing the work to be done. Another member suggested that the vision statement needs more details. Members did not adopt the vision statement but decided to form a small subgroup to revise it. The subgroup volunteers include Steven Balko, Serrilla Blackmon, Terry Stigdon, James Wilson, and Kia Wright, and they will meet and revise the vision statement and present the revised draft to the Committee at the August meeting.

6. **How did we get here?** Julie Whitman presented a PowerPoint describing the background and history that led to the enactment of HEA 1359. The legislation was the culmination of several years of work involving the Pew Charitable Trust Commission, the Council of State Governments (CSG), the Commission on Improving the Status of Children and its Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force, and the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA). The CSG issued a Preliminary Assessment of Indiana’s Juvenile Justice System in April of 2021 and the CISC adopted the recommendations from the Phase II Assessment in December of 2021. HEA 1359 was passed in March of 2022.
7. **What are we to do?** Justice David introduced the Executive Summary of the Expectations for the YJOC and the tasks assigned by HEA 1359. The goal is to make this a collective and collaborative report created by the members and work groups. Members were provided with a YJOC Timeline of the work to be done over the next year, before the report is due on July 1, 2023. The timeline is aggressive, but we will commit the staff and resources needed to get this done. We have created six work groups that track the work prescribed by the legislation:
 - Data
 - Screening and Assessment
 - Diversion
 - Behavioral Health
 - Grants Process
 - Transitional Services

A seventh group on Juvenile Probation Standards will be developed by the Judicial Conference of Indiana’s Probation Committee. Each work group will be provided with staff to support the work group by the OJA. The work groups each have a chair and a co-chair. The chairs of each work group have been invited to an orientation session in July and will be provided with a list of proposed members for their consideration. The work groups should also consider whether there are key stakeholders who are missing and who should be added to the work groups. The goal is to have a robust communication system between the workgroup and the YJOC.

A member inquired about having a youth and family advisory group of individuals with “lived experience” with the juvenile justice system to provide input to the working groups; OJA is looking into this and hopes to offer the YJOC some options and an update at the next meeting.

CSG provided us with suggested next steps for each workgroup for their consideration; work groups are not bound by these, but it is a starting point for discussions.

8. **How we will function.** OJA will provide staffing for the YJOC and each work group to assist the chairs and to help create meeting agendas and minutes, to maintain a Teams site for everyone and to help move the work forward. Staff will have templates of the documents needed for consistency. The Teams site will have a channel for each work group to maintain their documents and research. Members will be sent a link to join the Teams site. Tutorials for Teams are readily available online. There is also a website for the YJOC here:
<https://www.in.gov/courts/committees/youth-justice-oversight/>

Key documents, meeting notices and materials will be posted on the YJOC website. We hope to webcast the YJOC meetings and provide a link so they can be watched in real time.

The YJOC and work groups are subject to the open-door laws. This means that we must schedule and conduct meetings in a way that enhances public access and understanding of the meetings. This requires public notice of the date, time and location of the meeting be posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meetings. Meeting notice must be posted at the meeting location and on the internet on the YJOC website.

For members to be able to participate in a meeting electronically from a remote location, such as by Zoom, the public access laws require us to adopt an Electronic Communication Attendance Policy. Members were provided with a draft policy for their consideration that outlines the statutory requirements for electronic meeting attendance. Under the statute and proposed policy, no more than nine members may attend the meeting electronically (by Zoom). At least 50% of members must be physically present at each meeting. A member who cannot be present and wants to participate by Zoom must let the chair know at least 72 hours ahead of time to ensure a quorum can be present. Work groups will also need to adopt a policy that complies with these requirements. If smaller subgroups of the work groups meet, these subgroups do not need to comply with the public access laws.

Nancy Wever made a motion suggesting that the YJOC adopt the proposed Electronic Communication Attendance Policy and Terry Stigdon seconded the motion. Two minor corrections were noted. Members voted unanimously to adopt the proposed Electronic Communication Attendance Policy.

9. **Closing.** Justice David asked members if they understood the tasks and if we had answered their questions; members can also email any questions that arise. Members were provided with a list of the next YJOC meetings as well as the Timeline of various activities for the next year. Senator Crider and Representative McNamara also made closing remarks and said they are committed to seeing this through and going back to the legislature for needed legislative changes and funding requests. The next meeting of the YJOC is August 10 from 10:00-12:00. Prior to the next YJOC meeting in August, workgroup chairs should finalize the list of proposed workgroup members, invite the members, and confirm their willingness to participate. The chairs should also hold their first workgroup meeting prior to the August YJOC meeting.