



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Diversion Work Group Meeting Minutes

I. MEETING DETAILS

Date and Time of Meeting: August 18, 2022, 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Location of meeting: Fuse Center – West, 201 N. Illinois Street, 2nd Floor,
Indianapolis
Minutes prepared by: Diane Mains, Indiana Office of Court Services

II. ATTENDEES

Members present in-person: Tracy Fitz, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, Chair; Megan Horton, Indiana Office of Court Services, Co-Chair; Trisha Hanes, Wabash County Juvenile Probation Department; Shannon O’Toole, Marion County public defender; Sarah Welcome, Wayne County public defender; Katy Elmer, Vanderburgh School Corporation; Mag. Sally Berish, Boone Circuit Court; Ellis Dumas, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana; Kay Knorr, Marion County Probation Department; Danielle Murphy, Martin County Community Corrections; Will Scott, Cass County Juvenile Probation Department; and George Mavranicolas, DeKalb County Community Corrections (sign-in sheet attached)

Members absent: Barbara Gainer, Department of Child Services; Chase Lyday, Indiana School Resource Officers’ Association; Sherri Moore, Indiana Family to Family; Judge Amy Marie Travis, Jackson Superior Court 1

Staff present: Diane Mains, Indiana Office of Court Services

Other guests or speakers present: Leslie Dunn, Indiana Office of Court Services

III. Electronic Communication Attendance Policy Adopted

Members discussed the criteria required to meet Open Door Law requirements as provided in the draft policy. Mr. Dumas motioned to adopt the policy as written, and Magistrate Berish seconded the motion. The electronic communication attendance policy was adopted unanimously (attached).

IV. Diversion Work Group Goals

The Diversion Work Group is responsible for reviewing existing, and developing new, policies, protocols, and a statewide implementation plan for the provision and use of diversion and informal adjustment. The purpose of these policies is to ensure that low-risk youth are diverted from juvenile justice system involvement and that diversion and informal adjustment policies and programs are aligned with the research, including prioritizing the use of restorative practices.

Deliverables:

- Establish policies and protocols for research based pretrial diversion and informal adjustment programs and practices
- Develop parameters for the juvenile diversion grant program

V. PRESENTATION

The Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana's Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth Task Force established a work group to study juvenile diversion in Indiana. This work group reported its findings to the Commission in the spring of 2022. Ms. Horton presented these findings to the Work Group generating discussion (presentation attached).

VI. STATUS OF ACTION PLAN

Working subcommittees were established:

- Diversion program grants
- Diversion programming continuum
- Diversion data and definitions

Work Group's priority is developing criteria for diversion grants with the Grants Work Group. Ms. Fitz and Ms. Horton will gather a small group to work on diversion grants, to include Mag. Berish and Mr. Dumas.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Future meetings to be held at the Fuse Center – East, 201 N. Illinois Street, 2nd floor, Indianapolis and via Microsoft Teams from 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm on the following dates:

- September 23, 2022
- November 18, 2022
- January 27, 2023
- March 17, 2023
- May 19, 2023