



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Screening and Assessment Work Group

October 14, 2022

Minutes

The Screening and Assessment Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on October 14, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Office of Court Services, 2nd Floor Conference Center. Shannon Chambers chaired the meeting.

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

- Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation, Chair
- Brittany Simmons, Indiana Office of Court Services/JDAI
- Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- Rob McComb, Allen County Probation
- Marc Kniola, Indiana Department of Correction
- Judge Kim Dowling, Delaware Circuit Court 2
- Senator Jean Breaux, Senate District 34
- Kory George, Wayne County Probation
- Don Travis, Department of Child Services
- Lindsey Grossnickle, Whitley County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Judge Jill D. Wesch, Vermillion Circuit Court
- Miriah Anderson, Tippecanoe County Probation
- Jordan Morris, St. Joseph County Probation

2. Member present electronically. The following members of the workgroup were present electronically:

- Judge Andrea Trevino, Allen Superior Court, Co-Chair
- Alison Cox, Porter County Detention Center

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

- Jennifer Sturges, Decatur County Public Defender's Office
- Kevin Elkins, Lake County Probation
- Rachel Patterson, Clark County Probation

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

5. Guest. Julie Whitman attended as staff of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC).

6. **Welcome and introductions.** Shannon Chambers, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed the workgroup members.
7. **Approval of September 2022 minutes.** The workgroup reviewed the minutes from the September 23, 2022, meeting. Don Travis moved to approve the minutes as presented and Lindsey Grossnickle seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
8. **Discussion on Screening and Assessment Workgroup deliverables.** The workgroup reviewed the updated action plan and did not request any edits to the current content. The workgroup continued the discussion on the action plan focusing on the detention tool provisions. The workgroup discussed the IYAS Detention tool policy and best practice recommendation. In addition, the JDAI detention screening tools were discussed.

The discussion focused on considerations at the detention decision (safety of the child, safety of the community), the use of screening results as well as other information to aid in making the detention or release decisions, and how agencies were using these tools currently. While several agencies relied only on their JDAI screening instruments for decision-making, some jurisdictions used both the IYAS Detention Tool and the JDAI screening instrument for decision-making. Members mentioned that screening occurs after law enforcement contacts the agency or brings the youth to the detention facility. When this does not occur, the youth will not be assessed at this stage. If there will be recommendations that counties move toward screening all youth, then more support would be needed to meet the capacity for additional screenings and assessments.

There was some time spent discussing the development of these tools. The IYAS tools are validated instruments and are in the process of being revalidated for Indiana. In addition, there was some explanation on the different research methods (prospective vs. retrospective studies) and that items are deemed predictive when there is differentiation in outcomes within the population being assessed. The JDAI detention screening instruments are developed through guided dialogue with a local stakeholder group to determine key factors for consideration to include on the instrument, resulting in a unique screening instrument for each county. The workgroup also discussed the value of using both the IYAS Detention Tool and the JDAI detention screening instrument together to enhance decision-making. The group agreed we needed to know more on how local counties are using these tools, when they are using them, and the reasons they are doing so.

Next, the group discussed how data is maintained for these tools. The IYAS data is standardized and required to be entered into a statewide database. Case specific information and JDAI detention screening instrument results are stored in the agency's case management system. There is aggregate reporting also with the JDAI initiative at the state level. There was an inquiry if all the JDAI detention screening instruments could be stored in one database. Unfortunately, since each JDAI instrument is different, we can't store and aggregate information for use at the state level.

The workgroup identified the need to discuss how to reinforce the use of appropriate tools, ensure the required information is documented, and provide best practice recommendations on case processing. These steps will include the need for training and cross-training as well as technical assistance and site visits to support implementation of best practices.

9. **Discussion on gathering stakeholder feedback.** The sub-committee provided a draft list of questions for gathering feedback from various stakeholder groups. The workgroup discussed needing to

standardize a method for collecting and reporting the feedback to the full workgroup. Members were asked to review the list and provide suggestions on the proposed questions at the next meeting. Once the workgroup approves the list, then outreach can commence.

10. Report from Probation Standard Committee. Shannon Chambers provided an overview of the Probation Standard Committee discussions, which focused on diversion and informal adjustment processes, conditions for informal adjustments, and recognizing that informal adjustments need to be more individualized. The workgroup raised concerns that the shortened timeframe for diversions will impact the ability to provide needed services and may result in more youth being brought further into the system. There were also some concerns related to the elimination of fees. Additional discussion focused on the diversion grants, including connection to services, the grant formula, and timelines under development.

11. Future workgroup meetings. The workgroup scheduled the following meeting dates for 2022 and 2023:

- 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)
- Friday, January 20 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 10 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 10 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 21 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 12 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 2 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.