



Office of Court Services

Mary Kay Hudson, Executive Director • 317-232-1313 • courts.in.gov

Juvenile Probation Standards Workgroup

August 19, 2022

Meeting Minutes

The Juvenile Probation Standards workgroup met on August 19, 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:

- Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen Superior Court
- Judge Jill Wesch, Vermillion County Circuit Court
- Nick Ackerman, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Jenny Bauer, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Vicki Becker, Elkhart County Prosecutor
- Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation
- Judge Mary DeBoer, Porter Circuit Court
- Heather Malone, Huntington County Probation
- Greg Peters, Allen County Probation
- Joel Wieneke, Indiana Public Defender Council

2. Guests Present: Leslie Dunn

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

4. Staff: Angela Reid-Brown, Colleen Saylor

5. Welcome and Introductions. Magistrate Carolyn Foley welcomed the members and thanked them for agreeing to participate in the workgroup. Members introduced themselves and shared the agency they represent. Magistrate Foley shared that she, Shannon Chambers and Joel Wieneke are all members of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) and as such will pass along updates from the committee.

6. HEA 1359 Overview: Jenny Bauer provided an overview of HEA 1359 and the timelines attached to the legislation. There was discussion regarding the overlap of authority between the Judicial Conference, which is responsible for updates to the current probation standards and the YJOC. Magistrate Foley shared that she would update the Probation Committee of the Judicial Conference and YJOC on the progress of this workgroup and seek clarification for what the authoritative process will be for approving recommendations from the group. Given that one of the deliverables from this workgroup

is to develop statewide supervision standards, the workgroup will continue to reside under the Judicial Conference. The Judicial Conference Board of Directors typically meets three times a year and Jenny has already approached the Office of Judicial Administration to ask for another meeting in June 2023 to facilitate approval of any recommendations from this workgroup.

Jenny also reviewed the full list of deliverables with the group, pointing out several areas that overlap with other workgroups.

- **Develop Guidelines for establishing consistent use of a validated risk and needs assessment tool and a validated risk screening tool.** Jenny pointed out that this item will likely overlap with the screening and assessment workgroup and recommended frequent communication to ensure workgroups are not duplicating or contradicting efforts.
 - **Develop guidelines for establishing conditions of probation supervision for informal adjustment and formal probation that are tailored to the child's individual risk and needs, including standards for case contacts.** This group will have overlap with the Diversion workgroup.
 - **Develop common case planning elements based on risk principals and guidelines for engaging youth, families and providers in case planning.**
 - **Develop common criteria for recommending the use of out-of-home placement and commitment to the department of correction.** This group will have overlap with the Transitional Services workgroup.
 - **Develop a system of graduated responses and incentives to reward and motivate positive behavior and address violations of probation.** Jenny shared that there has been previous work in this area as part of the Evidence-Based Decision Making Initiative and several counties already use a contingency management system developed for Court Services by the University of Cincinnati.
 - **Develop a process to provide adequate training to all juvenile probation officers on the use of a risk and needs assessment tool, the use of a risk screening tool, and the updated juvenile probation standards.** IOCS already has a division responsible for providing training to probation officers and has previously adopted a risk and needs assessment tool (Indiana Youth Assessment System). Jenny shared that the Probation Committee has been discussing updating the current standards which pairs well with this initiative. She offered to share some resources she has gathered regarding training, coaching, and the science of implementation. Members were encouraged to keep in mind that Indiana has already made significant strides in several areas and will not be starting this work from scratch.
7. **Juvenile Probation Standards Previous Research.** Jenny shared that she had posted several resources and documents in Teams for members to access. She had information from National Center for Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), Annie Casey Foundation, National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC), Urban Institute, Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice (RFK), and some from other states. She talked with a colleague from Nebraska who shared their Stakeholder Training Manual and how they have families participate in Real Colors training to assist the families in identifying their personality type to better facilitate constructive

communication. The manual is also posted in Teams. A PowerPoint with data from a cross systems task force survey is also posted. Although there were many different agencies with research they were consistent in their findings and recommendations. Angela shared that she has a contact at the RFK Center and can connect the group. Jenny asked members to send any research they wanted to share to her to include in the folder. Between legislation and research there is a roadmap for the group to move forward.

