



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Screening and Assessment Work Group

August 12, 2022

Minutes

The Screening and Assessment Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on August 12, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Regions Bank Building Event Center. Shannon Chambers chaired the meeting.

1. Members present. The following members of the workgroup were present:

- Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation, Chair
- Judge Andrea Trevino, Allen Superior Court, Co-Chair
- Jennifer Sturges, Decatur County Public Defender's Office
- Brittany Simmons, Indiana Office of Court Services/JDAI
- Jordan Morris, St. Joseph County Probation
- Kevin Elkins, Lake County Probation
- Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- Rob McComb, Allen County Probation
- Miriah Anderson, Tippecanoe County Probation
- Rachel Patterson, Clark County Probation
- Judge Kim Dowling, Delaware Circuit Court 2
- Judge Jill D. Wesch, Vermillion Circuit Court
- Don Travis, Department of Child Services
- Lindsey Grossnickle, Whitley County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

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

- Alison Cox, Porter County Detention Center
- Kory George, Wayne County Probation
- Marc Kniola, Indiana Department of Correction
- Senator Jean Breaux, Senate District 34

3. Staff. Michelle Goodman and Leslie Dunn attended in person as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.

4. Guests. Julie Whitman and Blane Cook attended as staff of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC).

5. **Welcome and introductions.** Shannon Chambers, Chair, called the meeting to order. She welcomed the workgroup members. The workgroup members introduced themselves and highlighted what each member was hoping to address by participating in the workgroup. Both Shannon Chambers and Judge Trevino thanked everyone for agreeing to participate in this important work.
6. **Overview of HEA 1359-2022 and Youth Justice Oversight Committee.** Judge Trevino provided an overview of HEA 1359 and reviewed the executive summary provided to the members discussing the work of the YJOC and its various workgroups. Julie Whitman also explained that HEA 1359 was the result of two years of work by the Children’s Commission Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force and the Council of State Governments.
7. **Overview of Screening and Assessment Workgroup’s purpose, timeline, and deliverables.** Shannon Chambers reviewed the YJOC timeline, which was provided to members. She noted there are specific deadlines for the workgroup to provide written progress reports and work products for YJOC review and approval. Next, she directed the workgroup to the Overview, Deliverables, and Timeline document provide by CSG and highlighted the workgroup’s purpose and required deliverables to YJOC to comply with the requirements of HEA 1359. She requested the members review this information keeping in mind that the timeline and activities are a suggested starting point.
8. **Overview of Indiana Youth Assessment System.** Michelle Goodman provided an overview of the Indiana Youth Assessment System (IYAS), which is a series of tools used at key decision points in the juvenile justice system. In addition to discussing how Indiana went about selecting this system, she explained that the policies adopted outline the purpose of the tools, when they should be used, outlines the reassessment and case plan requirements, and that all the assessments are recorded in INcite to allow for the results to be included in various reports.

There was discussion on availability of assessment data, and that data can be provided if needed to aid in the group’s work upon request. Another question focused on the validation of the IYAS tools. Michelle Goodman reported on how the tools were initially developed and that Indiana is currently in the process of re-validating the all the IYAS tools noting that the results can be shared with the workgroup.

The workgroup chairs emphasized that the workgroup would review policies, procedures, and implementation surrounding the tools to identify gaps in information, resources barriers, and implementation challenges, but not necessarily developing any new tools.

9. **Overview of Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI).** Brittany Simmons provided an overview of JDAI, which is a national effort in cooperation with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The initial focus has been on reviewing detention policies and practices for youth and these efforts have been expanded to look at other portions of the juvenile justice system based on eight core strategies while maintaining a focus on race, equity, and inclusion considerations. Indiana currently has thirty-four sites participating in this effort. Each site participating in JDAI convenes a local group of stakeholders and reviews the purpose and use of detention to identify current practices and outline improvements for the future after developing a purpose of detention statement and a local detention screening instrument. The screening instruments are a decision tree model, so it is not a risk assessment tool like the IYAS. The screening instrument in some sites contains seven factors while some sites are still using a four-factor version. The instruments do vary at the local level and sites review their local data to revise and improve their

instruments and policies. New JDAI sites are including the IYAS results within their detention screening instrument to incorporate that information into the overall detention and release recommendation.

The workgroup discussed identifying opportunities to improve procedures toward more accountability, information sharing, implementing minimum policies that maintain discretion at the local level, using data and information properly for informing decisions and reviewing policies and practice. There was also a brief discussion on validation processes, and a review of local responsibilities under HEA 1359.

10. Discussion and vote on Electronic Communications Policy. Shannon Chambers introduced the draft electronic communications policy for the workgroup's consideration and requested Michelle Goodman provide an overview of the proposal, including the limits on remote attendance, frequency of a member's ability to participate remotely, and in-person meeting requirements. Based on the number of workgroup members, it was further proposed to limit remote participation to eight members only per meeting. The workgroup reviewed the proposal and Judge Dowling made a motion to approve the policy as proposed. Kevin Elkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

11. Future workgroup meetings. The workgroup scheduled the following meeting dates for 2022:

- Friday, September 23 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 14 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 2 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 30 from 10:00 a.m. – noon
- Wednesday, December 7 from 10:00 a.m. – noon (if needed)