8. Workgroups. Magistrate Foley shared the workgroups that have been established under the YJOC:

Behavioral Health:Chair- Sirilla Blackmon, Co-Chair – Dr. Kristen Daus

IOCS Staff – Nick Parker and Mindy Pickett

Data:Chair- Dr. Matt Aalsma, Co-Chair – Mary Kay Hudson

IOCS Staff – Lisa Thompson

Diversion:Chair- Tracy Fitz, Co-Chair – Megan Horton

IOCS Staff – Diane Mains

Grants Process:Chair- Devon McDonald, Co-Chair – Danielle Zagone

IOCS Staff – Nancy Wever

Screening and Assessment:Chair- Shannon Chambers, Co-Chair – Judge Andrea Trevino

IOCS Staff – Nick Parker and Mindy Pickett

Transition Services:Chair- Terri Decker, Co-Chair – Magistrate Robert Vann

IOCS Staff – Tyler Mason and Joseph Fischer

Youth and Family Advisory Committee:Chair- pending, Co-Chair – pending

IOCS Staff – Julie Whitman

9. Creation of Sub Groups. Magistrate Foley shared a draft of sub groups being considered and explained how they had been compiled.

- i. **Risk Assessment/Conditions of Probation** - focused on developing guidelines for the consistent use of the IYAS and for establishing formal and informal conditions of probation supervision tailored to risk/need including case contacts.. Expected to consult with YJOC Screening Workgroup and Diversion Workgroup - Nick Ackerman, Shannon Chambers, Heather Malone, and Judge Wesch agreed to work on this sub group.
- ii. **Case Planning** –Develop common case planning elements based on risk principals; guidelines for engaging youth, families and providers – includes incentives – Jenny Bauer, Judge DeBoer, and Greg Peters agreed to work on this sub group.
- iii. **Out-of-home placement/DOC commitment** – focused on developing common criteria for recommending out-of-home placement and DOC commitment – Vicki Becker, Magistrate Foley, and Joel Wienke agreed to work on this sub group.

Members discussed eventual implementation and how that process has yet to be determined. Individual counties and their resources available will impact this outcome. Vicki shared that she had been part of the initial discussions with the Council of State Governments (CSG) and much of what will be needed does not exist yet.

Joel mentioned that the Grant Process group could consider issues around the ability to fund at a per child basis that does not require court intervention. Leslie sat in on the Grants Process workgroup and indicated they appeared to focus on amounts rather than the details of the process at the first meeting. That group does have a much shorter timeline to provide recommendations and are open to input from other groups. Vicki shared that her county did have a grant funded service coordinator who would work with families to connect them to services without court intervention at one time but the person has since left and the grant was not renewed. They have also seen changes in their local mental health provider who has diverted resources to accommodate having two days a week that they take walk in appointments. This brought up discussion of statewide mental health services back logs making it very difficult for services to be accessed, sometimes taking two or more months to get an appointment. This includes those cases that may be handled with diversions.

10. Schedule Subsequent Meetings. Magistrate Foley led discussion surrounding the meeting options and members agreed they preferred the larger workgroup be hybrid with in-person and virtual options available. The sub groups agreed they would discuss amongst their group what meeting process they preferred and set their schedules. Jenny and Colleen will try to attend all sub group meetings and asked to be included in emails regarding schedules. They will also help each group in setting up the meetings.

Juvenile Probation Standards Work Group Meetings for 2022:

September 16, 2022	1:00 – 3:00 PM
October 20, 2022	1:00 – 3:00 PM
November 10, 2022	1:00 – 3:00 PM
December 8, 2022	1:00 – 3:00 PM